

and the enemy ranged for some time about the Land's End and the Scilly islands. On the 31st of August, sir Charles Hardy entering the channel with near forty sail of the line, was pursued by the combined fleets as far as Plymouth; but many of their ships being out of condition, and the men in a very sickly state, they returned to Brest, having performed nothing worthy of one of the most powerful armaments ever seen in those seas. The celebrated siege of Gibraltar was also commenced during this summer, and it is probable that the reduction of that important fortress was a principal object of the court of Madrid in entering into the war.

While Great Britain was thus beset with perils from a foreign confederacy, the spirit of discontent became prevalent in the empire itself, which considerably enhanced her difficulties, and embarrassed her rulers. The passing of a bill in favour of the English Roman Catholics, induced some gentlemen in Scotland to propose its extension to that country at the ensuing session of parliament. The populace caught the alarm, and the subject was taken up, first in some of their provincial synods, and then among the lower orders of the people in Edinburgh and Glasgow. In the former of these cities a mob assembled in the night of February 2d, which committed the most horrible excesses, pillaging and burning the Catholic chapels, and several houses belonging to persons of that persuasion. Similar disturbances also took place at Glasgow, and these tumultuous proceedings prevented the bill that had been projected from being brought forward.

In Ireland, the state of affairs was far from being peaceable and settled. It is but too true that the sister realm had been long treated more like an alien or a stranger than a friend. Her interests had been neglected, her commerce fettered and restricted, her people impoverished and oppressed. A free parliament, it was thought, would more studiously promote the prosperity of that country than a legislature dependent on that of Great Britain; and a free trade was also wished, its beneficial effects being so conspicuous in England. To promote the attainment of these great objects, the patriots of Ireland encouraged a popular union. Amid the dread of foreign invasion, the government allowed the lieutenants of counties to give out arms to active and able-bodied men. Hoping to intimidate the court by a display of their strength, the gentry stimulated the people to form associations and learn the military exercise; and the volunteers soon became so numerous, that the public stores could not supply the extraordinary demand for arms. The purses of individuals were opened to make up the deficiency; and a great national force was imbodyed—"an army unauthorized by the laws, and uncontrolled by the government of the country." Ministers could not fail of looking with some apprehension on such a state of things; but they deemed it most prudent to concur in a scheme which it was now out of their power to defeat. The Irish nation, feeling its strength, now began to consider of its rights, and a free and unrestricted commerce was the object which it resolved to pursue.

The ill success of the war, the alarming situation in which the nation was placed, and the loud complaints against the ministry, frequently refuted by votes rather than by reasonings, had, at this time, widely diffused a spirit of discontent, which at the opening of this year manifested itself by numerous county meetings, for the purpose of framing petitions to parliament for the redress of grievances. In these the county of York took the lead, and a petition, signed by persons of the first consequence, both clergy and laity, stated in strong terms the evils arising from the war, the wastefulness of expenditure, the unconstitutional influence acquired by the crown in consequence of the increase of places and pensions, and the urgent necessity of correcting these abuses before new burdens were imposed on the people. The county of Middlesex followed the example of York; and it was succeeded by a number of other counties and towns, some with greater, others with less unanimity. After the Christmas recess, these petitions were presented to the house of commons, sir George Saville leading the way with that of Yorkshire.

LETTER XIII.

Disgraceful Riots in London—Lord George Gordon committed to the Tower, A. D. 1780—Progress of the War in America—Naval Transactions—Dreadful Hurricane in the West Indies—Declaration of War against Holland, 1780, 1781—Siege of Gibraltar, &c.

