



Battle of Monmouth.

## CHAPTER IV.

### THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR, FROM THE SURRENDER OF BURGOYNE TO THE TREASON OF ARNOLD.

WASHINGTON remained during the winter of 1777-'8 Bk. V.  
Ch. 4. encamped at Valley Forge, with 11,000 men, watching the movements of the British at Philadelphia, and re-organizing the army, in which he was greatly assisted by A. D.  
1778. Baron Steuben, a Prussian officer, and an excellent disciplinarian.

Congress still continued to be greatly embarrassed by the depreciation of paper-money, and the inability to secure loans. It was obliged to issue new bills of credit, to New issue of bills of credit. a great amount, as the only way to pay the half-discontented troops.

In January, the treaties of friendship and alliance with Treaties with France signed. France were signed, by which both parties agreed to continue the war until the independence of America was recognized by Great Britain.

No military movements of importance occurred until the middle of May. In order to gain intelligence of the movements of the enemy, and also to restrict foraging parties from Philadelphia, Washington sent Lafayette, with a division, to occupy Barren Hill, ten miles in advance of the camp. Clinton, however, sent a force of 5000, under Grant, to cut him off; and the young general Retreat of Lafayette etc. was forced to retreat, which retreat he effected in a masterly manner, and thereby gained great reputation.



Bk. V.  
Ch. 4. As the Delaware was liable to be blockaded by a French fleet, Sir Henry Clinton, who had succeeded Howe, received orders from his government to evacuate Philadelphia, no longer to be held in safety. On the 18th of June, he sent his military stores and baggage to New York by water, and crossed the Delaware with his army, 12,000 strong, with a view of marching through New Jersey.

June 18.  
Phila-  
delphia  
evacu-  
ated. Washington immediately set out in pursuit, and soon came near the English forces, intending to bring on a general engagement. Lafayette was ordered, with 2000 men, to press upon Clinton's left wing, and draw him from the heights. As Lee claimed the leadership, on account of his superior rank, he was sent, with two additional brigades, to take command, and attack the enemy, then encamped at Monmouth; Washington, meanwhile, having promised to support him with the main army. As Washington advanced on the morning of the 28th of June, he met Lee retreating, and only an indecisive action followed. Washington, greatly irritated, gave Lee a severe reproof, who, instead of bearing it quietly, wrote two disrespectful letters to his superior, which resulted in his arrest, trial, and suspension for twelve months. On the expiration of his sentence, he addressed an insolent letter to Congress, and was dismissed wholly from the service. Thus ended his military career, without having realized the great expectations formed of him at the commencement of the war. He died in retirement, in 1782.

The Brit-  
ish in  
New  
Jersey. After the battle of Monmouth, the British proceeded, without further molestation, to Sandy Hook, whence they were transported to New York. Scarcely had they sailed, when the Count D'Estaing appeared, with a French fleet of twelve ships of the line and two frigates, with 4000 French troops. A joint attack on New York was con-

Retreat  
of Lee.

His dis-  
missal  
from the  
service.

templated, and Washington crossed the Hudson, and took up his quarters at White Plains; but, as the pilots declined to take the heavier ships over the bar, the attack was relinquished.

It was then contemplated to reduce Newport, which, for eighteen months, had been held by the British. Accordingly, upon a call from Sullivan, who commanded in that quarter, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, furnished 5000 additional troops, to co-operate with the French, who had already entered the harbour of Newport, and had caused the British to destroy six of their frigates. Soon after, the American army, 10,000 strong, landed on the island, expecting to be joined by the 4000 French troops. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed. Everything promised success.

But the French really cared more to gain glory by defeating the English in a naval battle than to assist the Americans, in spite of their great professions and apparent co-operation. So soon as the fleet of Lord Howe appeared off the harbour of Newport, D'Estaing left his allies, to give battle to the English, notwithstanding the remonstrances of Washington and Lafayette, and without so much as disembarking his troops. This was both provoking and unfortunate. Before the naval action could commence, a storm arose and damaged both fleets, and compelled them to retire, the one to New York and the other to Boston. The English fleet, however, suffered less, and soon reappeared at Newport, for the defence of the town, which was soon after reinforced by 4000 troops from New York, under Clinton himself. Sullivan was placed in a critical situation, and had just time to retire. Thus ended all the hopes which had been formed of the reduction of Rhode Island. Sullivan could not control his feelings of disappointment, and uttered loud complaints,

Bk. V.  
Ch. 4.  
A. D.  
1778.

