

whole army of Gates was completely routed. Gates himself was borne in the headlong flight far into North Carolina, and that night found him sixty miles from the battlefield without an army. This was the severest defeat an American army had ever suffered. Gates's "Northern laurels" had indeed changed to "Southern willows."

311. Battle of King's Mountain (October 7, 1780).—After his victory at Camden, Cornwallis advanced to Charlotte, North Carolina, the county-seat of the famous Mecklenburg County (§ 261) and a "hornet's nest of rebels" as the British general called it. From here he sent a detachment under General Ferguson to enlist the Tories in the highlands of South Carolina. Ferguson's force of twelve hundred men was attacked at King's Mountain, on the border between the Carolinas, by a band of frontiersmen led by William Campbell, Charles McDowell, John Sevier, and other border chieftains. The British position on the mountain was stormed from three directions. The Carolina backwoodsmen advanced from tree to tree, using their unerring rifles with deadly effect. The British general was killed while leading a charge, and his men surrendered. The victors dispersed for their homes, after having tried by court-martial and hanged for treason nine of their Tory prisoners. This brilliant victory, sometimes called the "Bennington of the South" changed the whole course of the war in this department. It cost Cornwallis a valuable part of his army, and caused him to abandon his plan of invading North Carolina, and to hurry back into South Carolina in order to hold the British posts in that state.

312. Arnold's Treason.—The year 1780 was full of disasters to the American cause. The surrender of Lincoln's army and the destruction of Gates's were now closely followed by the treason of one of our bravest officers in the North. General Benedict Arnold had shown conspicuous courage at

Quebec, on Lake Champlain, and at Saratoga. But Congress had treated him unjustly, and General Gates had wronged him; and he had not the greatness of soul to forget his own slights for his country's sake. After the British evacuation of Philadelphia, Arnold was placed in command of that city. Here he fell in love with a Tory lady. Her influence and that of her family led him to look with favor upon the enemies of his country. His extravagant living and self-willed conduct got him into trouble. He was accused of squandering public funds. On trial, the court acquitted him of intentional dishonesty, but sentenced him to be reprimanded by the commander-in-chief for "imprudence." Washington performed the disagreeable duty with great delicacy. Arnold, stung by the disgrace, however, determined to betray his country. He got himself appointed to the command of West Point, that he might surrender that important post to the British. Clinton sent Major André up the Hudson to confer with him. As André was returning to New York in disguise, he was arrested by three militiamen, who searched him and discovered in his boots papers revealing Arnold's base plot. Word was carried to Arnold at West Point that his plans were discovered. He escaped at once on board a British vessel in the river, and reached New York in safety. Although he failed to deliver up West Point, he received £10,000 and the rank of general in the British army for his treason. Major André was tried as a spy and executed.

313. Greene Placed in Command.—Congress, following Washington's suggestion, now appointed General Greene to succeed the conquered Gates. On reaching the Carolinas, Greene found a difficult task confronting him. The British had possession of Georgia and South Carolina and were ready to advance upon North Carolina. Their troops were well disciplined and equipped; their officers, Cornwallis, Tarleton,

and Rawdon, were bold and skillful. To meet these tremendous odds, Greene had a mere handful of men, the remnant of Gates's conquered army. His troops were without supplies, the people were dispirited. Yet Greene himself was one of the ablest generals of his time, and his genius was worth a dozen armies. Moreover, he was aided by a splendid group of subordinate officers. There was Daniel Morgan, who had



General Greene.

served with distinction at Quebec and Saratoga. Like Arnold, he had been unjustly treated by Congress, and had retired in disgust to his home in Virginia. But on learning of the defeat at Camden, he forgot his wrongs and hastened to the defense of his country. There were those splendid cavalry leaders, Henry Lee (known as "Light-horse Harry"), father of the distinguished Robert E. Lee, and William Washington, cousin of the commander-in-chief, besides the militia chieftains, Marion, Sumter, and Pickens, who were ever ready to strike a daring blow. We shall see how all the advantages of the enemy were overcome, and the Southern states recovered from the British.

314. Battle of the Cowpens.— After the defeat at King's Mountain, Cornwallis had withdrawn to Winsboro, in the northern part of South Carolina. Greene advanced into South Carolina, and encamped on the Pedee River directly east of Cornwallis. The American commander now decided to divide his little army. He sent Morgan around the enemy's position to threaten the British posts in the western part of the state. Cornwallis by this time was ready for a second invasion of North Carolina, but he was unwilling to leave Morgan in his rear. Like Greene, the British general then divided his army,

sending a detachment under Tarleton after Morgan. Tarleton overtook Morgan at the Cowpens, a few miles from King's Mountain. In a hotly contested battle the British were defeated. After a desperate single combat with Colonel Washington, Tarleton himself barely escaped with a sword-cut in the hand. This decisive victory deprived Cornwallis of one-third of his army, and severely crippled his movements.

