soldier. Washington made every exertion to relieve their wants, and, meanwhile, kept Gage penned up in Boston.

Expedition against Canada.—Late in the summer, General Montgomery, leading an army by way of Lake Champlain, captured St. John's and Montreal, and then appeared before Quebec. Here he was joined by Colonel Arnold with a crowd of half-famished men, who had ascended the Kennebec and then struck across the wilderness.

Attack upon Quebec.—Their united force was less than one thousand effective men. Having besieged the city for three weeks, it was decided to hazard an assault. In the midst of a terrible snow-storm, they led their forces to the attack. Montgomery advancing along the river, lifting at the huge blocks of ice, and struggling through the drifts, cheered on his men. As they rushed forward, a rude block-house appeared through the blinding snow. Charging upon it, Montgomery fell at the first fire, and his followers, disheartened, fled. Arnold, meanwhile, approached the opposite side of the city. While bravely fighting, he was severely wounded and borne to the rear. Morgan, his successor, pressed on the attack, but, unable either to retreat or advance against the tremendous odds, was forced to surrender. The remnant of the army, crouching behind mounds of snow and ice, blockaded the city until spring. At the approach of British reinforcements, the Americans were glad to escape, leaving Canada in the hands of England.

1776.

Evacuation of Boston (March 17).—Washington, in order to compel the British to fight or run, sent a force to fortify Dorchester Heights by night. In the morning, the English were once more astonished by seeing intrenchments which

overlooked the city. A storm prevented an immediate attack—a delay which was well improved by the provincials. General Howe, who was then in command, remembering the lesson of Bunker Hill, decided to leave, and accordingly set sail for Halifax with his army, fleet, and many loyalists. The next day, Washington entered Boston amid great rejoicing. For eleven months, the inhabitants had endured the horrors of a siege and the insolence of the enemy.* Their houses had been pillaged, their shops rifled, and their churches profaned.

Attack on Fort Moultrie (June 28).—Early in the summer, an English fleet appeared off Charleston, and opened fire on Fort Moultrie.† So fearful was the response from Moultrie's guns, that, at one time, every man but Admiral Parker was swept from the deck of his vessel. General Clinton, who commanded the British land troops, tried to attack the fort in rear, but the fire of the riflemen was too severe. The fleet was so shattered that it sailed for New York. This victory delighted the colonists, as it was their first encounter with the boasted "Mistress of the Seas".

* The boys in Boston were wont to amuse themselves in winter by building snow-houses and by skating on a pond in the Common. The soldiers having disturbed them in their sports, complaints were made to the officers, who only ridiculed their petition. At last, a number of the largest boys waited on General Gage. "What!" said Gage, "have your fathers sent you here to exhibit the rebellion they have been teaching you?" "Nobody sent us", answered the leader, with flashing eye; "we have never injured your troops, but they have trampled down our snow-hills and broken the ice of our skating-pond. We complained, and they called us young rebels, and told us to help ourselves if we could. We told the captain, and he laughed at us. Yesterday our works were destroyed for the third time, and we will bear it no longer." The British commander could not restrain his admiration. "The very children", said he, "draw in a love of liberty with the air they breathe. Go, my brave boys, and be assured, if my troops trouble you again, they shall be punished."

† Fort Sullivan, as it was first called, was christened Fort Moultrie, after its gallant defender. It was built of palmetto logs, which are so spongy that balls sink into them without splitting the wood. Here floated the first republican flag in the South. Early in the action, the staff was struck by a ball, and the flag fell outside the fort. Sergeant Jasper leaped over the breastwork, caught up the flag, tied it to a sponge-staff (an instrument for cleaning cannon), and hoisted it to its place. The next day,

Declaration of Independence (July 4).—During the session of Congress this summer, Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, moved that "The United Colonies are, and ought to be, free and independent States"; John Adams, of Massachusetts, seconded the resolution. This was passed (July 2). The report of the committee* appointed to draw up a DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, was adopted, July 4.†

Campaign near New York.—General Howe, after evacuating Boston, went to Halifax, but soon set sail for New York. Thither, also, came Admiral Howe,‡ his brother, with reinforcements from England, and General Clinton from the defeat at Fort Moultrie. The British army was thirty thousand strong. Washington, divining Howe's plans, now gathered his forces at New York to protect that city. He had, however, only about seven thousand men fit for duty.

