

order of Putnam. The British regulars, thoroughly trained—supplied with everything needful—fighting against the yeomanry of New England! They gained a dearly bought victory, which is every year celebrated by Americans as a defeat which was better than a success.

Early in July, under a tree at Cambridge, Washington took command of the American army. To the visitor in that classic city is yet pointed the spot. With utmost firmness, tempered by good judgment, struggling against innumerable embarrassments, disappointments, almost impossibilities, he availed himself of every resource within reach. The strictest discipline was enforced. The autumn and winter passed without effecting anything except confining the British closely in Boston. The one, almost hopeless, obstacle to Washington's success was want of artillery. His exertions to obtain needful arms and munitions of war were wonderful, and wonderfully were they rewarded. The march of revolution went on with a momentum steadily increasing. Congress deemed that thirty thousand men were needful for defence of the country. Massachusetts, in provincial congress, resolved that thirteen thousand six hundred was its quota. Letters were sent to the towns to enlist troops with all speed, which were promptly answered by bodies of militia and companies of volunteers hastening to join the army. From Connecticut came Israel Putnam, from Vermont Ethan Allen, each with a bold following. Also Benedict Arnold, who had a colonel's commission, but no regiment, expecting that his claims of precedence would be recognized at once. But Washington had other plans and more urgent duties than to ar-

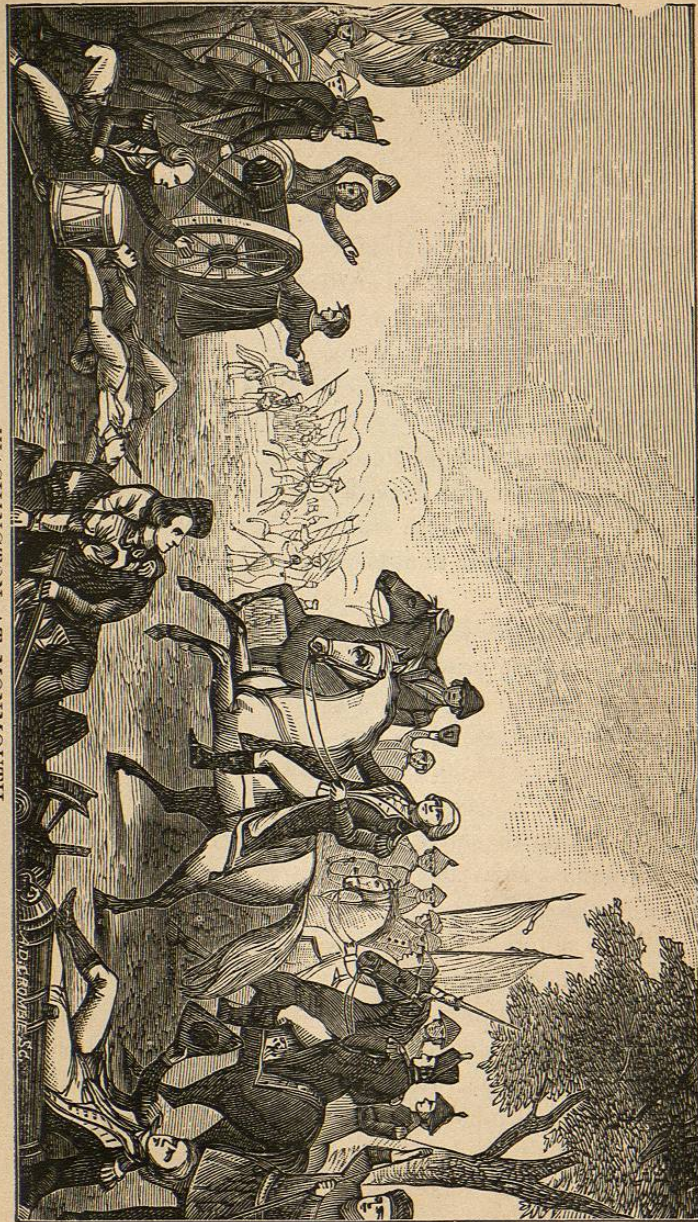
range a regiment for a pretentious officer. Arnold, forced to acquiesce, sent a statement and memorial to the Massachusetts Legislature. Although Washington was ever at his post of duty, his heart was at the peaceful home on the Potomac. Arrangements were carried on at every point according to his direction. Mount Vernon had been considered in danger. Lord Dunmore was exercising martial law in the old dominion, and it was feared that Mount Vernon was marked for hostility. Madame Washington had been entreated to leave it. She had declined the offer of an escort to a place of safety. Though alive to everything concerning Mount Vernon, Washington felt that it was in no danger. But at the same time he engaged the services of an agent to care for and protect its interests. Being convinced, at length, that his home was not quite safe, he wrote, inviting Madame Washington to join him in camp, which invitation she accepted, coming to Boston in her own carriage, accompanied by her son, Mr. Custis, and his wife. Her arrival was a glad event in the army. Her presence relieved her husband of all anxieties regarding hospitalities shown to strangers. She presided at head-quarters with dignity and grace. Prayers at morning and evening brought into the camp something of the aspect of a home.

