



REMARKS.

To commemorate the important event illustrated above, the Bunker Hill Monument, a plain but striking obelisk, has been erected on the site of the battle, 62 feet above the level of the sea. The corner-stone was first laid by La Fayette, on the fiftieth anniversary of the battle, in the presence of an immense concourse of people, June 17th, 1825. This foundation having been found insecure, it was relaid in a more substantial manner, in March, 1827. The monument was completed July 23d, 1842, at a cost of \$119,800. It is substantially built of hewn Quincy granite, being 208 feet high from the base to the commencement of the apex, and from thence to the summit 13 feet, in all 221 feet. The interior of the structure is circular, having a diameter of 10 feet 7 inches at bottom, and 6 feet 4 inches at top, and is ascended by 294 steps. The top is an elliptical chamber, 17 feet high, 11 feet in diameter, with 4 windows, and presents one of the most splendid views in the United States, combining in a remarkable degree the beautiful and the sublime. Being the most elevated object in the vicinity, this monument will stand in commemoration of the gallant patriots who here fought and fell in defence of their country's rights, and nobly contributed to the independence of the United States.

CHAPTER II.

FIRST CAMPAIGN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

THE news of the battle of Lexington produced an immense sensation throughout the colonies. The young men of Connecticut, burning with rage and valour, flew to arms, headed by Israel Putnam, who heard the news as he was ploughing in the field. He instantly unyoked his team, and marched, with a large body of volunteers, to the vicinity of Boston, to join his brethren in arms. Thither also repaired three regiments from New Hampshire, one of which was commanded by John Stark. No less than twenty thousand men blockaded the British troops in Boston, and it was resolved by the New England colonies to raise ten thousand in addition, with large stores of ammunition. The other colonies showed equal spirit. The whole country was fairly aroused.

In the first impulse of enthusiasm, Ethan Allen and Seth Warner raised a force among the Green Mountain boys with a view to seize Ticonderoga and Crown Point, which fortresses were defended at that time by only sixty men. The same project had been conceived by Benedict Arnold, of New Haven; and he had even been commissioned colonel, with authority to raise men in Vermont. As Allen, with eighty men, approached Ticonderoga, he was joined by Arnold, who, being refused the command, agreed to serve as a volunteer. The fort was surprised,

Br. V.  
Ch. 2. and easily taken. Warner was then sent to seize Crown Point, which, without difficulty, fell into his hands. The captured fortresses furnished two hundred pieces of cannon, with a large quantity of military stores, to the army of the insurgents. Arnold, in the mean time, joined by new recruits, succeeded in occupying the important post of Skenesborough, now Whitehall; and then, sailing down the lake in a schooner he had seized, surprised St. John's, and captured an armed vessel, with which he returned to Crown Point.

Fall of  
Ticonde-  
roga and  
Crown  
Point.

Before the tidings of these successes could reach Congress, which reassembled on the tenth of May, it had resolved itself into a committee of the whole to take into consideration the state of affairs consequent upon the battle of Lexington. It was reported that hostilities had been commenced by British troops, and it was therefore voted that the colonies should be put in a state of defence. A petition to the king was also voted, together with an address to the people of Great Britain. A proclamation was issued for a day of solemn fasting and prayer throughout the colonies, as on the eve of great calamities.

Doings  
of Con-  
gress.

But the most important measure which the Continental Congress adopted, was the appointment of a commander-in-chief. George Washington, one of the members, was proposed by Johnson, of Maryland, and was unanimously elected. He consented to serve without a salary, stipulating only for the payment of his expenses. Artemas Ward of Massachusetts, Charles Lee of Virginia, Philip Schuyler of New York, and Israel Putnam of Connecticut, were appointed major-generals. Horatio Gates, of Virginia, was chosen adjutant-general, with the rank of brigadier. Both Lee and Gates were Englishmen, and had considerable military experience. Congress also gave commissions as brigadiers to Seth Pomeroy, William

Heath, and John Thomas, of Massachusetts; David Wooster and Joseph Spencer of Connecticut, Nathaniel Greene of Rhode Island, John Sullivan of New Hampshire and Richard Montgomery of New York. These were the general officers. The colonels and other inferior officers in the camp before Boston also received commissions.