Battle of Long Island (Aug. 27).—The British army landed on the south-west shore of Long Island. General

Governor Rutledge offered him a lieutenant's commission. He refused, saying, "I am not fit for the company of officers; I am only a sergeant."

* Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston composed this committee. (See pp. 336-339.)

† During the day, the streets of Philadelphia were crowded with people anxious to learn the decision. In the steeple of the old State House, was a bell on which, by a happy coincidence, was inscribed, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." In the morning, when Congress assembled, the bell-ringer went to his post, having placed his boy below to announce when the Declaration was adopted, that his bell might be the first to peal forth the glad tidings. Long he waited, while the deliberations went on. Impatiently the old man shook his head and repeated, "They will never do it! They will never do it!" Suddenly he heard his boy clapping his hands and shouting, "Ring! Ring!" Grasping the iron tongue, he swung it to and fro, proclaiming the glad news of liberty to all the land. The crowded streets caught up the sound. Every steeple re-echoed it. All that night, by shouts, and illuminations, and booming of cannon, the people declared their joy.

‡ Parliament authorized the Howes to treat with the insurgents. By proclamation they offered pardon to all who would return to their allegiance. This document was published by direction of Congress, that the people might see what England demanded.—An officer was sent to the American camp with a letter addressed to "George Washington, Esq." Washington refused to receive it. The address was then changed to "George Washington, &c." But Washington declined all communications which did not recognize his position as commander of the American army.

Putnam, with about eight thousand men, held a fort at Brooklyn and defenses on a range of hills south of the city. The English advanced in three divisions. Two of these attacked the defenses in front, while General Clinton, by a circuitous route, gained the rear. The patriots were fighting gallantly, when, to their dismay, they heard firing behind them. They attempted to escape, but it was too late. Out of about four thousand Americans engaged, one thousand were lost.* (Map opposite p. 120.)

Had Howe attacked the fort at Brooklyn immediately, the Americans would have been destroyed. Fortunately, he delayed for the fleet to arrive. For two days, the patriots lay helpless, awaiting the assault. On the second night after the battle, there was a dense fog on the Brooklyn side, while in New York the weather was clear. At midnight, the Americans moved silently down to the shore and crossed the river.† In the morning, when the sun scattered the fog, Howe was chagrined to find his prey escaped.

Washington's Retreat.—The British, crossing to New York,‡ moved to attack Washington, who had taken post on

* Many of the captives were consigned to the Sugar House on Liberty Street, and the prison-ships in Wallabout Bay. Their hard lot made the fate of those who perished in battle to be envied. During the course of the war, over 11,000 American prisoners died in these loathsome hulks. Their bodies were buried in the beach, whence, for years after, they were washed out from the sand by every tide. In 1808, the remains of these martyrs were interred with suitable ceremonies near the Navy Yard, Brooklyn; and, in 1873, they were finally placed in a vault at Washington Park.

† The Americans embarked at a place near the present Fulton Ferry. A woman sent her negro servant to the British to inform them of the movements of the Americans. He was captured by the *Hessians*, who were Germans from Hesse Cassel, hired to fight by the British government. These, not being able to understand a word of English, detained him until the morning. His message was then too late.

‡ Washington desiring to gain some knowledge of Howe's movements, sent Captain Nathan Hale to visit the English camps on Long Island. He passed the lines safely, but on his way back was recognized and arrested by a tory relative. Being taken to Howe's head-quarters, he was tried, and executed as a spy. No clergyman was allowed to visit him; even a Bible was denied him, and his farewell letters to his mother and sister were destroyed. His last words were, "I regret only that I have but one life to give to my country."