Reduction  
of  
New-  
port.

Disaster  
to the  
French  
and  
English  
fleets.

Sullivan  
obliged  
to retire.



Bk. V.  
Ch. 4. which were re-echoed throughout New England. It required all the policy of Washington to soothe the mortified D'Estaing; and Congress, to heal the growing breach, A. D.  
1778. passed resolutions approving his conduct, which was perhaps necessary.

Movements of the French and English. D'Estaing was not refitted until November, and then sailed for the West Indies, now the principal seat of war between France and England. Thither were also sent 5000 British troops from New York; and, three weeks later, 3500 men to attack Georgia. Enough, however, remained in New York to defend it from an attack by the Americans.

Frontier molestations. While the American forces were concentrated on the coast, the western frontiers were molested by the Indians. Among the settlements most exposed to attack was Wyoming, on the Susquehanna, in the neighborhood of which were unfortunately many hostile to the American cause, and who were then called Tories. These Tories, uniting with the Indians, surprised the garrison, and massacred many of the inhabitants of the town, and laid waste the surrounding country. The savage invaders then retired, hearing of the approach of continental troops. The western sections of Virginia would equally have suffered, had it not been for the vigilance, activity, and bravery of Colonel George Roger Clarke and a body of militia under his command.

Summary of the campaign. Nothing more of importance marked the campaign, which gave satisfaction to neither of the contending parties. The English were the more successful in the few actions which occurred. The Americans had recovered Philadelphia, and came near expelling the English from Rhode Island. But these advantages were again counterbalanced by the successes of the enemy in Georgia.

Nor was the campaign of 1779 more encouraging or

decisive. Congress was crippled for want of money, Bk. V.  
Ch. 4. which was, with extreme difficulty, obtained, and then only to a limited extent. In consequence of the rapidly increasing depreciation of paper-money, and the impossibility of securing loans, no offensive measures, on a large scale, could be adopted. The only resource which Congress had was to issue new bills of credit, which immediately depreciated to such a degree that twenty dollars were worth only one in specie. The whole American American forces. force consisted, in the spring of 1779, of but 17,000 men; 3000 of whom, under Gates, were posted in New England; 7000 at Middlebrook, the head-quarters of Washington during the winter; and 6000 amid the Highlands and on the east of the Hudson, under Putnam and M'Dougall.

General Robert Howe commanded, with 600 regulars Georgia in possession of the British. and as many more militia, near Savannah, an inadequate force to resist the 3500 men sent from New York to operate against Georgia. He entrenched himself as well as he could, two miles from Savannah, but was there attacked by Campbell, with great loss; and Savannah and all Georgia fell into the possession of the British.

Military operations were now chiefly confined to the Provost in the South. South. General Provost, who commanded in Florida, was ordered to unite his forces with those of Campbell, and assume the command. He was also joined by a considerable number of Tories, and was thus prepared to undertake a devastating war, especially as his forces were greatly superior to any sent out against him.

At the request of the southern members of Congress, Howe superseded by Lincoln. General Lincoln was sent to supersede Howe, and take the chief command of the Southern army, which chiefly consisted of militia. These were no match for the British regulars, and a succession of disasters was the result.



Bk. V. No decisive battles were fought, but the country was  
Ch. 4. ravaged with fire and sword. Property, to a considerable  
A. D. amount, was destroyed, and the inhabitants kept in per-  
1779. petual fear.

Virginia  
overrun  
by the  
British While Provost was plundering Georgia and South Carolina, having, however, failed in taking Charleston (May 11th), General Matthews was despatched from New York, with 2500 men, to overrun Virginia. Portsmouth and Norfolk fell into the hands of the enemy, who destroyed 130 merchant vessels and a considerable quantity of tobacco. This marauding expedition, intended not so much for conquest as for plunder, after destroying property to the amount of two millions, returned to New York.