But, before these arrangements were completed, was fought the battle of Bunker Hill, 17th of June, which was productive of great moral results. The British army, commanded by General Gage, and reinforced by a large body of regulars under Generals Howe, Burgoyne, and Clinton, now numbered ten thousand men, and were strongly posted at Boston. The American forces which blockaded the town numbered sixteen, and were commanded by General Ward.

To complete the blockade of Boston, Colonel Prescott was ordered, with one thousand men, including a company of artillery, to take possession of Bunker's Hill, an eminence one hundred and thirteen feet high, in the northern part of the peninsula of Charlestown, and which commanded the great northern road. By mistake he advanced to Breed's Hill, eighty-seven feet high, on the southern extremity of Bunker Hill, nearer to Boston. Before morning, his troops had thrown up a redoubt which commanded the harbour of Boston. To dislodge the Americans from this dangerous post, Gage sent Generals Howe and Pigot, with three thousand men. The English embarked in boats from the wharves in Boston, and landing at Morton's Point, at the eastern extremity of Breed's Hill, formed into two columns, and advanced towards the redoubt, supported by a fire from the ships and batteries. They were permitted to press on until within one hundred yards of the provincials, when a well-directed fire was

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1775. opened upon them, which threw them into disorder. They rallied, and again advanced. Again they were driven back in confusion. General Clinton, with new troops, advanced to the assistance of the British, and a third time they were led up the hill. By this time the powder of the provincials began to fail, and they were forced to fight at the point of the bayonet. The redoubt was now attacked in three several places, by superior forces, aided by artillery, and was carried. The provincials retreated across the neck, and the hill remained in possession of the British. The battle was dearly gained, more than one thousand being killed and wounded in the attack, while the Americans lost only four hundred and fifty, among whom, however, was Doctor Joseph Warren, chairman of the Committee of Safety, who had, a few days before, received the commission of major-general, but who served as a simple volunteer. His death was regarded as a great public calamity, and was deeply and universally lamented. Generous, brave, zealous, and influential,—he was the John Hampden of the times.

Death of  
General  
Warren.

Wash-  
ington  
at Cam-  
bridge.

In about two weeks from the battle, which tested the ability of the provincials to meet British veterans, Washington joined the army, and fixed his head-quarters at Cambridge. Ward, with the right wing, was stationed at Roxbury; and Lee, with the left, at Prospect Hill, two miles north-west of Breed's Hill. The camp was soon joined by some companies of riflemen from Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania; and, with all their forces, the British were prevented from advancing into the country.

The situation of Washington was embarrassing and difficult. On him was laid the task of organizing an army of raw and undisciplined recruits, distracted by sectional jealousies, and unprovided with adequate means; and,

with these forces, was obliged to keep in check an army accustomed to war, not greatly inferior in numbers, perfectly equipped, and provided with money and stores. Congress, which had not the constitutional power it at present has, nevertheless did all it could to assist Washington, and provide the means of successful resistance. It voted bills of credit, established a post-office system, issued military commissions, corresponded and co-operated with colonial legislatures, prepared articles of war, and set forth a declaration of the justice and necessity of their course in taking up arms.

The English Parliament proceeded to measures equally decided. It confiscated all American ships and cargoes, and decreed the colonies in a state of revolt. It voted liberal supplies to the king's ministers, who had negotiated for the aid of German mercenaries, and otherwise increased the military forces. It looked upon all conciliation as at an end, and thought only of coercion and vigorous offensive operations. General Gage was recalled to give an account of the battle of Bunker Hill, and was succeeded in command by General Sir William Howe.

The provincial governors, appointed by royal authority, abdicated their governments soon after the breaking out of hostilities, and generally retired to British shipping for protection. They quickly perceived that they could do nothing, without overwhelming forces to sustain them, when all the colonies were in arms, and united together.