HARLEM HEIGHTS. Finding the American position too strong, Howe moved up the Sound in order to gain the rear. Washington then withdrew to WHITE PLAINS. Here Howe came up and defeated a part of his army. Washington next retired into a fortified camp at NORTH CASTLE. Howe, not daring to attack him, returned to New York and sent the Hessians to take FORT WASHINGTON, which they captured after a fierce resistance (Nov. 16).

Flight through New Jersey.—Washington had now retired into New Jersey in order to prevent the British from marching against Philadelphia. Cornwallis, with six thousand men, hurried after him, and for three weeks pursued the flying Americans. Many of the patriots had no shoes, and left their blood-stained foot-prints on the frozen ground. Oftentimes, the van of the pursuing army was in sight of the American rear-guard. At last, Washington reached the Delaware, and, all the boats having been secured, crossed into Pennsylvania.* Howe resolved to wait until the river should freeze over, and then capture Philadelphia, meanwhile quartering his troops in the neighboring villages.

Condition of the Country.—It was a time of deep despondency. The patriot army was a mere handful of ragged, disheartened fugitives. Many people of wealth and influence went over to the enemy. New York and Newport—the second city in size in New England—were already in the hands of the British, who were likely soon to seize Philadelphia.

Battle of Trenton.—Washington thought it time to

* During this retreat, Washington repeatedly sent orders to General Lee, who was then at North Castle, to join him. Lee hesitated, and at last moved very slowly. Five days after this, while quartered in a small tavern at Baskingridge, remote from his troops, he was taken prisoner by the English cavalry. His capture was considered a great misfortune by the Americans, who thought him the best officer in the army. The British were rejoiced, and declared they had taken the "American Palladium".

strike a daring blow. On Christmas night, in a driving storm of sleet, amid drifting ice, that threatened every moment to crush the boats, he crossed the Delaware with twenty-four hundred picked men, fell upon the

SURRENDER OF RALL AT TRENTON.

Hessians at Trenton, in the midst of their festivities,* captured one thousand prisoners, slew their leader,† and

* Hunt, a trader with friends and foes, a neutral, had invited Rall, the Hessian commander, to a Christmas supper. Card-playing and wine-drinking were kept up all night long. A messenger came in haste, at early dawn, with a note to the colonel. It was sent by a tory to give warning of the approach of the American forces. The negro servant refused admittance to the bearer. Knowing its importance, he bade the negro to take the note directly to the officer. The servant obeyed, but the colonel, excited by wine and the play, thrust it unopened into his pocket. Soon after daylight, the roll of drums was heard, and before the pleasure-loving officer could reach his quarters the Americans were in pursuit of his fleeing soldiers.

† Before leaving Trenton, Washington and Greene visited the dying Hessian. It had been a time of splendid triumph to the American commander, but as he stood by the bedside, the soldier was lost in the Christian, and the victorious general showed himself in that hour only a sympathizing friend.

safely escaped back to camp, with the loss of only four men—two killed and two frozen to death. (Map opposite p. 120.)

The effect of this brilliant feat was electrical. The fires of patriotism were kindled afresh. New recruits were received, and the troops whose term of enlistment was expiring, agreed to remain. Howe was alarmed, and ordered Cornwallis, who was just setting sail for England, to return and prepare for a winter's campaign.

1777.

Battle of Princeton (Jan. 3).—Washington soon crossed the Delaware again, and took post at Trenton. Just before sunset, Cornwallis came up. His first onset being repulsed, he decided to wait till morning. Washington's situation was now most critical. Before him was a powerful army; behind him, a river full of floating ice. That night,* leaving his camp-fires burning to deceive the enemy, he swept by country roads around the British, fell upon the troops near Princeton, routed them, took over two hundred prisoners, and by rapid marches reached Morristown Heights in safety. Cornwallis heard the firing and hurried to the rescue, but he was too late. The victory was gained, and the victors were beyond pursuit.