From amid all perplexity in Boston, Washington's thoughts turned to Canada. When last he heard from Arnold he had planned to dash forward, storming the gate of St. Johns. This might have been successful, for the gate was open and unguarded, but the fortress *looked* too strong to be carried by a "coup de main." Constant anxiety attended Washington's thought of the situation in Canada.

will have them, and end this rebellion." At daybreak Washington and his troops had vanished. "Where can Washington be gone?" At this moment the boom of cannon struck his ear from the direction of Princeton. "There he is," added he, as Washington, cheered by his success with the Hessians, made an onset at Princeton, which resulted in triumph for the Americans. Washington now went into winter quarters at Morristown, making detours so successfully that before spring New Jersey was almost entirely delivered from the British.

The veteran General Putnam was directed to be on the alert to ascertain all possible regarding the movements of the enemy. By strategic measures, unequalled in delicacy of execution, General Putnam managed to become possessed of information of utmost importance. It was his boast that he never slept with both eyes shut. Putnam was directed to have sloops ready to transport the troops up the Hudson, and Washington was informed that they were on the way for his reinforcement. Washington was carrying on two games at once—with General Howe on the seaboard, and with Burgoyne on the upper waters of the Hudson, an arduous and complicated task, the particulars of which we cannot follow.

The English, after various conflicts in New Jersey, ascended the Delaware with the intent to capture Philadelphia. Washington hastened to oppose them. On the field of Brandywine a fierce and bloody battle was fought. The Americans, overwhelmed by numbers, retreated to Philadelphia, where they recruited, and before the foe had left the hills and valleys of the Brandywine Washington again marched to meet him



WASHINGTON AT MONMOUTH.

at Germantown, but again was compelled to retire, while the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga sent a flood of joy over the country.

In the spring of 1778 the alliance with France gave new strength to Washington. The English army at Monmouth met Washington and Lee, where, in June, a long battle was fought, which, but for the intemperance of Lee, would have resulted in success to Washington, who resolved the next day to renew it with vigor, but when morning dawned the enemy had fled. Washington thought it dangerous, in the extreme heat, to follow them. When the British had retired from Philadelphia, General Arnold had been appointed temporary governor of that city, where he behaved like a desperado, who hesitates at nothing to compass his purposes.

Complaints were made to Congress that he had seized and stolen American stores, pretending they were British. Washington gave him a very mild reproof, and put him in command of West Point. Here his treasonable action brought grief to his friends and amazement and sorrow to the country.

At this time (October, 1781) Washington's forces had dwindled to three thousand. Lord Cornwallis was at Yorktown. By rapid marches Washington hastened to surround him. There was no retreat. Nor by land nor by sea might he escape. Famine stared him in the face. After a few days of hopeless conflict, Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. This roused wonder and hope throughout the country. Early in May following, England opened negotiations for peace. A treaty was definitely signed and communicated to the army April 19th, 1783. In Decem-

ber of the same year Washington took an affecting leave of his army and retired to Mount Vernon.

He was summoned thence to take the chair of chief executive of the nation, which for eight years he filled with honor, not without detraction and slander, but yet winning love and respect in peace as he had done in war.

After his return to Mount Vernon he led the most delightfully peaceful domestic life, entertaining many who turned aside to visit this remarkable man.

In December, 1799, he took a sudden cold which resulted fatally. Cheerfully, in full possession of his faculties, he laid aside the garments of the flesh, "as one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams."

CHAPTER XIX.

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

Ancestors—Early Life—In the French and Indian War—Reconnoitring Crown Point—Narrow Escape—Promoted—Disobeying Orders at Fort Edward—Moonlight Fight on the way to Ticonderoga—Prisoner—Exchanged—Expedition to Havana—Conferring with Governor Fitch—From Plow to Sword—At Bunker Hill—Narrow Escape at West Greenwich—Attacked by Paralysis—Observations on Character—Death.

ISRAEL PUTNAM was born in Salem, Mass., in January, 1718. His father was a farmer, and the boy from his earliest years took a part in the work of the farm. He received only the rudiments of education—reading, writing and arithmetic—in the common school of the district. Strong and healthy, he surpassed all his companions in athletic feats and sports. His boyhood passed in this alternation of hard work and vigorous play. At twenty years of age he married a Miss Pope, of Salem, and removed to a farm in Pomfret which he had acquired. Here he carried on his occupation with fair success. He had a considerable flock of sheep, of which no less than seventy were destroyed by a wolf in one night. Israel followed the wolf to its den, and, holding a blazing torch in one hand, he succeeded in killing the furious animal with the other.

Putnam's life flowed on in peaceful avocations for a

Under date of December 5th, he thus writes to Arnold:

"It is not in the power of any man to command success, but you have done more, you have deserved it; and before this time I hope you have met with the laurels which are due to your toils, in the possession of Quebec. I have no doubt but a junction of your detachment with the army under General Montgomery is effected before this. If so, you will put yourself under his command, and will, I am persuaded, give him all the assistance in your power to finish the glorious work you have begun."