The first movements of the American Congress and army were more vigorous than could have been expected from their deficiency in money and military stores. Nothing less than the conquest of Canada was contemplated. Ticonderoga and Crown Point had fallen into their hands, and why should not Montreal and Quebec? Nothing seemed impossible to men animated by the first impulses

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1775.

Appro-  
priation  
by Con-  
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Appro-  
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by Par-  
liament.

Contem-  
plated  
invasion  
of Cana-  
da.

Bk. V. of bravery and patriotism, before experience had taught  
Ch. 2. them the difficulties even of defence.

A. D. This task was entrusted to Generals Schuyler and  
1775. Montgomery; and, on the tenth of September, they ap-  
General Schuyler invades Canada. peared before St. John's, but with a force inadequate to reduce it. Schuyler returned to Ticonderoga for reinforcements, was there taken ill, and was prevented from rejoining the army, the command of which devolved on Montgomery. He successively captured Fort Chambly, St. John's, and Montreal, and advanced, in the latter part of November, with a small force of a few hundred men, to attack Quebec; expecting, however, the co-operation of Colonel Arnold.

Arnold's enterprise. That enterprising, but unprincipled officer, with 1100 men, had penetrated through the forests, swamps, and mountains of Maine, ascending the Kennebec, and descending the Chaudiere, and, in six weeks after his departure from Boston, had reached the banks of the St. Lawrence. Could he have crossed the river at once, he might have captured Quebec; for this important fortress was defended by only two hundred regular troops. But he found no boats, and, before he could construct them, Governor Carleton made his appearance from Montreal, organized the people of Quebec into military companies, landed the sailors, and increased the force of the citadel to 1200 men.

Unsuccessful attack on Quebec. Arnold, however, on the 13th of November, crossed the river, and ascended, as Wolfe did before him, the Plains of Abraham. His little army had dwindled to six hundred men, and, as he had no means of attack, he retreated to a post twenty miles up the river, where he awaited the approach of Montgomery. On the 1st of December, the two commanders formed a junction of their troops, and advanced to attack the strongest fortress in

the country. Nothing could be more rash or more bold. Bk. V. Their united forces numbered only a thousand men; while Ch. 2. the enemy, in superior strength, were entrenched behind A. D. fortifications which could have defied ten times their number, especially as their artillery was too light to be of any service. Still, an assault was resolved upon, after three weeks had been wasted in an ineffectual siege. On the 31st of December, in a snow-storm, the attack was made, and failed; Montgomery being killed, and Arnold wounded. The men fought with desperate courage, but courage thrown away. Four hundred of them were lost, and the remainder retired three miles from the city, and kept up, during the winter, the semblance of a blockade behind ramparts of frozen snow. 1775.

Death of Montgomery.

Meanwhile Washington remained in the camp before Boston, attempting to organize an army which was enlisted but for a few months. The first burst of enthusiasm was over. A short acquaintance with military life had damped the ardour of the troops, and they longed to return to their homes. The commander-in-chief was surrounded with difficulties. The camp was in danger of desertion. The time of the Connecticut and Rhode Island regiments expired in December, and none of the troops were engaged beyond the 1st of April. Embarrassments of Washington.

In this emergency, Congress called earnestly upon the several provinces for a renewal of enlistments, and corresponded with the friends of liberty in foreign lands. Parliament was no less active, and voted twenty-five thousand additional troops for the American service. It was resolved, by both parties, to prosecute the war with vigour when the spring should return. Congress votes supplies.

The campaign of 1776 opened (March 4th) with the occupation of Dorchester Heights, now South Boston, by the American troops. This eminence commanded both 1776.

Bk. V. the harbour and the town of Boston. Unless the Americans were dislodged, the town must be abandoned by the British. Accordingly, General Howe resolved upon an attack; but, a storm having made the harbour impassable, it was delayed until the American works were so strengthened that no resource was left but an evacuation of the town.

