

that could be spared, and leaving the Earl of Cornwallis in command at Charlestown with a force of 4,000 men, with instructions to reduce North Carolina as speedily as possible. The principal force was advanced to Camden on the Wateree River (a branch or tributary of the Santee). It was under the command of Lord Rawdon. A detachment of two battalions of the 17th Regiment under Major McArthur was posted at Cheraw Hill on the Pedee River, close to the North Carolina frontier, for the purpose of covering the country between Camden and Georgetown, and corresponding with the Highland settlement on Cross Creek in North Carolina. Georgetown was garrisoned by a detachment of Provincials under Capt. Saunders, while a strong post at Rocky Mount, garrisoned by the New York volunteers and some militia men under Lt. Col. Turnbull, connected Camden and the district about Ninety Six. At this last named place three battalions of Provincial troops and some companies of light infantry under Lt. Col. Cruger were stationed, while Major Ferguson commanded a corps of observation composed of militia and Provincial troops, whose duty it was to move about between the Wateree and Saluda Rivers, the whole country between the Pedee, on the frontier of North Carolina, to the Savannah, on the frontiers of Georgia, were thus occupied, while Augusta, Savannah, Beaufort and ... was occupied by the rest of the troops. The principal magazines for operations against North Carolina and Virginia were at Camden, and the dispositions described were most masterly, reflecting great credit on the ability of Earl Cornwallis. If the Commander-in-Chief, Sir H. Clinton, had supported this movement properly on his return to New York by an attack on Washington's lines about Morristown in New Jersey, and the occupation of the Hudson with a part of the naval armament at his disposal, coupled with a well combined attack on the posts of that river, it is quite possible the Royal cause would have triumphed; but Sir Henry was incapable of devising or carrying out a complicated series of manoeuvres, and, like his predecessor, was fond of small isolated operations. He had at this time in and about New York from 60,000 to 65,000 troops and a respectable naval force, yet with all this he did nothing but allow himself to be foiled by an enemy every way inferior.

The consequence of this supineness and folly was immediately apparent; the rebels in Virginia and North Carolina began to resume courage, and as Clinton would not move Virginia levied a force and Washington detached two thousand men from his army to oppose Lord Cornwallis. A correspondence between the latter and the loyalists in North Carolina had been kept up, and he had despatched emissaries to request them to get in their harvest, collect provisions and remain quiet till the King's troops were ready to enter the Province, which

would not be till the end of August, owing to the heat. But in Tryon County a number of loyalists, goaded into madness by the persecutions of the rebels, assembled in arms under a Col. Moore about the end of June, but were quickly routed and dispersed by a force under Gen. Rutherford, and this premature rising afforded a good pretence for confiscations, rapine and murder under the mask of justice. So intolerable had the oppressive acts of the partisans of Congress become that 800 loyalists assembled under a Col. Bryan and marched to Cheraw Hill, where they were so fortunate as to be able to join Major McArthur's detachment. All of those men were respectable farmers who had been forced to abandon family and possessions by inhuman persecutions.

And another element of the most embarrassing character was also to be added to those already impeding the movements of Lord Cornwallis,—at the capitulation of Charlestown Sir H. Clinton had received the parole of all the leading men of South Carolina, by which they had become neutrals in the contest, but by the proclamation of the 1st of June and subsequent regulations the role of pardoned subjects returned to their allegiance was forced on them against their will, and they felt therefore enraged at what they believed to be a trap laid for them and resolved to repay it by treachery. They had not asked for the change, but it was forced on them, and they were compelled to put on the appearance of loyalty with disastrous effect to the Royal cause.

Intelligence arrived that Major-General Baron de Kalbe with a detachment of Washington's army had advanced as far as Hillsborough in North Carolina, and was preparing to move forward to Salisbury where Col. Porterfield with 300 Virginians, and Rutherford with some North Carolina militia, had taken post. That Caswell with 1,500 militia of the same Province had marched from Cross Creek to Deep River, in order to join Baron de Kalb on his advance to Salisbury; that 2,500 Virginia militia were upon their march to the southward, and that the Assembly of Virginia had voted 5,000 men to be drafted from the militia who were to serve as a corps of observation. The spirit which animated the people of South Carolina began to manifest itself by the appearance of partisan corps and treachery of every description, and when it became evident that Congress meant to act effectively by the appointment of Gen. Gates to the Southern army; it was found necessary to contract the British posts and concentrate the troops at the principal strategetic points occupied. In consequence the post at Cheraw Hill was abandoned.

Since the fall of Charlestown the command of the militia in the district bordering on the rivers Tyger and Enoree had been in the hands of a Col. Floyd; its former commander, Col. Neale, having been obliged to fly the Province for alleged violence to loyal-

ists. One Lisle, who had held a command in this corps and who had been banished to the islands on the coast upon parole as a prisoner of war for similar offences, took advantage of the proclamation and the oath of allegiance, by which on returning to his former abode, he was reinstated in his command. But as it became necessary now to arm the militia he had the address to carry off the battalion to join Colonel Sumpter who had again appeared in arms for Congress on the Catawba, when Major McArthur evacuated the post at Cheraw Hill; he embarked the sick of the detachment amounting to near 100 in boats with orders to fall down the Pedee to Georgetown under an escort of militia, commanded by Col. Miles. As soon as the boats were out of reach of assistance the militia rose on their commanding officer and carried the sick as prisoners into South Carolina. But those scoundrels came soon within reach of those to whom they had behaved so treacherously and suffered pretty dearly for it.

Sumpter being joined by the detachment of militia under Lisle, marched from the Catawba at the end of July against the British post at Rocky Mount, but was beaten in three attacks, losing about one third of his force of 900 men. Nothing discouraged he retreated towards the Catawba settlement and recruited his force to nearly its original number, when he again attempted to capture one of the British cantonments at Hanging Rock, which he had nearly succeeded in doing, owing to the cowardice or slothfulness of the officer in command, but the gallantry of 40 dragoons of Tarleton's legion saved the detachment and compelled Sumpter to make a precipitate retreat with the loss of over 100 in killed and wounded.

While these events were transpiring the different corps of United States troops under Baron de Kalbe, Caswell, Rutherford and Porterfield entered South Carolina, and were joined by General Gates on the 27th July, the whole being concentrated under the latter's command, advanced by the main road to Camden. In order to meet this movement Lord Rawden with the force under his command marched from Camden and took up a strong position on Lynch's Creek. General Gates advanced on the opposite side and thus the two armies confronted each other for several days with the creek between them.

The British General seems to have been needlessly sensitive about his communications, and as such people will do, blundered. He sent orders to Ninety-Six for the four companies of light infantry to march at once to Camden, and the post at Rugely's Mills was evacuated, although by doing so the road leading from Waxhaw's to Camden was uncovered and the left flank and rear of the British army exposed; it at once became necessary to fall back from Lynch's Creek and take up a new position at Logtown. Lord Rawden showing he was not above the average of his class as a strategist, having suc-