* Washington had forty cannon. At night-fall, the ground was so soft that he could not move them; but, while the council was in session, the wind changed, and in two hours the roads were as hard as pavement. Erskine urged Cornwallis to attack the Americans that night, but he said he could "catch the fox in the morning". On the morrow, the fires were still burning, but the army was gone. None knew whither the patriots had fled. But at sunrise there was a sound of firing in the direction of Princeton. The report of the cannon through the keen frosty air could be distinctly heard, but Cornwallis believed it to be distant thunder. Erskine, however, exclaimed, "To arms, general! Washington has outgeneraled us. Let us fly to the rescue at Princeton!"

These exploits won for Washington universal praise,* and he was declared to be the saver of his country.

Campaign in Pennsylvania.—Howe, having spent the next summer at New York, where he was closely watched by Washington, finally took the field, and maneuvered to force the patriot army to a general fight. Finding the "American Fabius" too wary for him, he suddenly embarked eighteen thousand men on his brother's fleet, and set sail. Washington hurried south to meet him. The patriot army numbered only 11,000, but when Washington learned that the British had arrived in the Chesapeake, he resolved to hazard a battle for the defense of Philadelphia.

MARQUIS DE LA FAYETTE.

Battle of Brandywine (Sept. 11).—The Americans took position at Chad's Ford, on the Brandywine. Here they were attacked in front, while Cornwallis stole around to the rear, as Clinton had done in the battle of Long Island. Sullivan, Stirling, La Fayette,† Wayne, and Count Pulaski, in

* Frederick the Great of Prussia is said to have declared that the achievements of Washington and his little band, during the six weeks following Christmas, were the most brilliant recorded on the pages of military history.

† La Fayette's full name was Marie Jean Paul Roch Yves Gilbert Motier Marquis de La Fayette. At a banquet in honor of the brother of the English king in 1775 he heard of the uprising in New England. He was won by its arguments, and from that time joined his hopes and sympathies to the American cause. Yet, how was he to aid it? The French nobility, though disliking England, did not indorse the action of her colonies. He was not yet twenty years of age; he had just married a woman whom he tenderly loved; his prospects at home for honor and happiness were bright; to join the patriot army would take him from his native land, his wife, and all his coveted ambitions, and lead him into a struggle that seemed as hopeless as its cause was just. Yet his zeal for America overcame all these obstacles. Other difficulties now arose. His family objected; the British minister protested; the French king with-

vain performed prodigies of valor. The patriots were routed, Philadelphia was taken, and the British army went into quarters there and at Germantown.*

Battle of Germantown (Oct. 4).—Washington would not let the enemies of his country rest in peace. A few weeks after they had settled down for the winter, he made a night march, and at sunrise fell upon their troops at Germantown. At first, the attack was successful, but a few companies of British desperately defending a stone house caused delay. The co-operation of the different divisions was prevented by a dense fog, which also hid the confusion of the enemy, so that the Americans retreated just at the moment of victory.