Retreat of the British from Boston

By a tacit agreement, the British troops, numbering seven thousand men, besides two thousand sailors and marines, were unmolested in their retreat; and on the 27th of March, Washington entered the town in triumph. His army, in and around Boston, numbered fourteen thousand men, exclusive of militia, and was now enriched by considerable quantities of military stores which the fugitive enemy had left. Washington, after a short sojourn, hastened for New York, both to defend that place and correspond more easily with Congress, which now issued four additional millions of continental paper, appointed a Standing Committee to superintend the treasury, established two new military departments, Southern and Middle, and commissioned six new brigadiers — Armstrong, Thomas, Lewis, Moore, Stirling, and Howe.

Washington moves towards N. York.

But these measures were insufficient, when compared with that great event which was to separate for ever the colonies from the mother-country. For some time it was publicly discussed, whether or not American Independence should be officially declared. The idea encountered, in the several colonies, strenuous opposition, but every day was gaining converts. On the 7th of June, the subject was introduced into Congress by Richard Henry Lee, who moved, in obedience to instructions from Virginia, "that the United Colonies are, and ought to be, free and independent States, and that their political connection with Great Britain is, and ought to be, dissolved." Congress

Debate in Congress respecting Independence.

resolved itself into a committee of the whole to debate the resolution. It was opposed by some of the greatest friends of liberty and some of the ablest men in Congress, as premature, — among whom were John Dickenson, Robert R. Livingston, and Edward Rutledge. John Adams was the most conspicuous advocate of the measure, which passed by a majority of only one State — seven against six. On the ever-memorable 4th of July, the Declaration of Independence, drawn up by Thomas Jefferson, was publicly proclaimed from the door of the State-House in Philadelphia, amid the ringing of bells, the firing of cannon, and shouts of universal rejoicing. It was everywhere received by the Americans with unbounded enthusiasm, while it took the English nation by surprise, and firmly united it against the new republic. Both countries were now arrayed against each other in fierce hostility. The only question to solve was — liberty or slavery.

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A. D. 1776

July 4. Declaration of Independence.

A few days before this great event occurred, (June 28th,) General Howe had landed on Staten Island, with the army which had retreated from Boston; and, a few days after, he was joined by his brother, Admiral Lord Howe, with large reinforcements from England. These forces, united with those of Clinton, from the South, numbered 24,000, and all of them were veterans. A large addition to these was also expected, and nothing short of the complete subjugation of the country was confidently anticipated. It was the design of the British to occupy New York and the Hudson river, and thus open a communication with Canada, while, at the same time, they separated the Eastern from the Middle States.

June 28. General Howe on Staten Island.

The American general could oppose to this great army only 27,000 undisciplined troops, most of whom were militia, and part of whom were entirely ineffectual, partially provided with arms and ammunition, and distracted

Strength of the American army

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1776.

by sectional jealousies; still he resolved to prevent, if possible, the occupation of New York by a superior force.

Howe, before he made preparations to occupy New York, sent a letter to Washington, offering terms of accommodation; but as it was directed merely to George Washington, Esq., without recognising his military rank, he very properly declined to receive it. Without losing any more time, the British general landed his troops at Gravesend, proposing to approach New York by way of Long Island. The American army, in anticipation of this movement, was stationed at Brooklyn. Between the American camp and the British army was a range of hills, the passes of which were imperfectly guarded; through these the British troops advanced in the night

Aug. 26.  
Battle of Brooklyn Heights.

of the 26th of August, and nearly surrounded the Americans the next morning. A battle ensued; but, attacked in the rear and front by superior forces, the Americans were compelled to retreat, with a loss of nearly two thousand killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. Among those who were captured were Generals Sullivan and Stirling. The British lost about four hundred men.

Aug. 30.  
Retreat of Washington.

After such a check, Washington deemed it prudent to retreat from Long Island, which, of course, fell into the hands of the British (August 30th). He left a considerable force in New York, but encamped with his main body on Harlem Heights, ready to retire, if necessary, across the Harlem river.

Howe negotiates

After the battle of Long Island, Howe proposed to confer with some members of Congress, in their private capacity as gentlemen, in order to bring about a reconciliation. Congress refused to send any of their number as individuals, but, as they were desirous of peace, offered to send a committee; and Franklin, Adams, and Rutledge

were appointed to confer with the British commander. They met on Staten Island; but nothing resulted from the interview, neither party being willing to abandon the ground it had taken.

