ful endurance. By sheer force of these qualities he fought his way up from captain of a militia company to the position of major-general in the army of the United States. He had not, however, the ability to plan and direct movements at a distance, which is so necessary a quality for a commander-in-chief. His military education fitted him for sudden onsets and for determined conflict with small bodies of men. In this sort of warfare he had no superior. On the very edge of defeat, he made so fearless and resolute a resistance, that his enemies fell back cowed and beaten, leaving him the honors of victory. His personal courage was something wonderful. Literally, he did not know what fear was. In battle he seemed absolutely unconscious of the balls that rained around him. But he had a fiery temper, which was roused to fury by any display of cowardice on the part of his troops. When they failed him, he fairly exploded with wrath, and poured forth a torrent of fiery invectives. Yet he was kindly and generous, as well as truthful, and of unblemished integrity. A man of the people, his manner was that of the farm and the camp, and he remained rough and unpolished even after he had attained a high position. He won respect from all, however, and remains on record as one of the most brilliant examples that history can show of the citizen-soldier.

CHAPTER XX.

NATHANIEL GREENE.

Character—Birth—Early Life—The Whip and the Shingles—Member of General Assembly—Married—Warrior Spirit Aroused by Invaders—Appointed Major-General—Sick—"Gracious God, my Poor Soldiers!"—In the Saddle again—With Washington in his Retreat through Jersey—At Germantown, Monmouth, etc.—Presiding at the Court-Martial of Andre—Called South—Race with Cornwallis—Battle of Guilford—Retreat of the Enemy—Battle of Eutaw Springs—Entering Charleston—Farewell to his Army—Removed to Georgia—Projecting a Challenge—Sunstroke—Death.

IN the subject of this sketch we find one of the most remarkable characters developed by the war of the Revolution. A self-made man, he rose from the ranks to the position of major-general solely by his own force and talent. He became the ablest commander of the army next to Washington, and there are those who believe that in mere military skill the subordinate surpassed the chief. Brave and self-possessed, his mind remained as clear and his judgment as correct in the midst of disaster and difficulty as when he was planning his campaigns in his headquarters. He bore exposure, privation, toils, and suffering with a patience that caused his soldiers to regard him with wonder and admiration. His energy was marvellous; he never seemed to take repose, nor to allow it to others. When with the title of major-general, which, however, was changed by Congress to that of brigadier-general. He joined the continental army at Cambridge, after the battle of Bunker Hill, and very soon won the esteem and confidence of Washington, who sent him in the following spring to hold possession of Long Island with his brigade. He entered on the work at once, examined the ground, established posts, and was making full preparations to repel the enemy in case of attack when he was stricking down with bilious fever. So severe was this illness that he was disabled for weeks. During this time Putnam took command of his troops, and owing to his ignorance of the ground and general want of preparation, the defeat took place which but for Washington's generalship might have led to the destruction of the whole army. Greene, on his sick-bed, listened to the thunder of the cannon, and inquired continually as to the progress of the battle. When told that his favorite regiment had been almost cut to pieces, he burst into tears, exclaiming: "Gracious God! my poor soldiers! And I confined here at such a time!"

As soon as he was able to mount a horse again, he reported for duty, and was appointed major-general. He was present at the battle of Harlem Heights. He insisted on holding Fort Washington against the enemy, and when the position and its garrison were captured, Greene was censured for lack of judgment. He maintained, however, that his plan was correct, and that if the troops had been sufficiently brave, the fort could have been held.

Greene accompanied Washington in his memorable retreat through the Jerseys, and commanded a division