315. Greene's Retreat.— (See map, p. 197.) Morgan now hastened back to reunite his forces with those of Greene. Cornwallis made all speed to intercept him at the fords of the Catawba. Morgan, by a rapid march, reached the river first, and crossed in safety. A sudden rise in the stream prevented the British from crossing at once. Meanwhile Greene placed a subordinate officer in charge of his main army, with orders to retire northward so as to join Morgan's retreating division, while he himself dashed across the country by the shortest roads to Morgan's hard-pressed men. He joined them at the Catawba and at once took charge of the retreat. Cornwallis, having burned all his heavy baggage that might impede his movements, hastened the pursuit. He reached the Yadkin a few hours after the Americans had crossed, but again a sudden rise in the water checked his advance. At Guilford Court House, in northern North Carolina, Greene's main army joined him, but still his force was too small to risk a battle. Continuing the retreat, he reached the Dan River, and crossed over into Virginia. Cornwallis, baffled at last, gave up the pursuit.

316. Guilford Court House.— The British general turned back into North Carolina, and proclaiming that state conquered, called upon the North Carolinians to return to their allegiance to the king. But Greene, by no means beaten, recrossed the Dan, and having received heavy reinforcements, engaged Cornwallis in battle at Guilford Court House. After a desperate conflict in which the bravery of the militia atoned

for their disgraceful conduct at Camden, Greene retreated, leaving the enemy in possession of the field. Cornwallis claimed a victory, yet his loss was so heavy that it was said in England that "another such victory would destroy the British army."

317. Georgia and the Carolinas Recovered. — Cornwallis now began a retreat to Wilmington, on the North Carolina coast. Greene pursued him for some distance, then correctly judging that he had nothing to fear from Cornwallis's army at present, hastened to the relief of South Carolina, in which state several strong posts were held by the British. At Hobkirk Hill, near Camden, Greene, though compelled to retreat, proceeded as usual to reap all the fruits of victory. The British evacuated Camden, and one post after another fell into the hands of the Americans. Eutaw Springs, a drawn battle, was really another victory for Greene. The British retired to Charleston, and during the rest of the war remained cooped up on the coast. Thus, in a little more than a year, Greene's splendid generalship had wrested Georgia and the Carolinas from the control of the British.

2. *IN VIRGINIA.*

318. Plan of Cornwallis. — The traitor Arnold, with a British force, had been committing ravages in Virginia. He was opposed by a small army under Baron Steuben, an experienced German officer who had come over to aid the Americans. Afterward Lafayette was sent with a body of Northern troops to capture the traitor. Cornwallis, now that he found himself out-generalled by Greene, determined to abandon the Carolinas, march up into Virginia, unite his troops with those of Arnold, and attempt the conquest of this, the most powerful state in the South.

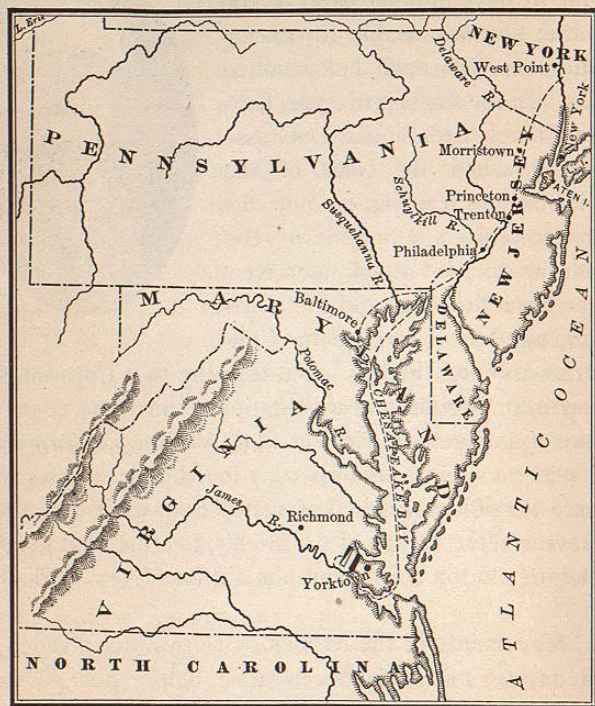
319. Washington's Daring Plan. — So far, the French army and fleet had been of little direct service to the Americans. In fact the great value of the French alliance up to this time had been indirect, in keeping England so busy in other parts of the world that she was unable to concentrate her energies upon her revolted colonies. In the summer of 1781, however, a French fleet under DeGrasse again approached the coast of the United States. Washington now determined to strike a telling blow. His first plan was a joint attack upon New York by his own troops and the allied fleet, hoping thus to overwhelm Clinton's army and end the war. But learning that Cornwallis had come up into Virginia and was stationed near the coast with the army of Lafayette in front of him, Washington formed this daring plan: to hurry his own army four hundred miles southward into Virginia; to join Lafayette; and while the French fleet prevented the escape of Cornwallis, to crush that general's army before Clinton could send him aid from New York.



Lord Cornwallis.