This negotiation having failed, military operations were resumed. The English ascended, in their ships, both the Hudson and East rivers, and landed on the east side of the island, about three miles above the city. Orders were sent to Putnam, who commanded in the city, to evacuate immediately; and it was only by moving rapidly to the western shore, that he and his troops escaped capture. The next day (September 16th), the Americans repulsed the enemy in a skirmish, but lost Colonel Knowlton and Major Fitch.

Howe, having entered the city, and not deeming it prudent to attack the camp of Washington on Harlem Heights, resolved to cut off his communication with the Eastern States. With this view, the main body of the British army, passing up the Sound, landed in the vicinity of Westchester, fourteen miles from New York, while ships of war, ascending the Hudson, cut off the supplies of the Americans from New Jersey. Thus in danger of being shut in by overwhelming forces, the commander-in-chief abandoned the island altogether, with the exception of three thousand men, whom he left at Fort Washington, on the Hudson, and retreated to White Plains, and afterwards to the heights of North Castle, where he strongly fortified his camp (October 28th). It was the policy of Howe to bring the Americans into an engagement, and it was their policy to avoid one, inasmuch as they were vastly inferior, both in number and discipline, to the British, who now numbered 35,000 men.

Foiled in the attempt to engage the Americans in battle, and not daring to attack their fortified camp, the

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Sept. 16.  
Military operations resumed.

Occupation of N. York by the British.

Retreat of the Americans.

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Ch. 2. British general sought to subdue the forts on the Hudson and penetrate New Jersey. Washington, perceiving this, crossed the Hudson, near the Highlands, with the main body of the army, and joined Greene at Fort Lee, leaving three thousand men, under Colonel Morgan, for the defence of Fort Washington. This force was inadequate, and, accordingly, being attacked by the enemy, the fort surrendered, and all the men, with a great quantity of artillery, fell into the hands of the British. They now occupied the whole of the island, and commanded the Hudson. They next directed their attention to Fort Lee, which post Washington was obliged to evacuate, leaving behind him his military stores. He retreated across the Hackensack, before superior numbers, and thence across the Passaic, with forces constantly diminishing, so that by the 1st of November he had scarcely three thousand men. Newark, New Brunswick, Princeton, and Trenton were successively abandoned by the retreating army. On the 8th of December he crossed the Delaware at Trenton, the only barrier between Philadelphia and the British army. So rapid was his retreat that the van of the pursuing army appeared as the rearguard of the retreating one had crossed the river.

Fall of  
Fort  
Wash-  
ington.

And of  
Fort  
Lee.

Retreat  
of Wash-  
ington.

Success  
of the  
English.

Gloomy  
state of  
Ameri-  
can af-  
fairs.

This was one of the most gloomy crises in the war. The English were everywhere victorious and triumphant. They stretched along the banks of the Delaware from New Brunswick to the neighbourhood of Philadelphia, ready to cross the river so soon as it should be frozen. Their forces were large, and well provided with arms, ammunition, clothing, and provisions. They were elated with success, and expected soon to reduce the whole country. The American troops scarcely numbered one-quarter of the enemy, were scantily provisioned, had inadequate military stores, and were much dispirited. Lee

was a captive, being surprised at a house three miles from his main body, where he carelessly quartered. Newport was abandoned. A British fleet blockaded Rhode Island. Georgia and Carolina were visited by an Indian war. Congress had retired to Baltimore.

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1776.

Wash-  
ington  
armed  
with  
new  
powers.

Under these discouragements, and in view of the desperate state of affairs, Congress wisely conferred on Washington almost dictatorial powers. He was authorized to displace all officers under the rank of brigadier; to fill up all vacancies; to take for the use of the army whatever he needed, allowing the owner a reasonable price; to arrest all disaffected persons, and to raise forces wherever he could find them. These powers were to continue for six months.

The  
Ameri-  
can  
army re-  
cruited.