Washington daily expected to receive tidings that Montgomery and Arnold were within Quebec's walls. He had written to the former to forward all that could be spared of arms, clothing and supplies said to be there deposited. But in lieu thereof he received news that Montgomery had arrived before Quebec on the 5th of December, sending in a flag of truce with summons to surrender.

It was fired upon, and Montgomery indignantly prepared for attack. A breastwork of gabions, ranged side by side, filled in with snow, flooded with water, which quickly became ice, was erected. On this were mounted five light cannon and a howitzer. From this ice battery a fire was opened upon the walls of Quebec. Montgomery's object was to harass and annoy the town, planning to make the real assault lower down. On the eve of the fifth day Montgomery paid a visit to the ice battery, although urged to leave it, as being too dangerous for such a valuable officer. On the night of the 31st of December, under cover of a severe snow-storm, the final assault of Quebec was made, and

a breach effected in the walls. "Push on, brave boys! Quebec is ours!" was the rallying cry. At this instant Montgomery, with one of his aids, was killed! In the meantime Washington was waiting in Boston. As the defeats in Canada would affect the fortunes of the revolution elsewhere, Washington sent General Gates to lay the despatches concerning them before Congress. Scarcely had he left Boston when Washington himself was summoned to Philadelphia to advise with Congress. Accompanied by Mrs. Washington, he went to Philadelphia, being the guests of Mr. Hancock. The important result of this conference was the establishment of a war office.

In the middle of a dark and stormy night in March ensuing, Washington opened an incessant fire on Boston. Under cover of the storm, amid the confusion of assault and the din of battle, he despatched picked troops to Dorchester Heights, with orders to strain every nerve throwing up bulwarks which commanded the English fleet in the harbor. From these heights a well-directed battery could drive the British ships away. Great was the astonishment of the English admiral to find that during one night of storm, a fort, bristling with cannon, had grown up over his head, and his fleet was at its mercy. Before it the English retired. Thus a victory was gained without shedding a drop of blood. Surely to Washington's genius should be awarded freshest laurels!

Driven from Boston, the British prepared to attack New York. Their sole aim appeared to be to obtain possession of New York and the Hudson river, making them the basis of military operations. Lord Howe appeared upon the coast with a "forest of men-of-war

and transports" bearing 40,000 men—Hessians, British and Waldeckers. He sent a letter with a flag of truce, directed in an insulting manner, which was returned again and again, until proper courtesy was exhibited. Thus General Washington carried his discipline even into the enemy's head-quarters!

Defences of the harbor and city of New York were carefully prepared, a line of intrenchments and strong redoubts on Long Island, opposite New York, was constructed, and on August 28th a severe engagement occurred, in which the English took the initiative, resulting in disaster to General Washington's troops, and rout to his forces. Washington arranged a plan of retreat under cover of darkness, which to his utter dismay was thwarted and well nigh prevented by blunders inexcusable. While striving to right affairs, the tide turned; a strong wind from the northeast caused further embarrassment and uproar. General Washington's extreme anger and hasty words may be pardoned in view of the fact that his personal peril was extreme. A dense fog prevailing rendered it possible for Washington to cross the river. While the fog hung over Long Island, concealing the movements of the Americans, the atmosphere was clear in New York. The whole army was at length safely over the river, Washington, though repeatedly urged, refusing to enter a boat until all the troops had embarked. This wonderful retreat from Long Island to New Jersey in silence and darkness equalled the midnight fortifying of Bunker Hill, and added new laurels to the already verdant crown on the brow of Washington. For four months General Washington was obliged to retreat before the enemy. With matchless dexterity and skill

unrivalled, he baffled the efforts of his foes. He retreated to Trenton. The British pursued the freezing, starving patriots. They thought that the war was over. With extreme difficulty Washington crossed the Delaware just before his pursuers. "My God, general," said General Reed, "how long shall we retreat? Where shall we stop?" "Over every river in America, last of all over the mountains, expelling the enemies of our country." On the night of December 25th, cold and dark, a raging storm of sleet and snow prevailed. The British dreamed not of danger, while the Americans, nerved by the energy of despair, plunged on, attacking the first foemen whom they met, scattering them like the snow falling around them, taking one thousand prisoners and six cannon.

Triumphantly, to cheer and rouse his desponding countrymen, Washington marched to Philadelphia, making joyful entry of that city, preceded by their cannon, colors, and wagons, bristling with muskets and bayonets.

The Tories could scarce believe their eyes, while the Whigs many of them wept for joy. The Hessians had an ill-grounded dread of the Americans, doubting not that they should, as prisoners, be drawn and quartered; therefore their surprise was unbounded to receive friendly attentions from the wealthy Dutch farmers, to whose care Washington, with a purpose, consigned them.

The English, alarmed now, retreated to Princeton. Lord Cornwallis, in command of an overwhelming force, arrived at Trenton, remarking, "Washington and his tattered demalions are in my power; I will rest before capturing them. To-morrow at daybreak I