You have already been apprized of the tumultuous proceedings that took place in Scotland, A. D. 1780, in consequence of the intimation that had been given of a repeal of the penal laws against the Catholics. An association was formed in that country, having for its object to guard against any relaxation of the penal statutes against the adherents to the church of Rome, at the head of which was lord George Gordon, brother to the duke of Gordon, a man of singular character, compounded of enthusiasm, artifice, and folly. Mainly through his exertions a spirit was excited in the British metropolis, as hostile to the repeal of those laws as that which had appeared in the mobs of Edinburgh and Glasgow. As early as January 4th, a deputation from a body calling itself the Protestant association, of which lord George was the patron or president, waited on lord North, to request him to present a petition to parliament against the law which had passed in favour of the English Catholics; but with that request his lordship absolutely refused to comply. During the subsequent session of parliament, lord George Gordon, who was a member of the house of commons, frequently interrupted its business by the introduction of topics relative to religion and the danger from popery, and by dividing the house on questions in which he stood entirely or almost alone. His dress and manner were equally singular with his language; but he was regarded by the house rather as an object of amusement than of any serious apprehension. The association in London, however, appears to have been secretly increasing in numbers; and on May 29th, a meeting called by public advertisement having been held at Coachmaker's-hall, lord George Gordon took the chair, and made a vehement and inflammatory harangue, in which he endeavoured to persuade his auditors of the alarming progress of popery in the kingdom; and concluded by moving a resolution, that the whole body of the Protestant association should, on the following Friday, accompany him to the house of commons for the delivery of their petition. He declared that he would not present it if attended by fewer than twenty thousand men; and moved that they should be arranged in four divisions, one of them composed of the Scotch residents in London, and all distinguished by wearing blue cockades. These motions were all carried with great applause; and in addition to this public procedure, lord George gave notice to the house of commons of his intention to deliver the petition, with the day and manner in which it would be done.

On the 2d of June, the associated body, amounting to several thousands, assembled in St. George's fields, and marshalling themselves as directed, they proceeded in great order to the house of commons. Although their demeanour was at first peaceable, their passions soon became inflamed, and they began to commit violent outrages on the persons of such members of both houses as came in their way, especially such as were connected with the government, or were regarded as promoters of the obnoxious bill. Within the house of commons, lord George Gordon, having brought up the petition, moved that it be taken into immediate consideration. This occasioned some debate, during which his lordship often went out to inform the mob what was passing, as well as who were the principal opponents of their cause. His motion was negatived by one hundred and ninety-two votes to six. After a considerable time spent in much confusion and alarm, a party of horse and foot-guards arrived, headed by one of the magistrates, who assured the mob that the soldiers should be ordered away if they would disperse. They accordingly did so from the environs of the houses of parliament, but it was for the purpose of demolishing two Romish chapels, one in Lincoln's Inn fields,

the other in Golden-square, which they effected without opposition. On the following day the tumult appeared to have nearly subsided, but this calm was only the prelude to a much more furious storm. In such a place as the metropolis, whatever be the cause that first collects a riotous assembly, it never fails to be joined by a crowd of turbulent banditti, whose sole view is pillage and mischief. In the present case, it cannot be doubted that the petitioners mustered in St. George's fields were the dupes of fanatical zeal, and to them may be attributed the outrages of the first day. But it is probable that they had in general withdrawn before the subsequent widely extended scenes of destruction; and that, in fine, all the scum and dregs of the metropolis overflowed its streets, inflamed with a blind and indiscriminate rage for devastation and plunder. During four days, the most scandalous riot, pillage, and conflagration prevailed. Many houses, both of Catholics and Protestants, were destroyed, among which may be specified the chapels of the Sardinian and Bavarian ambassadors. Newgate and other places of confinement were burnt, the prisoners having been first released; and so extensive was the havoc, that a dread of the general demolition of the city began to agitate the terrified inhabitants. The night of June 7th was particularly terrific and alarming. The prisons of the fleet and king's bench were fiercely blazing—thirty fires were seen at one instant—individuals were running in every direction, some removing their effects for the purpose of security, some feloniously carrying off the property of others. Shouts of barbarous transport were heard, intermingled with the appalling roar of musketry, the yell of intoxication, and the shriek of horror.

Amid scenes so disgraceful to humanity, two hundred and ten persons were shot, and seventy-five others died of their wounds. Such was the statement furnished by a military return; but it should be observed, in addition to this, that many were crushed by the fall of houses, and others perished in the flames; and that in the conflagration of a distillery, many destroyed themselves by drinking spiritous liquors to excess. It is remarkable, that for some days both ministers and magistrates seemed to be sunk into a state of torpid inactivity, and to have been infected with no less terror than the inhabitants in general. The supineness of the magistrates, and the timidity of the ministers, indeed, became the universal topic of remark and censure; for it was not until the night of Wednesday that the military force was rendered adequate to the exigence of the case. But troops now poured into London from all quarters, and the king issued an order, that the soldiers should use their arms against the rioters without waiting for directions from the civil magistrate. From such exertions tranquillity was soon restored. The author of these calamitous proceedings, lord George Gordon, was apprehended, and, under a strong escort, committed to the tower. He was afterward tried on a charge of high-treason, and acquitted; his crime not appearing to the jury to answer that description. A special commission was issued for the trial of a great number of the rioters that had been apprehended, many of whom underwent the full rigour of the law.