in the brilliant movement against Trenton. When the army went into winter quarters at Morristown, he was despatched to Congress to urge upon that body the necessity of an immediate reorganization of the forces. He was afterwards sent to examine the passes of the Highlands. At the battle of Brandywine he was at first stationed in the rear as a reserve, with orders to support whatever portion of the army needed him most. When the flight commenced he hastened up, marching his men over a space of four miles in forty-nine minutes, and met the army, which was flying in disorder. His brave troops stayed the advance of the pursuing enemy. As the fugitives came pouring on, the ranks would open and let them pass, then close up again. Thus opening and shutting his ranks, Greene at length got clear of the fugitives, and, reaching a narrow defile, made a stand against the enemy. For nearly an hour this little band held its opponents in check, completely stopping their pursuit of the defeated army, and when night fell the British forces withdrew, and he rejoined the retreating corps. In the battle of Germantown, which followed closely on that of Brandywine, he commanded the left wing, and did all that was possible to save the day. In the retreat, when the gunners would have abandoned their pieces, he forced them to drag the artillery off the field. He was soon afterwards appointed quartermaster-general, and during the severe winter that followed was with the army at Valley Forge, sharing the hardships of that terrible time with unfailing courage and cheerfulness. The campaign of the next summer was opened by the battle of Monmouth. Here he commanded the right wing of the army, and his heavy guns sent disorder through the British lines. He was afterwards sent to co-operate with Lafayette and Sullivan in their projected descent upon Newport.

His duties as quartermaster-general were rendered difficult by the failure of Congress to furnish funds for the necessary supplies. So disagreeable became the position that he at last proposed to resign. Congress then angrily demanded that he leave the service altogether. Washington earnestly remonstrated against a course that would deprive the country of so valuable a soldier, and finally Greene's resignation as quartermaster was accepted without affecting his rank in the army.

His courageous defence of Springfield, an important position in Jersey, occurred in 1780. Washington, learning that the British were about to attack West Point, moved in that direction, leaving Greene, with 1,300 men, to hold Springfield. A force of 5,000 men, under Sir Henry Clinton, marched against him. Greene, with his small force drawn up on the bank of the Rahway, waited for their attack. He occupied two positions: one beside the bridges and one on the heights in the rear of the town. The advancing columns soon came into view, and opened a furious cannonade on the small force beside the bridge. The latter held its position under this heavy fire for two hours. Sir Henry then ordered his infantry to charge, and with such superiority in numbers against them, the Americans were forced to retreat to their second position. Here they massed themselves and prepared for another attack, determined that from this position they would not be dislodged. Seeing their determined resistance the British force retreated, but set fire to the village while falling back to their former quarters in Elizabethtown.

During this year Washington made a journey to Hartford, in order to hold a conference with the French commanders. He left Greene in command of his army during his absence. It was at this period that the court-martial was held at which André was tried and condemned. Greene presided at the trial, being then in command at West Point.

An important change in his fortunes now took place. Disaster after disaster had overtaken the American army in the South, and Gates' defeat at Camden had almost shattered the forces there. Greene was ordered to replace Gates, and so commenced his career as an independent commander. Hitherto he had been subordinate to Washington. He was now to plan and act for himself, and Colonel W. A. Washington, with his cavalry, was ordered to co-operate with him. He found an army of two thousand men only, destitute of clothing, arms, and ammunition, and with these he was to oppose Cornwallis at the head of a trained and thoroughly equipped army. His first operation was to locate his own small force where it would be safe until he could obtain reinforcements. He selected a strong position on the frontiers of South Carolina for the main army, and then detaching a few hundred troops, he placed them under the command of Morgan, with orders to hover about the enemy, and meet him when necessary. Cornwallis was completely disconcerted by this arrangement, and unable to conjecture Greene's plans he divided his own forces, and remained for some time inactive, not knowing where to strike. At length he decided to attack Morgan, and despatched Tarleton against him.

Morgan determined to meet the enemy at Broad river, and a severe contest began. The English won great advantage during the first part of the day, and were sweeping triumphantly over the entire field, when Colonel Washington, who had calmly sat and watched every movement, ordered his bugler to sound a charge, and with his squadron of cavalry dashed over the astonished British infantry, rode them down in all directions, and passing through the shattered ranks, made an onset on the enemy's cavalry. The tide of battle turned, and the day ended in triumph for the Americans. Tarleton lost seven hundred men and eight hundred guns, and left on the field horses, tents, and ammunition.