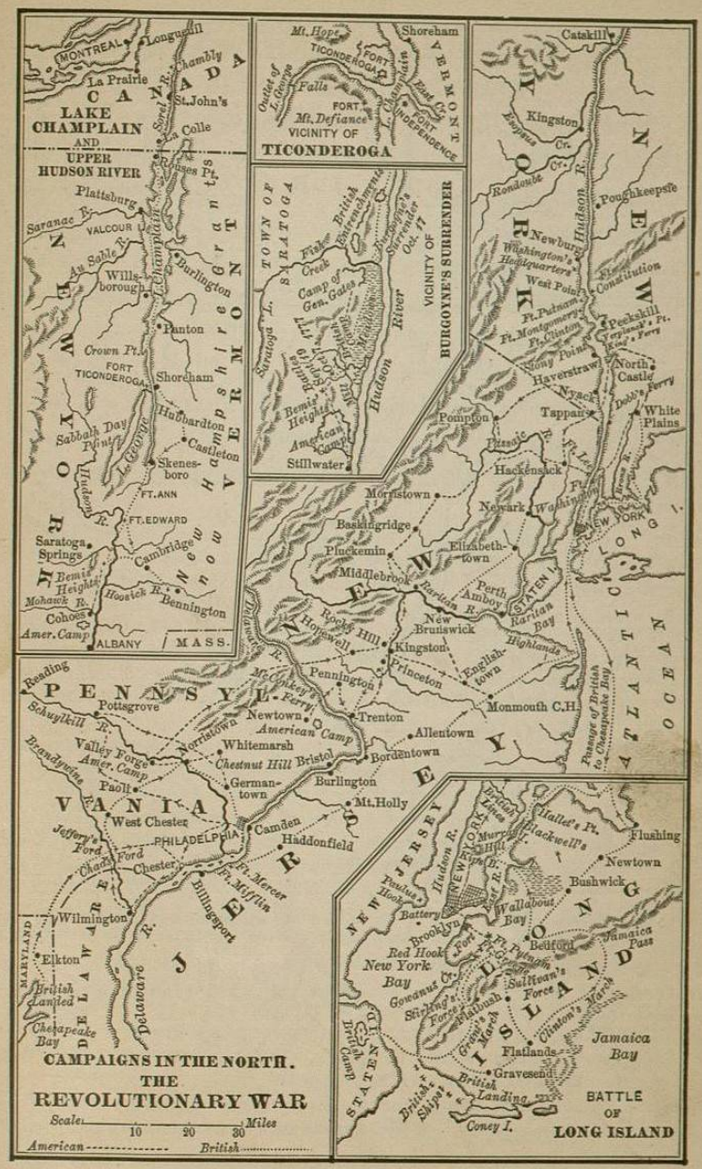
Conclusion of the Campaign in Pennsylvania.—After these battles, Howe turned his attention to the forts on the Delaware, which prevented his bringing supplies up to Philadelphia. The gallant defenders were soon forced by a severe bombardment to evacuate. Washington now retired to Valley Forge for winter quarters.

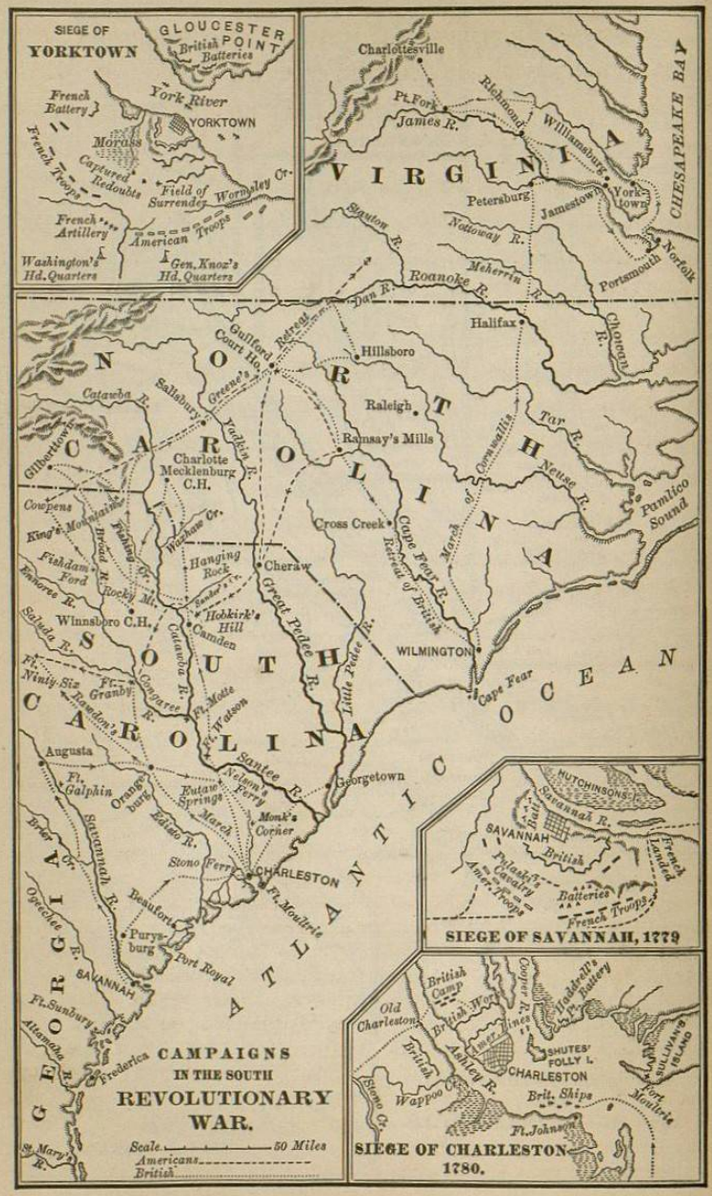
Campaign at the North.—While the British had been thus successful in Pennsylvania, their victories were more than counterbalanced by defeats at the North. An attempt to cut off New England from New York by an expedition along the old traveled French and Indian war route up Lake Champlain, ended in disaster.†