Calamitous as these proceedings certainly had been, and deeply to be deplored, government was eventually a great gainer by them. The minds of the public became strongly impressed with the danger arising from popular meetings for political purposes; the result of which was, that the county associations for promoting reform fell into discredit, and were deserted by many persons who had previously lent them their countenance and support.

But it is now time to turn from domestic to foreign occurrences, which, nevertheless, yielded no pleasing prospect on which the eye could repose with much satisfaction. Admiral Geary, who had succeeded to the command of the channel fleet on the death of sir Charles Hardy, sailed early in June with twenty-three ships of the line under his command, and was afterward joined by five or six more. In the beginning of July, he fell in with a homeward-bound fleet from the French West Indies, of which he captured twelve merchantmen; the rest, with the convoying ships of war, made their escape in a fog. He then proceeded southward as far as cape Finisterre, in the

hope of intercepting a detached squadron of French and Spanish ships of war. About the end of the month, a large and valuable fleet of English merchant ships, bound for the East and West Indies, under convoy of a man of war and two or three frigates, sailed from Portsmouth, and unfortunately came in the way of the combined fleets under the command of Don Cordova, when five East Indiamen and above fifty West Indiamen fell into their hands, and were carried into Cadiz. This was a severe stroke to the commerce of Great Britain: such a prize had never before entered the harbour. Besides the usual commodities, the East Indiamen had on board arms, artillery, ammunition, and military stores, which were greatly wanted in that quarter, as well as a considerable supply of soldiers. About the same time, intelligence was also received, that great part of a valuable outward-bound fleet, destined for Quebec, had fallen into the hands of some privateers on the banks of Newfoundland.

On the return of the English fleet into port, admiral Geary resigned the command into the hands of admiral Darby, it having been previously refused by admiral Barrington. In the month of September, the channel fleet put to sea again; and in November, fell in with a French squadron, much superior in number, but in so wretched a condition, that neither party seemed disposed to engage; and after exchanging a few shots, the fleets separated without injuring each other.

In America several events transpired, during the autumn of this year, which deserve to be mentioned. A French squadron, consisting of seven sail of the line and five frigates, arrived at Rhode Island on July 11th, with six thousand troops on board, under the command of count Rochambeau, and commenced their operations in concert with the American army. On the 15th of August, lord Cornwallis gained a complete victory at Camden, over general Gates, who lost more than eight hundred men in killed, and one thousand taken prisoners, while the loss of the British scarcely exceeded three hundred. Several other skirmishes took place about this time, in one of which colonel Tarleton, with his legion, surprised the American officer Sumpter at the fords of Catawba, and entirely routed him with a considerable loss in killed and prisoners. This advantage, however, was counterbalanced by the loss of colonel Ferguson, who, having been despatched by lord Cornwallis, with a corps of light infantry and militia, to make incursions on the borders of North Carolina, was pursued on his return by a large force of cavalry, and, being overtaken, was killed, with one hundred and fifty of his men, and eight hundred more were taken prisoners.

Soon after this event an incident occurred, which excited considerable interest at the time, and certainly forms one of the memorable events of the war. General Arnold had, from the beginning of the contest, signalized himself by his daring intrepidity and courage. In the early part of the war, (1) he deserted the American standard, effected his escape to New-York, and was made a brigadier-general in the British service. He had been accused of extortion and speculation, and sentenced by a court-martial to be reprimanded. These prosecutions were met on his part by loud complaints of injustice and ingratitude; and though his past merits were appreciated by general Washington, who received him once more into favour, and he was placed in a situation of considerable rank and trust in the army, his mind became from this time quite alienated from his country. He secretly negotiated with sir Henry Clinton, to deliver up the post and the troops under his command to the British general. The person employed by the latter, for the purpose of conferring with Arnold and settling the plan of operations, was major Andre, an adjutant-general in the British army, an officer of the most amiable personal qualities, whose open and candid disposition probably rendered him less fit for such an undertaking than one more practised in artifice would have been. The post which Arnold now occupied was the command of West Point, on the North or Hudson river, the loss of which, with

(1) It was not in the early part of the war that Arnold deserted the American standard; but in September, 1780, after the contest had continued more than five years.—AM. ED.

the troops attached to it, would have been a severe blow to the American army in that quarter.