Greene now ordered the army to rendezvous at Guilford, and directed his course to that position, his object being to move his army from the neighborhood of Cornwallis, who was in front of him with an overwhelming force. The country through which they were to pass is intersected by three great rivers, and Greene's skill was directed to keeping one of those large streams between himself and the advancing enemy, knowing that a deep river between two armies makes an effectual barrier for some time. On the other hand, Cornwallis was making strenuous efforts to overtake his enemy somewhere between two of the rivers, so as to give him battle where retreat would be almost impossible. Greene first moved his force across the Catawba, which delayed Cornwallis's advance for a considerable time, as it was swollen with heavy rains. When the river subsided, Cornwallis made a night-march to a ford near Salisbury, thinking that he could thus outwit Greene, and cross the stream unchecked. Greene, however, was informed of all his antagonist's movements, and he had stationed a body of militia at Salisbury. The British force approached the river by daybreak. Nothing broke the stillness of the morning but the roar of the swollen waters. Rain was falling heavily, and the turbid stream looked formidable in the gloom. As the British commander rode up, the gleam of fires on the American side showed him that he was not to cross without opposition. However, he gave the order to advance. The cavalry plunged in, and the head of the column had reached the centre of the river when the American guns flashed out. The British troops pressed forward, though the rapid stream carried many of them down. Cornwallis's horse was shot, but his rider managed to reach the shore. The Americans numbered but five hundred men, and when the British column at length effected the passage of the river, they had no alternative but retreat. They marched through drenching rain and deep mud, closely pursued by the enemy, but they managed to cross the second stream, the Yadkin, and for four days the two armies remained in camp with the stream between them. Greene took up his quarters in a little cabin near the rocks, and set to work writing despatches. The British troops started a heavy firing on the cabin. While the cannonade was at its height, Greene coolly went on with his writing. At length Cornwallis crossed the river, and recommenced the pursuit. The retreating army was in desperate condition. Half clad and many barefoot, with rations only sufficient to afford one meal a day, they toiled over the frozen roads, through streams and forests, drenched by the winter storms; and so desperate was the necessity he took command of his army it consisted of a mere handful of destitute and undisciplined troops; and with these he took the field against trained veterans, commanded by the most distinguished generals of the time. With such materials the advantages he gained were wonderful. Beginning almost at the lowest round of the ladder, he attained to rank and fame; but his elevation never developed in him any tendency to arrogance. His ambition was unselfish, and the welfare of his country was the object of all his efforts.

He was born in Warwick, Rhode Island, in 1742. His father was a blacksmith, and Nathaniel in his boyhood was obliged to assist in the forge. The family belonged to the denomination of Quakers, and the father was a preacher in the meetings of the sect. Nathaniel found considerable difficulty in conforming to the strict ideas and practices expected from him as being the son of a preacher. He was fond of all athletic sports, such as wrestling, leaping, etc. These amusements were not looked on with favor by the Quaker community, but he was also fond of dancing, of which they utterly disapproved. The boy was, therefore, prohibited from attending any of the village gatherings, and he pretended to obey; but he used to drop from his window at night and steal to the scenes of festivity. The preacher was informed of his son's proceedings, and kept a watch on him. Finding that the youth had gone to a dance in the neighborhood one night, he armed himself with a horsewhip and waited outside for the return of the culprit. The latter, stealing home through the gloom, saw his father moving to and fro. He knew what he had to expect, and, stealing behind the house, inserted a number of

shingles into his trowsers. He then boldly emerged and received his castigation, but was rather amused than hurt by his father's vigorous blows. The latter never suspected the trick that had been played on him; but if he had discovered it, it is probable that even a Quaker father could only laugh at so able a stratagem.

But young Greene, though fond of sport, was also fond of study. He spent all his scanty store of pocket-money on books, and in the forge, while his irons were heating, and in the intervals of work, he studied incessantly. He was at that time much interested in mathematics, and mastered Euclid without any assistance. His attainments won him much credit with his fellow-townsmen, and in 1770 they elected him a member of the general assembly of the colony. The time had come when most Americans had decided that the questions between themselves and the parent country could only be settled by war. Greene accordingly devoted himself to military studies, and openly declared that in case of war he proposed to take up the sword in behalf of his country. This provoked much indignation in the sect to which he belonged. Finding that neither persuasions nor threats moved him from his purpose, he was cut off from the society. Greene accepted his dismissal with resignation, and immediately joined as a private one of the numerous companies then forming.

He was married in 1774, but his military ardor did not permit him to remain at home many months with his bride. The battles of Lexington and Concord were fought, and the organization of an army was begun. Rhode Island voted to raise sixteen hundred men, and Greene was selected to command this force