held his permission. Still undaunted, he purchased a vessel, fitted it out at his own expense, and, escaping the officers sent to detain him, crossed the ocean. As soon as he reached Charleston, he hastened to Philadelphia, and offering himself to Congress asked permission to serve as a volunteer without pay. A few days after, his acquaintance with Washington began, and it soon ripened into a tender and intimate friendship. His valor won for him a commission as major-general before he was twenty-one.

* The British army was sadly demoralized by the festivities of their winter quarters. Franklin wittily said, "Howe has not taken Philadelphia so much as Philadelphia has taken Howe."

† Besides the capture of Burgoyne's army (p. 125), several minor events occurred during the year, which served to encourage the people.—(1.) Howe sent General Tryon with two thousand men to destroy the American stores at Danbury, Conn. Having accomplished his work, and set fire to the town, he began his retreat, plundering the





Burgoyne's Invasion.—In June, Burgoyne marched south from Canada with an army of over eight thousand British and Indians. Forts Crown Point, Ticonderoga, and Edward, and the supplies at Whitehall, successively fell into his hands. General Schuyler, having but a small force, could only obstruct his path through the wilderness, by felling trees across the road and breaking down bridges. The loss of so many strongholds caused general alarm. Lincoln—with the Massachusetts troops, Arnold—noted for his headlong valor, and Morgan—with his famous riflemen, were sent to check Burgoyne's advance. Militiamen gathered from the neighboring States,* and an army was rapidly collected and drilled. So much dissatisfaction, however, arose with Schuyler that

people and devastating the country on his way. But the militiamen under Wooster, Arnold, and Silliman, handled his forces so roughly that they were glad to reach their boats. General Wooster, who was mortally wounded in the pursuit, was nearly seventy years of age, but fought with the vigor of youth. Two horses were shot under Arnold, and he received the fire of a whole platoon at a distance of thirty yards, yet escaped uninjured.—(2.) Colonel Meigs avenged the burning of Danbury. With about two hundred men he crossed in whale-boats to Long Island, destroyed a great quantity of stores, including twelve ships at Sag Harbor, took ninety prisoners, and escaped without losing a man.—(3.) The Americans were anxious to offset the capture of General Lee. General Prescott, who then held command in Rhode Island, finding himself surrounded by ships and a superior British force, became very negligent. Accordingly, Colonel Barton formed a plan to capture him. Dexterously avoiding the enemy's vessels, he rowed ten miles in whale-boats and with about forty militia landed near Prescott's quarters. Seizing the astonished sentinel who guarded his door, they hurried off the half-dressed general. A soldier escaping from the house gave the alarm, but the laughing guard assured him he had seen a ghost. They soon, however, found it to be no jesting matter, and vainly pursued the exultant Barton. This capture was very annoying to Prescott, as he had just offered a price for Arnold's head, and his tyrannical conduct had made him obnoxious to the people. General Howe readily parted with Lee in exchange for Prescott.