On the 21st of September, Andre was landed by night from a British sloop of war, and was received by Arnold, who conducted him to his camp, where he remained during that night and the following day. The British uniform, which he wore under his surtout, was now exchanged for a common dress; and Arnold not having it in his power to convey him back by the way in which he came, he was sent on the second night through a remote part of the camp, provided with a horse and passport, and under the name of Anderson, to explore his way back to New-York. He passed the outpost of the army in safety; but on the following morning, he was stopped by three young volunteers, who examined his passport. At first, they appeared satisfied; but suspicions occurring to the mind of one of them, he was more strictly examined, and, unaccustomed to deception, he disclosed himself by attempting to bribe his captors with a large sum of money, which, though in an humble rank of life, they honourably refused. Andre was consequently led to head-quarters, where papers were found upon him in Arnold's handwriting, containing exact returns of the troops and ordnance at West Point, with a variety of information of what had passed at a council of war; but nothing could be obtained from him respecting the writer, till Arnold was apprized of his danger, and had time to escape. The commanders of the British forces, finding that Andre was detected and in custody, demanded his release on various grounds; but general Washington summoned a council of officers to determine on the case. Andre's own confession was sufficient to fix upon him the character of a spy; and the dangerous extent of the attempted treachery, in their opinion, prohibited any relaxation of the punishment attached to it by the laws of war. The unfortunate officer only deprecated the ignominious mode in which he was doomed to forfeit his life; but though he was treated in every other respect with humane sympathy, his sentence was rigorously executed, and not the smallest remission of it could be obtained. He met his unhappy fate with the bravery of a man and a soldier, and his memory was honoured with a monument in Westminster Abbey. Arnold, who had made good his escape to the British army, was made a brigadier-general, and now declared the most violent hostility to the American cause.

In the autumn of this year, 1780, the West Indies experienced one of the most tremendous hurricanes ever known in those parts. It commenced, October 3d, at Jamaica, when an irruption of the sea swept away the town of Savannah, with three hundred of its inhabitants. It did not reach the island of Barbadoes till the 11th of that month, when Bridgetown, the capital, was destroyed, with the loss of some thousand lives. The British and French islands equally partook of this calamity, and their shores were covered with the wrecks of ships belonging to different countries. Admiral Rodney, apprized of the danger of New-York, had sailed thither in September, and, fortunately, thereby escaped the effects of this dreadful hurricane. It deserves to be recorded for the honour of humanity, that the marquis de Bouillé sent a flag of truce to commodore Hotham, with a message, accompanying some English sailors, declaring that he could not consider as enemies men who had escaped on his coast from the rage of the elements, and who from mere compassion were entitled to every relief which, in such a season of general calamity, could be afforded. The British squadron under admiral Rowley, convoying the Jamaica trade to Europe, also suffered severely from the hurricane; several of the ships, with that of the admiral, were obliged to put back disabled, and two ships of the line, one a sixty-four, and the other a seventy-four, were totally lost, in addition to which several frigates and other armed vessels were wrecked.