320. Movements of the Armies. — Cornwallis invaded Virginia, Lafayette's small force retreating before him. Clinton, who now feared an attack upon New York, sent word to Cornwallis to keep near the coast, so as to be able to sail to his aid at any moment. Accordingly Cornwallis took position at Yorktown, on a peninsula between the mouths of the James and York Rivers. Meanwhile, as soon as Washington learned that the French fleet had started from the West Indies for Chesapeake Bay, he entered upon the execution of his brilliant plan. Hurling his troops southward with all possible haste and secrecy, he had almost reached the Maryland border before

Clinton understood his movements. Clinton now hastened to send his fleet against the French squadron that had entered Chesapeake Bay. At the same time he ordered Arnold to attack the coast towns of Connecticut, hoping thus to draw



Washington's March upon Yorktown.

Washington back. Both plans failed of their object. The English fleet was driven back from the mouth of the Chesapeake, and Washington, refusing to be enticed from his prey, left Connecticut to take care of itself. Reaching the head of Chesapeake Bay, the American commander completed his swift journey in ships, and took command of the combined armies on Yorktown peninsula.

321. Surrender at Yorktown.— Cornwallis was entrapped. Encamped on a narrow peninsula, the French fleet threatened three sides of his position, while an army twice the size of his own blocked his escape by land. The French troops under General Rochambeau put themselves under Washington's orders, and vied with their American allies in storming the British works. One redoubt after another was taken. Finally, on the 19th of October, Cornwallis surrendered. His troops, eight thousand strong, marched between two long lines of French and American soldiers to lay down their arms, while their bands played an old English air, "The World's Turned Upside Down."

322. Result of the Victory.— Swift messengers sped the news of the glorious victory through the length and breadth of the land. Congress adjourned at once to church for a service of thanksgiving and prayer. The joy of the people knew no limit, for they realized that the capture of this British army must close the war. In England, Lord North's ministry was overthrown, and a new ministry favorable to the United States was chosen. For the last three years plucky old England had been waging war, single-handed and alone, with three of the most powerful nations in the world, France, Spain, and Holland. She now realized that to subdue her rebellious colonies, whose courage and love of freedom equaled her own, was a hopeless task. Moreover, from the beginning of the struggle, a strong minority in Parliament had opposed the war. A few months before the surrender at Yorktown, the younger Pitt had denounced the American war as "most accursed, wicked, barbarous, cruel, unnatural, unjust, and diabolical." Although British troops continued to hold New York, Charleston, and a few other points, no further hostilities followed.

323. Treaty of Peace.— In September, 1783, a final treaty of peace was signed at Paris. Its first provision was as follows: "His Britannic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz.: New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia to be free, sovereign and independent States." At the same time England made peace with the other nations with which she had been at war. To Spain she gave back Florida, which had been a British possession since 1763 (§ 202).

324. Summary of the War in the South.— Unsuccessful in the Middle states, the next plan of the British was to occupy Georgia and the Carolinas, and from these states to work their way northward.

Savannah and Augusta were captured by the British, and Georgia was overrun, 1778-79. General Lincoln made an unsuccessful attempt to recapture Savannah. He was himself compelled to surrender at Charleston. His successor, General Gates, was badly beaten at Camden. King's Mountain was a brilliant victory for the American militia. General Greene, successor of Gates, by skillful manœuvring, without gaining any decisive victory, recovered Georgia and the Carolinas from the British. Cornwallis having advanced from North Carolina into Virginia, was besieged at Yorktown by the combined forces of Washington, Lafayette, and the French fleet. He surrendered October 19, 1781. A treaty of peace was made two years later.

325. Thought Questions.— How many years elapsed, after the beginning of the war, before the Southern states were invaded? Why did the British defer their attack on this section? Why did they attempt the subjugation of the South when they did? What was the nature of most of the warfare in the Southern states? In which of his campaigns during the Revolution did Washington display the greatest skill? Whom do you consider the two ablest American generals? The ablest British general? Give grounds for your opinion.

TOPICAL ANALYSIS (WAR OF THE REVOLUTION).

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|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
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| | | | Conduct of royal governors. |
| | | | Feeling at close of French wars. |
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| | | | Four requirements. |
| | 243, 244. Enforcement of the Laws. | { | The laws evaded. |
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| | 246, 247. Taxation of the Colonies. | { | Henry's defiance of the king. |
| | | | British argument. |
| | | | The Stamp Act. |
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| 254. The Battle of Alamance. | { | Action of Virginia Assembly. | |
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| 255. The Tea Tax. | { | The Boston Massacre. | |
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264. **Washington takes Command.** { When and where.
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279. **Battle of Trenton.** { Despondency of Americans.
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280. **Battle of Princeton.** { Cornwallis's change of plan.
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His splendid generalship.

STRUGGLE FOR THE MIDDLE STATES.

275. **Plan of the British.**
- I. CAMPAIGNS AROUND NEW YORK CITY.
276. **Battle of Long Island.** { Washington's defenses.
Howe's attack.
Washington's escape.
- 277, 278. **Washington's Retreat.** { From New York to White Plains.
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Washington's critical position.
His splendid generalship.

STRUGGLE FOR THE MIDDLE STATES. (Continued.)

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II. IN VIRGINIA.