Expedi-  
tion into  
Connect-  
icut Tyson, with 2500 men, soon after, was sent on a similar expedition into Connecticut, and succeeded in plundering New Haven, and burning Fairfield and Norwalk. He then prepared to attack New London, but was recalled in consequence of the surprise of Stony Point, on the Hudson, by General Wayne.

Defences  
on the  
Hudson. At this place, and also at Verplanck Point, which commanded the great Eastern road to the Middle States, and where the Hudson was passed by a ferry, Washington was raising defences. These were abandoned on the approach of General Clinton, with 6000 men, who stationed in them a considerable garrison, much to the annoyance of the Americans, who were employed in fortifying the Highlands.

July 11.  
Wayne  
takes  
Stony  
Point. This post, therefore, Washington was anxious to regain. Wayne was accordingly sent against it, and succeeded in surprising it on the 11th of July, and taking 450 prisoners, with the loss, however, of 100 men. Soon after this brilliant exploit, Major Lee surprised a British garrison at Paulus Hook, now Jersey City, killed 30 and took 150 prisoners. As Stony Point could not be defended with-

out the risk of a general engagement, Washington again  
abandoned it to the enemy.

These successes on the Hudson were followed by a  
considerable disaster in Maine. A British force of 1600  
men from Nova Scotia had established themselves on the  
Penobscot. The State of Massachusetts sent out an ex-  
pedition of 1500 men, in nineteen armed vessels, to dis-  
lodge them. This force, commanded by General Lowell,  
was found unequal to the task, and before he could be  
reinforced, his ships were attacked by a superior force,  
under Sir George Collier, and mostly destroyed. The  
soldiers and seamen escaped to the shore, but endured  
great hardships before they succeeded in making their  
way back. This expedition was attended with great ex-  
pense, as well as disappointment and mortification.

The Indians, especially the Six Nations, continuing  
their depredations on the frontiers, General Sullivan was  
sent against them with a strong force. He proceeded  
up the Susquehanna, and was joined at Tioga Point by  
General James Clinton, with 1600 men, who, with his  
own, composed an army of 5000. At Elmira, he en-  
countered the enemy, composed of Indians and Tories,  
under Brandt, the Butlers, and Johnson, strongly en-  
trenched on a rising ground. Having routed this force,  
he explored the valley of the Genesee, ravaged the coun-  
try, and compelled the Indians, for want of food, to emi-  
grate.

It was the intention of Sullivan to attack Niagara, after  
dispersing the Indians. But want of provisions, and in-  
sufficiency of means, prevented this great object of the  
expedition. In disgust, he threw up his commission, and  
entered Congress as a delegate from New Hampshire.

While the Americans fought the Indians on the fron-  
tiers, the French and English fleets in the West Indies



**Bk. V.** encountered each other in some indecisive engagements.  
**Ch. 4.** Returning from the West Indies, Count D'Estaing ap-  
**A. D.** proached the coast of Georgia with twenty-two ships of  
**1779.** the line. A frigate was despatched to Charleston with  
 the news, and a plan concocted with Lincoln, who com-  
 manded the Southern army, for the recovery of Savannah.  
 Failure of the plan to recover Savannah.  
**Oct. 9.** D'Estaing would not wait for the effect of a regular siege,  
 fearing injury, at that season of the year, to his fleet; so  
 an assault was made, by the French and Americans, which  
 failed, with a loss of 1000 men. On this disaster, the  
 French troops re-embarked, and again sailed for the West  
 Indies, while Lincoln returned to Charleston.

**Movements of the British.**  
**Dec. 26.** Clinton, meanwhile, fearing that New York might be  
 attacked, withdrew his troops from Newport and the posts  
 on the Hudson, and strengthened the fortifications of the  
 city. Moreover, resolving to make the South the princi-  
 pal theatre of the war, he embarked for Savannah, with  
 7000 men, so soon as he heard of D'Estaing's departure  
 for the West Indies.

**Close of the campaign.**  
 Thus closed the campaign of 1779, without either side  
 obtaining any important advantages, or fighting any de-  
 cisive battle. There were some brilliant exploits per-  
 formed, on a small scale, not merely on the land, but on  
 the water. Among these was a naval action, on the coast  
 of Scotland, between a flotilla of French and American  
 vessels, commanded by Commodore Paul Jones, and a  
 large British frigate and one smaller ship, conveying a  
 fleet of merchantmen. Jones commanded the *Bon Homme*  
*Richard*, a French vessel of forty-two guns, and engaged  
 the *Serapis*, of equal or superior force. When his ship  
 was in a sinking state, the intrepid Jones (a Scotchman  
 by birth) lashed her to the English frigate, and carried  
 her by boarding, but not until 300 of his men, out of  
**July 23.** 375, were either killed or wounded.