An affair happened in the month of September which proved of considerable political importance, inasmuch as it developed the hostile views of the states of Holland towards Great Britain. The Mercury, an American packet, having been captured by the Vestal frigate, Mr. Laurens, late president of the American congress, was found on board; and his papers, which

had been thrown overboard and dexterously fished up again, disclosed the sketch of a treaty of amity and commerce between the states-general and the American provinces. Mr. Laurens was brought to England on the 6th of October, and committed to close confinement in the tower, under a charge of high-treason as a British subject. On his examination he declined answering questions, but his papers furnished sufficient information of the projected treaty, which he was bringing to a conclusion with M. Van Berkel, the grand pensionary, who was the ostensible party on the side of Holland. Sir Joseph Yorke, the British ambassador at the Hague, was instructed to lay those papers before the states-general, with a strong memorial, in the way of complaint, respecting such a correspondence carried on with his majesty's rebellious subjects, at the same time demanding a formal disavowal on the part of the states, and the punishment of Van Berkel, as well as the other persons engaged in it. No immediate answer was given to this memorial, but a counter remonstrance was made by the Dutch minister in London, respecting some violence said to have been committed at the Dutch West India island of St. Martin, in seizing some American vessels under the cannon of the fort. A second memorial was presented to the states by sir Joseph Yorke in December, requiring a categorical answer; and no other being given than that the states had taken the matter *ad referendum*, the English ambassador was ordered to withdraw from the Hague, and war was declared against Holland on the 20th of December. Thus was Great Britain engaged with a fourth enemy, without a single ally.

The country had now been engaged in a war with the colonists between five and six years; and so far were we from attaining the object in pursuit of which we set out, that, at the end of each succeeding year, the cause became less and less hopeful. It has frequently been contended, that the war was a popular one, both at the commencement and during the progress of the contest; but the assertion wants proof; and, when referred to the general sense of the country, may reasonably be doubted. That many individuals besides the court lent their sanction to the measure, is unquestionably true; but the opposers of the war, both among the middle and lower classes, appear to have been more numerous, though the minister was very successful in securing his confiding majorities in both houses of parliament. But the warmth with which the enterprise had been undertaken had now, in many minds, given place to more sober reflection; and the want of success, connected with the enormous expenditure to which the country was necessarily subjected in carrying it on, to say nothing of the defeat and disaster that it entailed upon England, began at this juncture to open the eyes of many, both in and out of parliament, who had hitherto blindly lent their support to the measures of the cabinet; and they resolved to exert their influence in putting an end to the contest.

The campaign of 1781 had opened with very favourable prospects to the British arms in America, but before the session of parliament had closed, accounts had been received from that quarter, which completely falsified the flattering prospects held out by the king's speech at the opening of the session. We shall soon have occasion to notice these disastrous events in detail; in the mean time, it may suffice to say, that the Gazette had announced the battle of Guilford, by which it appeared that the army of lord Cornwallis, ruined even by its own victories, had been obliged to abandon its hard-won conquests, and retire to the seaside. On the 12th of June, Mr. Fox moved for a vote of the house, grounded upon the intelligence recently received, to recommend to his majesty's ministers every possible measure for restoring peace with America. In this debate Mr. Pitt distinguished himself, for the second time, by a forcible display of eloquence against the minister. He inveighed with great energy against the unnatural, unhallowed, and accursed principle of the war in which we were engaged, pronouncing it to contain every characteristic of human depravity, and to portend every human mischief to the wretched people who had engendered it:—a war which drew the blood, the very sustenance, from the vitals of the country; which brought

victories and defeats that were equally to be deplored; which filled the land with sorrow for our own devoted countrymen, slain in the cause of injustice, or recorded the virtuous struggles of their opponents, bleeding in the holy defence of their liberty. In the course of the discussion, the speakers on either side painted in lively colours the hopes and fears, the obstacles and probabilities, of recovering America. The expediency and the evils of yielding so mighty a portion of the empire were contrasted and strongly argued; even the very right and legality of ceding it was discussed. At midnight, a majority of one hundred and seventy-two to ninety-nine rejected Mr. Fox's proposal. The session of parliament was closed by a speech from the throne on the 18th of July; and for the first time the royal address intimated, though indistinctly, hopes of peace.

We shall now direct our attention to the martial transactions of the country, which in the course of this year were very numerous and highly important.

