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LEFT ON THE BATTLE FIELD.

What, was it a dream?—am I all alone
In the dreary night and the drizzling rain?
Hist!—ah, it was only the river's moan;
They have left me alone with the mingled stain.

Yes, now I remember it all too well!
We met from the battling ranks apart;
Together our weapons flashed and felt,
And mine was sheathed in his quivering heart.

In the cypress gloom where the deed was done,
It was all too dark to see his face;
But I heard his death groans, one by one,
And he holds me still in his cold embrace.

He spoke but once, and I could not hear
The words he said for the cannon's roar;
But my heart grew cold with a deadly fear—
O God! I had heard that voice before!

Had heard it before at my mother's knee,
When we lisped the words of our evening prayer,
My brother! would I have died for thee—
This burden is more than my soul can bear.

I pressed my lips to his death cold cheek,
And begged him to shew me, by word or sign,
That he knew and forgave me, he could not speak,
But he nestled his poor cold face to mine

The blood flowed fast from my wounded side,
And then for a while forgot my pain,
And over the lakelet we seemed to glide.
In our little boat two boys again.

And then, in my dream, we stood alone
On a forest path where the shadows fell;
And I heard again the tremulous tone,
And the tender words of his last farewell.

But that parting was years, long years ago.
He wandered away to a foreign land;
And our dear old mother will never know
That he died to-night by his mother's hand.

The soldiers who buried the dead away,
Disturbed not the clasp of the last embrace,
But laid them to sleep till the Judgment day,
Heart folded to heart and face to face.

THE REVOLT

OF THE

British American Colonies, 1764-84.

CHAPTER V.

Some difficulties arose about quartering the troops on their arrival, the Council proposing that they should be sent to Castle William, where barracks were already erected, instead of being quartered in the town where there was none. But as the troops were required to repress the violence of mob rule in Boston some empty houses were fitted up for their reception, and their presence having a salutary effect on the peace of the town, the Commissioners and officers of the customs returned from Castle William

and business began to be carried on as usual.

It is very remarkable, perhaps more so in the course of events which finally led to the separation of those Colonies from Great Britain than in the history of any revolution in ancient or modern times, that the conduct of the representatives of the British Crown was characterized, as an universal rule, by vacillation and imbecility, while the open treason of the Legislative Councils shows that the whole framework of Colonial politics was rotten to the core.

In the Province of New York the Assembly, having made submission and complied with the terms of the Mutiny Act, was restored to the exercise of their Legislative functions; but in this as in all the other Colonies the spirit of discontent had evoked the genius of innovation and the disregard of constitutional law or measures became the general rule. Associations were entered into for the purpose of destroying the trade of Britain by restricting importations, and after considerable difficulty in adjusting what should be taken and what excluded, owing to the diversity of needs of the different Colonies, it was settled by these illegal societies that the non-importation regulations should have effect from the 1st of January, 1769.

The speech from the Throne on the meeting of Parliament noticed the disorders of the Province of Massachusetts and recommended that they should be taken into serious consideration. Accordingly this became a subject of serious debate early in the session, and finally a series of resolutions were passed, by which they were recited with every circumstance of aggression and marked with every epithet of disapprobation which could define the displeasure of the British Parliament. An address from both Houses of Parliament was presented to His Majesty approving of the course already taken, and declaring their readiness to concur in such measures as might be thought necessary for maintaining the authority of Great Britain. It was also recommended that the leaders and authors of the disturbances should be brought to exemplary

punishment; and the Governor of Massachusetts to be instructed to transmit to England full information of all treasonable acts committed within the Province during the preceding year, together with the names of the offenders, to revive the execution of the Statute of 35 Hen. VIII. for trying within the realm of England parties guilty of treasons committed beyond the seas, and if necessary to issue a special commission thereon. The conduct of the opposition in the debates on this address was reprehensible. They endeavored to excuse the conduct of the Boston rioters and to create a party in the Parliament and country favorable to these unconstitutional claims and rebellious acts of the Colonists, and in this undertaking they succeeded. The administration themselves, by their opposition to the Stamp Act, had laid the foundation of all the subsequent evils, and the parties in the British Parliament illustrated the evils unprincipled politicians, by their senseless and petty ambitions, could inflict on the best interests of their country.

These debates encouraged the malcontents to persist in their refractory course when they found that the insults offered to the Parliament of Great Britain met with such able defenders in both houses of that Parliament.

The revival of the almost obsolete statute of 35 Hen. VIII. for the trial of treasons committed beyond the seas, although apparently a harsh measure, was in reality one best qualified to restrain excesses such as those perpetrated by the Boston rebels, but its execution should have been in prompt and vigorous hands, aided by a military force which could not be resisted, and the examples made should have been selected from those whose position, influence and education made them the plotters and contrivers of all resistance which had hitherto been experienced, instead of this a weak and vacillating administration divided the responsibility of enforcing respect for authority with feeble and imbecile Colonial Governors. As a matter of course the usual consequences followed, the law was not vindicated and impunity beget contempt.