**Bk. V.** The year 1780 opened with great embarrassments to  
**Ch. 4.** the Americans. The final issue of the contest was not  
**A. D.** doubtful, but financial difficulties prevented vigorous mea-  
**1780.** sures. At no previous period did Congress find it so diffi-  
 cult to raise money. Their resources seemed now ex-  
 hausted. No one could advance an adequate loan. The  
 Continental bills had depreciated so much that one hun-  
 dred dollars were worth only one in specie. The com-  
 missioners had neither money nor credit, and starvation  
 stared the soldiers in the face. Washington — such was  
 the distress — was obliged to levy contributions on the  
 surrounding country, — the last stretch of absolute power  
 — the last resource of a desperate army. The contest  
 was apparently no nearer a termination than after the sur-  
 render of Burgoyne. The French alliance had held out  
 great expectations, and produced nothing but disappoint-  
 ment. The expeditions against Newport and Savannah  
 had both failed for want of proper co-operation. The  
 British forces were still vastly superior in numbers, and  
 were well provided with the necessary supplies. England  
 seemed determined, this year, to make one more desperate  
 attempt to coerce the colonies. Accordingly, Parliament  
 granted ministers all they asked — 35,000 additional  
 troops, and one hundred millions of dollars. **Superiority of the British.**

During this year (1780), military operations were  
 nearly suspended at the North, but pushed with great  
 vigour at the South, which was doomed to fearful suf-  
 ferings.

The first enterprise of the British was to lay siege to  
 Charleston. On the 14th of April, the city was com-  
 pletely invested. On the 6th of May, Fort Moultrie,  
 which defended the approach by Ashley river, was taken.  
 On the 12th, when all things were ready for an assault,  
 which must have proved successful, the garrison surren-  
 dered of the city. **Charleston invested. Surrender of the city.**



Bk. V. dered, and General Lincoln and a large body of troops  
Ch. 4. became prisoners of war. Thus seven general officers,  
A. D. ten regiments, three battalions, four hundred pieces of  
1780. artillery, and four frigates, fell into the hands of the  
enemy, — the greatest disaster which the Americans had  
thus far met with, but for which no blame was attached  
to Lincoln, since he was deprived of the co-operation of  
the militia, which he had expected, and was opposed by a  
superior force. This misfortune proved how little reli-  
ance could be placed by southern cities on the aid of mi-  
litia from the country in times of imminent danger.

Royal  
author-  
ty re-  
esta-  
blished.  
Clinton, having re-established the royal authority in  
South Carolina, returned, in June, to New York, leaving  
Cornwallis, with 4000 men, to extend and complete his  
conquests. There now remained of the army of the South  
but a single continental regiment, and this was 400 miles  
from Charleston

Gates  
sent to  
the  
South.  
In view of the distress of the Southern States, Gates  
was despatched, with a considerable force, for their relief.  
His army, joined by different bodies of Virginia and South  
Carolina militia, numbered 5000 men. Cornwallis has-  
tened from Charleston to meet him; and, at Camden,  
formed a junction with Lord Rawdon, afterwards the cele-  
brated Marquis of Hastings. The united British forces  
advanced to surprise Gates, while Gates had left Clermont  
for the purpose of surprising Cornwallis. The two armies  
met near Saunder's creek, a branch of the Wateree, about  
Aug. 13. 115 miles north-west of Charleston. A bloody battle  
His de-  
feat at  
Camden.  
was here fought, and gained by the British. The Ame-  
ricans, indeed, were completely routed, and lost over 1000  
men, with all their baggage and artillery. General Gates  
retired to North Carolina, with a few of his scattered  
troops, leaving the South completely at the mercy of the  
British, who acted the part of conquerors, and inflicted

signal and useless cruelties on the people. They hanged Bk. V.  
many of the militia as traitors, and confiscated the prop- Ch. 4.  
erty of those who were friendly to the cause of liberty. A. D.