Of the military occurrences, the first that claims our notice was a renewed attempt of the French on the island of Jersey. The baron de Rullecourt landed about eight hundred men on the 6th of January, and leaving a part of them in a redoubt in Gronville bay, which he had surprised, proceeded with the rest, before daybreak, to the town of St. Helier, which he entered without opposition, and took possession of the market-place. Having made prisoners of the lieutenant-governor, the magistrates, and principal inhabitants, he dictated a capitulation to the whole island, threatening instant destruction to the town should his proposition be refused. The capitulation was accordingly signed by the lieutenant-governor, who appears to have been panic-stricken, and to have lost all presence of mind on the occasion. Elizabeth castle was then summoned by the French commandant, but the officers in the garrison refused to pay any regard to a surrender made under such circumstances, and fired on the French troops as they advanced. In the mean time, the militia and other force which the neighbourhood supplied was collected by major Pierson, a spirited young officer, who disposed them advantageously on the heights above the town; and to a message from Rullecourt, requiring him to comply with the terms of the capitulation, he replied by saying, that if he and his troops did not surrender themselves prisoners of war within twenty minutes, they should be attacked. This event followed: the French were driven from street to street to the market-place, where their commanding officer, who had obliged the lieutenant-governor to stand close by his side, fell under several mortal wounds. Major Pierson, too, in the moment of victory, received a shot through the heart, and his death was a circumstance which threw a damp upon a success that was rendered complete by the capture or destruction of the whole of the invading party.

From the earliest commencement of hostilities with the house of Bourbon the views of Spain were fixed upon the recovery of Gibraltar. The latest relief which had been afforded to that garrison was by the fleet under the command of lord Rodney, in the spring of the year 1780; their provisions were therefore become scanty, and very unwholesome through long keeping. Cut off as they were for supplies from the Barbary coast, their ancient market, the garrison and inhabitants were now suffering under the most distressing privation of the necessaries of life. When their situation was known in England, twenty-eight sail of the line under admiral Darby were despatched with a convoy for relieving them, as well as to keep at bay the threatened descent of the Spaniards. Having succeeded in sending in the convoy to Gibraltar, and some large ships to cover them, the British admiral took his station at the mouth of the straits, to watch the motions of the Spanish fleet, which had sailed into Cadiz, not wishing to risk an engagement. In the mean time, the Spanish gun-boats came out of Algeziras bay to cannonade the English shipping, as a prelude to the general attack of the fortress which was soon to take place. In the course of a week after the English fleet had moored in the harbour, the bombardment of the town took place, and immediately the whole bay and rock, by the incessant fire kept up on each side, exhibited one continued flake of fire. It was computed that the enemy must

have expended *daily*, during three weeks, from the first attack, more than a thousand barrels of gunpowder, of one hundred pounds weight each, and from four to five hundred shots and shells. This tremendous cannonading continued for several months, though, after the first four weeks, on a much reduced scale, as no powers of supply could support such an expenditure.

General Elliot returned from the garrison, for some considerable time, a most effective and tremendous fire. His loss, however, during the severest of the bombardment, did not correspond to the magnitude of the siege; for the return that was made of the whole, from the 12th of April to the end of June, amounted to only one commissioned officer and fifty-two privates killed, and to seven officers, and two hundred and fifty-three others wounded. The horrible effects of these hostilities fell more severely on the wretched inhabitants; many of whom were buried under the ruins of their own houses, shattered to pieces by the shells that burst in thousands on every side. The vaults and cellars, which could alone afford shelter, were filled by the soldiers of the garrison; and happy did the individuals whose influence could procure them admission to these places of security account themselves, if they were allowed a few hours of repose, amid all the noise of a crowded soldiery, and the groans of the wounded that were brought in from the works.

Though the town itself must necessarily have suffered severely by the cannonading that was so furiously kept up upon it during the whole summer months, the damage was thought too trifling to give any concern to the defenders; but the duty and fatigue of the garrison were extremely great. The inhabitants, about three thousand in number, consisting of two thousand Catholics and one thousand Jews, took the earliest opportunity of retiring from a situation so full of danger, and removed either to England or the adjacent countries; and the Spaniards began to find, that, though they might destroy the lives and property of individuals, they could not secure their object by all their efforts, which were consequently suspended towards the close of the summer.