By great exertions he recruited his army to seven thousand men; and, while the British were relaxing their watchfulness, during the approaching Christmas festivities, he resolved to "clip their wings." On the evening of Christmas, with twenty-five hundred of his best troops, he crossed the Delaware, nine miles above Trenton, and advanced, in a snow-storm, to attack the enemy. They were completely taken by surprise, and fled, but not until one thousand Hessians were taken, with six pieces of artillery. Washington lost only nine men. After performing this brilliant exploit, he recrossed the river.

Dec. 28.  
Battles  
of Tren-  
ton and  
Prince-  
ton.

Determined to follow up his success, Washington, on the 28th of December, again crossed the Delaware, and occupied Trenton, now deserted by the enemy, where he was joined by some Pennsylvania militia. But Howe, alarmed at the surprise of Trenton, sent Cornwallis, with a strong force, to attack the Americans. Washington again was in a dangerous position. To cross the river in the face of a vastly superior enemy was too hazardous to be attempted. To risk a battle was equally rash. He

Bk. V. resolved neither to retreat nor fight the enemy at Tren-  
 Ch. 2. ton, but, by a bold and unexpected march, to gain the  
 A. D. rear of the enemy at Princeton; and then, if successful,  
 1776. to fall upon his stores at Brunswick. Accordingly, by a  
 Jan. 3. circuitous road, he reached Princeton at midnight (Janu-  
 1777. ary 3d), where a regiment occupied the college, which  
 soon surrendered. A marching regiment, in the rear of  
 the same, fled towards Brunswick; and two others, in ad-  
 vance, marching to join Cornwallis, were attacked, but  
 succeeded in joining him, after a desperate contest.

The Americans were about to hasten to Brunswick and  
 seize the English magazines, when Cornwallis, having  
 penetrated the plan of Washington, was already close  
 upon his rear. The order to advance on Brunswick was  
 countermanded, and Washington, desirous to occupy a  
 defensible position, marched to Morristown, and en-  
 trenced himself. Cornwallis, not venturing to cross the  
 Delaware with an army in his rear, and not anxious to  
 continue a winter campaign, retired to New Brunswick.

Thus closed the first regular campaign of the war,—  
 the main army of the Americans being entrenched at  
 Morristown, while Putnam held Princeton on the one  
 side, and Heath, the Highlands on the other. The re-  
 covery of New Jersey by the fragments of a defeated army  
 secured to Washington great military fame, in this coun-  
 try and in Europe, while it inspired the American people  
 with fresh hopes of being able to secure their independ-  
 ence. The recruiting service revived, and a new army  
 was organized. Stirling, St. Clair, Mifflin, Stephen, and  
 Lincoln were made major-generals; Poor, Glover, Patter-  
 son, Varnum, Learned, Huntingdon, George Clinton,  
 Wayne, De Haas, Cadwalader, Hand, Reed, Waden,  
 Muhlenberg, Woodford, Scott, Nash, and Conway, re-  
 ceived commissions as brigadiers. The prisoners taken

Army  
 retires  
 into  
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Results  
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on either side were partially exchanged. Several ships  
 of war were built. Privateers were commissioned; and  
 so successful were their operations, that nearly three hun-  
 dred and fifty vessels, worth, with their cargoes, five mil-  
 lions of dollars, were captured, and many of them sold to  
 the French. A national flag was adopted — the thirteen  
 stars and stripes, — and negotiations entered into with  
 France for assistance. In September, Franklin, Deane,  
 and Lee had sailed, as commissioners to the French court,  
 and received from the government a small sum of money,  
 which was expended in the purchase of arms and military  
 stores. But Congress was perplexed by financial embar-  
 rassments. American bills of credit began to depreciate,  
 and loans were not easily obtained. The attempts to  
 sustain depreciated paper-money were abortive, and intro-  
 duced confusion and calamity. Under all circumstances,  
 a successful stand was made; but difficulties and embar-  
 rassments perplexed both Congress and the commander-  
 in-chief, who had now earned the name of the American  
 Fabius.

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Commis-  
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 sent to  
 France.

Finan-  
 cial em-  
 barra-  
 ssments.