* The outrages of the Indians along the route led many to join the army. None of their bloody acts caused more general execration than the murder of Jane McCrea. This young lady was the betrothed of a Captain Jones, of the British army. She lived near Fort Edward, in the family of her brother, who, being a whig, started for Albany on Burgoyne's approach. But she, hoping to meet her lover, lingered at the house of a Mrs. McNeil, a stanch loyalist, and a cousin of the British general, Fraser. Early one morning, the house was surprised by Indians, who dragged out the inmates and hurried them away toward Burgoyne's camp. Mrs. McNeil arrived there in safety. Soon, another party came in with fresh scalps, among which she recognized the long

he was superseded by Gates just as he was ready to reap the result of his well-laid schemes. With noble-minded patriotism, he made known to Gates all his plans and generously assisted him in their execution. The army was now stationed at Bemis' Heights, where fortifications were thrown up under the direction of Kosciusko* (kŏs sĭ ŭs′ ko).

Burgoyne's Difficulties.—In the meantime, before Gates took command, two events occurred which materially deranged the plans of Burgoyne.

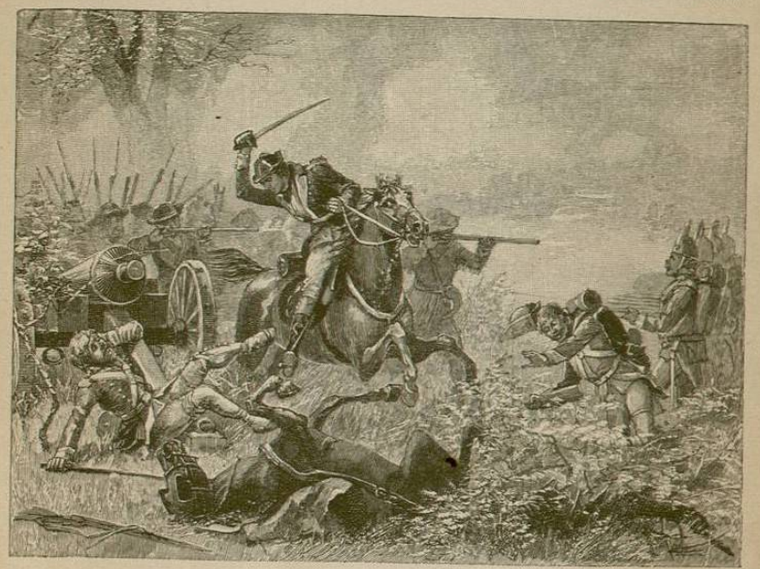
1. St. Leger had been sent to take Fort Schuyler,† thence to ravage the Mohawk Valley and join Burgoyne's army at Albany. General Arnold being dispatched to relieve that fort, accomplished it by stratagem. A half-witted tory boy who had been taken prisoner, was promised his freedom, if he would spread the report among St. Leger's troops that a large body of Americans was close at hand. The boy, having cut holes in his clothes, ran breathless into the camp of the besiegers, showing the bullet-holes and describing his narrow escape from the enemy. When asked their number, he mysteriously pointed upward to the leaves on the trees. The Indians and British were so frightened that they fled precipitately, leaving their tents and artillery behind them.

glossy hair of her friend. The savages declared that she had been killed by a chance shot from a pursuing party; whereupon they had scalped her to secure the bounty. The precise truth has never been known. Captain Jones secured the sad memento of his betrothed, and resigned. The government refusing his resignation, he deserted, and for over fifty years lived remote from society, a heart-broken man.