In the mean while, general Elliot appeared to be actively employed in strengthening his means of defence, while in reality he was meditating a tremendous attack on the enemy's camp. Having satisfied himself that the preparations of the Spaniards had arrived at the utmost possible perfection, he conceived a project of frustrating all their mighty efforts, by attacking, storming, and destroying their works. He occupied the greatest part of the autumn in maturing his plans, and completing his arrangements for carrying into effect his grand design. His object was to attack the fortifications on every side at the same moment of time; and to effect this purpose, he distributed his various forces where the several parts of it could respectively be most efficient, and in such relative positions as rendered co-operation at once easy, expeditious, and impressive. To fertility of invention, the genius of Elliot united a comprehensiveness of mind, which grasped objects in all their bearings and relations; and to this was added a cool and vigorous judgment, and nice discrimination. He adjusted his plan with the greatest exactness in all its departments, making provision at the same time for every possible contingency. The time fixed for carrying this bold enterprise into effect, was a dark night during the month of November. Accordingly, on the 27th of that month, at three o'clock in the morning, the British force was put in motion, and marched in the following order:—The troops were divided into three columns; the centre was commanded by the Hanoverian lieutenant-colonel Dachenhausen; the column on the right, by lieutenant-colonel Hugo, of the same corps; and the body on the left, by lieutenant-colonel Trigg, of the 12th regiment; the reserve was led by major Maxwell of the 73d; a party of seamen, in two divisions, was conducted by the lieutenants Campbell and Muckle of the Brilliant and Porcupine royal frigates; and the whole body was headed by brigadier-general Ross. In each column there was an advanced corps, a body of pioneers, a party of artillery-men carrying combustibles, a sustaining corps, and a reserve in the rear. With such silence did they march, that the enemy had not the smallest suspicion of their ap-

proach, until a universal attack conveyed the astounding intimation. The ardour of the British troops was every where irresistible. The Spaniards, surprised, astonished, confounded, and dismayed, fled with the utmost precipitation, and abandoned those immense works which had cost them so much labour, time, and expense in preparing. The whole efforts of Spanish power and skill for two years,—the mighty object of their pride and exultation,—were, in the short space of two hours, destroyed by British genius, aiding British intrepidity, ardour, and skill. The most astonishing exertions were made by the pioneers and artillery-men, who spread their fire with such rapidity, that in half an hour, two mortar-batteries, consisting of ten mortars of thirteen inch diameter, the batteries of heavy cannon, with all the lines of approach, communication, and traverse, were in flames, and every thing subject to the action of fire was finally reduced to ashes. The mortars and cannon were spiked, and their beds, carriages, and platforms destroyed. The magazines blew up one after another in the course of the conflagration; and before daybreak, the British troops, having completely executed their grand project, returned to the garrison.

Though the spirit of loyalty which the victory obtained at Camden had revived in the Carolinas received a check by the defeat and death of major Ferguson; lord Cornwallis was nevertheless so considerably reinforced by the accession of two thousand six hundred men from England, under the command of general Leslie, that he still cherished the hope of penetrating from the South into north Carolina. He also relied upon obtaining considerable support and succours from the army of the north. The reduction of Charleston, and the submission of South Carolina, were considered by ministers as a happy presage of the success which was to crown the British arms with glory during this campaign, and of the desire of the colonists to return to their connexion with the mother-country. Unhappily, the exaggerated statements of deserters were received by them as the most authentic testimony. The defection of general Arnold, too, was another circumstance which tended to strengthen their hopes of recovering the colonies. They considered his manifesto, which described both the weakness and discontent of the American army, as unquestionable evidence. On such superficial views and feeble reasoning were their expectations and plans founded. It was thought that general Clinton, in consequence of the reported weakness and disaffection of Washington's army, would not only be able to afford that body full employment in the vicinity of New-York, but also to co-operate powerfully with the army of the south, subdue such of the Americans as were still refractory, and enable the well-affected to declare their sentiments, and assert their loyalty. Such was the theory on which the plan of the campaign was constructed. Its prominent object was, that lord Cornwallis should traverse the interjacent provinces, unite his force with Arnold, and penetrating into Virginia, attack the marquis de la Fayette, an active partisan of the Americans, while sir Henry Clinton should, in the north, oppose general Washington and count Rochambeau, commander of the French troops in that quarter.