Nor was the disaster, which sullied the laurels of the 1780.  
victor of Saratoga, the only misfortune of the Americans. Disper-  
The brave Colonel Sumter, who had headed an insur- sal of the  
rection north of Camden, and had made successful attacks troops  
on some British posts, retreated when he heard of Gates's under  
defeat, but was followed and overtaken by Colonel Sum- Sum-  
ter.  
Tarlton, with a body of horse; his troops were attacked and  
dispersed, and he himself escaped with difficulty. He  
soon after collected a new force; but all that the Ame-  
ricans could now do, was to carry on a guerilla warfare. Gates  
The South was at the mercy of the British. Gates lost super-  
all his fame, and was superseded by Greene. seded.

The only success which balanced these evils at the Defeat  
South, was the defeat of Colonel Ferguson, whom Corn- of Fer-  
wallis had detached to the frontiers of North Carolina, guson.  
for the purpose of encouraging the loyalists to take up  
arms. Exasperated by his excesses, a body of militia,  
chiefly riflemen, attacked his party, at King's Mountain,  
a post near the boundary between North and South Ca-  
rolina. Ferguson fell, and 300 men were killed or  
wounded, while 800 were taken prisoners, together with  
1500 stand of arms.

The campaign of 1780 was the most calamitous and Results  
unsatisfactory during the whole war. The English were of the  
generally victorious, while the poverty of the Americans cam-  
prevented the enlistment of troops. The three Southern paign.  
States were incapable of helping themselves, and those at  
the North were penniless. To add to these calamities,  
General Arnold proved a traitor, and came near deliver-  
ing West Point into the hands of the enemy. His ex-  
travagance had involved him in debt, and his insolence



Bk. V. and pride had created numerous enemies. Mortified be-  
 Ch. 4. cause his claims against Congress were cut down, and  
 A. D. complaining of ingratitude because he was not more amply  
 1780. rewarded for his services, he entered into treasonable cor-  
 Treason response with Sir Henry Clinton, through Major An-  
 of Ar- dré, adjutant-general of the British army. In order to  
 nold. facilitate his designs, he solicited and obtained command  
 Aug. 3. of the fortress of West Point—for who dreamed that the  
 hero at Behmer's Heights and Quebec could be guilty of  
 treason, and consign his name, glorious in spite of his  
 faults, to an infamous immortality? His treason was de-  
 tected, just as his schemes were matured; but the traitor  
 Sept. 22. had time to fly. Major André, who had communicated  
 Capture in person with Arnold, was seized on suspicion, as he was  
 of Major making his way alone back to New York, not being able  
 André. to return the way he came, which was by water. In his  
 stockings were found plans of the fortress and other trea-  
 sonable papers, in Arnold's own handwriting. Colonel  
 Jamieson, the commanding officer at the lines, to whom  
 André was brought by the three men who had seized him,  
 unsuspecting of Arnold's treachery, sent back to him the  
 Sept. 24. letter found on André. He received it while breakfasting  
 with Washington's aids-de-camp, the chief himself being  
 soon expected from Hartford. He immediately rose from  
 the table, called his wife up-stairs, bade a hasty adieu,  
 mounted a horse, rode to the river, embarked in his barge,  
 and safely reached the Vulture, the ship which had trans-  
 ported André from New York. He was safe; but poor  
 André was executed as a spy. Neither his family, nor  
 rank, nor accomplishments, nor virtues, nor the interces-  
 sion of the British commander-in-chief, could save him  
 from the fate which the stern rules of war demanded.  
 His execution was denounced in England as a murder,

Arnold  
 escapes.

André  
 exe-  
 cuted as  
 a spy.

and tended much to aggravate the feelings which were  
 now generally embittered towards the Americans.

Arnold received for his treachery \$50,000, and a com-  
 mission as brigadier-general in the British army—a  
 small recompense for the ignominy which settled over his  
 name. Henceforth his fine military talents were em-  
 ployed against his countrymen. He was sent to the  
 Chesapeake Bay, and, with 1600 men, commenced the  
 devastation of Virginia.

Bk. V.

Ch. 4.

A. D.

1780.

Arnold's  
 reward.