Lord Cornwallis, who had been making preparations even before the close of the former year, began to put his army in motion as early as the month of January, and advanced towards the borders between the Broad and the Catawba rivers, while general Greene, an officer of high reputation, who had succeeded general Gates on the resignation of the latter, made a diversion on fort Ninety-six at the same time. Colonel Morgan, who had acquired distinction as a partisan in the northern war, advanced with a force of Virginia regulars and militia upon the Pacolet river. General Tarleton, who was on that side with his legion of cavalry and light infantry, with some other troops, was directed to attack Morgan's detachment. He accordingly advanced upon the latter, who retreated, till finding himself unable, without great danger, to cross the Broad river, which, owing to the swelling of the waters, had overflowed its bounds, he on the 18th of January took his ground for an engagement. Posting his men with great judgment, he received the

impetuous attack of Tarleton in such a manner, that the forces of the latter, by an unexpected charge, were thrown into irretrievable disorder, and totally defeated with great loss. Tarleton rallied a part of his cavalry, and repelling an attack of that of the enemy, succeeded in bringing them away. On hearing of his defeat, lord Cornwallis despatched a part of his army to intercept Morgan, but without success. Afterward, divesting himself of every encumbrance, he pursued general Greene, who retreated before him. A long and fatiguing march ensued, in which hardships of every kind were experienced by the British army, and sustained with the greatest courage and perseverance, while in all the skirmishes to which they became exposed from hostile parties on their march, they proved victorious. At length, on the 15th of March, lord Cornwallis came in view of Greene's army, drawn up in line of battle, near Guilford court-house, in number much exceeding his own. An engagement accordingly took place: the action was long, greatly diversified, and ably contested. It ended in the rout and retreat of the Americans, whom, however, the British army was not in a condition to pursue; and Cornwallis found it necessary to draw back his fatigued troops to the vicinity of Wilmington, in North Carolina, which town had previously been reduced by an expedition from Charleston, and where they arrived on the 7th of April.—The victory proved to be a dear-bought one on the part of the British; their loss amounted to nearly a third of their whole strength; and indeed the whole fruits of the victory were insignificant, though the price was high, as the victorious general, instead of advancing, was obliged to leave a number of his wounded to the care of the enemy, and to proceed for safety, and the bare necessaries of life, on a dreary march of six hundred miles, through woods, creeks, and morasses, in a wild, inhospitable, and hostile country, in which he had to encounter the severest hardships.

By the retreat of lord Cornwallis into Virginia, lord Rawdon was left alone in Carolina, to watch the motions of the army under the command of general Greene. The British force in this quarter was now so much diminished, and their provisions so scanty, that their commander was compelled to decline the proffered assistance of a body of loyalists, from absolute inability to afford them maintenance. Lord Rawdon was posted at Camden, when Greene, with two thousand men, took up his station at Hobkirk's hill, a distance of about two miles, on the brow of a rocky steep, flanked on the left by a deep swamp. Though his own force did not amount to one thousand men, lord Rawdon determined not to wait the approach of the enemy, but sallied from his intrenchments before their numbers could receive a farther accession, and killed or destroyed five hundred of Greene's army. By this gallant exploit, which took place on the 25th of April, lord Rawdon escaped being besieged by a superior force in Camden, and had a reinforcement promptly sent him, it would have enabled him to stand his ground; but by the conflict his small band was reduced to eight hundred men, while the Americans, though defeated, were rapidly recruiting: and thus the valiant British officer was checked in the career of victory, and obliged to act on the defensive until fresh troops arrived. At length, part of the expected reinforcement made its appearance at Charleston, and the British general marched downwards to effect a junction. In his absence, Greene invested the strong post of Ninety-six, and at the same time sent a detachment to besiege the fortress of Augusta, in Georgia. Under an apprehension that lord Rawdon would speedily return, Greene attempted to take fort Ninety-six by assault; but the garrison made so vigorous a defence, that the Americans were compelled to retire. The day after their retreat, lord Rawdon arrived, when he learned that the Americans had succeeded in taking Augusta, and that the besiegers had rejoined the army of Greene. The force of the Americans was now so powerful in this quarter, that great numbers of the provincials who had professed allegiance to Britain, threw off the mask and avowed their hostility. Perceiving dangers of various kinds to be gathering around him, lord Rawdon found himself reduced to the necessity of abandoning fort Ninety-six, that he might concentrate his forces for the defence of the lower province,