* This general was a Pole of noble birth. While in France he formed the acquaintance of Franklin, who recommended him to Washington. He came to America and offered himself "to fight as a volunteer for American independence". "What can you do?" asked the commander. "Try me", was Kosciusko's laconic reply. Washington was greatly pleased with him, and made him his aid. He became a colonel in the engineer corps, and superintended the construction of the works at West Point. After the war, he returned home and led the Poles in their struggles for independence. At Cracow, is a mound of earth, 150 feet high, raised in his memory. It is composed of soil brought from the battle-fields on which the Poles fought for liberty. In the new world, his name is perpetuated by a monument at West Point.

† Fort Stanwix, on the site of Rome, N. Y., in 1776 was named after Gen. Schuyler.

2. Burgoyne sent a detachment under Colonel Baum to seize the supplies the Americans had collected at Bennington, Vt. General Stark with the militia met him there. As Stark saw the British lines forming for the attack, he exclaimed, "There are the redcoats; we must



ARNOLD AT SARATOGA.

beat them to-day, or Betty Stark is a widow." His patriotism and bravery so inspired his raw troops that they defeated the British regulars and took over six hundred prisoners.*

The Two Battles of Saratoga (Sept. 19 and Oct. 7).—Disappointed in his expectation of supplies and reinforcements from both these directions, Burgoyne now moved south-

* One old man had five sons in the patriot army at Bennington. A neighbor, just from the field, told him that one had been unfortunate. "Has he proved a coward or a traitor?" asked the father. "Worse than that," was the answer; "he has fallen, but while bravely fighting." "Ah," said the father, "then I am satisfied."

ward and attacked Gates' army at Bemis' Heights near Saratoga. The armies surged to and fro through the day, like the ebbing and flowing of the tide. The strife did not cease until darkness closed over the battle-field. For two weeks afterward, both armies lay in camp fortifying their positions, and each watching for an opportunity to take the other at a disadvantage.* Burgoyne, finding that his provisions were low and that he must either fight or fly, again moved out to attack the Americans. Arnold, who had been unjustly deprived of his command since the last battle, maddened by the sight of the conflict, rushed into the thickest of the fight.† Gates, fearing that he might win fresh laurels, ordered Major Armstrong to recall him, but he was already out of reach. He had no authority to fight, much less to direct; but, dashing to the head of his old command, where he was received with cheers, he ordered a charge on the British line. Urging on the fight, leading every onset, delivering his orders in person where the bullets flew thickest, he forced the British ‡ to their camp. Here the Hessians, dismayed by these terrific attacks, fired one volley and fled. Arnold, having forced an entrance, was wounded in the same leg as at Quebec (p. 112),

* The British camp was kept in continual alarm. Officers and soldiers were constantly dressed and ready for action. One night, twenty young farmers residing near the camp, resolved to capture the enemy's advance picket-guard. Armed with fowling-pieces, they marched silently through the woods until they were within a few yards of the picket. They then rushed out from the bushes, the captain blowing an old horse-trumpet and the men yelling. There was no time for the sentinel's hail. "Ground your arms, or you are all dead men!" cried the patriot captain. Thinking that a large force had fallen upon them, the picket obeyed. The young farmers, with all the parade of regulars, led to the American camp over thirty British soldiers.

† So fierce was the battle, that a single cannon was taken and retaken five times. Finally, Colonel Cilley leaped on it, waved his sword, and "dedicating the gun to the American cause", opened it upon the enemy with their own ammunition.

‡ General Fraser was the mind and soul of the British army. Morgan soon saw that this brave man alone stood between the Americans and victory. Calling to him some of his best men, he said, "That gallant officer is General Fraser. I admire and honor him; but he must die. Stand among those bushes and do your duty." In five minutes Fraser fell, mortally wounded.

and borne from the field, but not until he had won a victory while Gates stayed in his tent.

Effects of these Battles.—Burgoyne now fell back to Saratoga. Hemmed in on all sides, there was no hope of escape. Indians and tories were constantly deserting. Provisions were low and water was scarce, as no one, except the women, dared go to the river for it. The American batteries commanded the British camp. While a council of war, held in Burgoyne's tent, was considering the question of surrender, an 18-lb. cannon-ball passed over the table around which the officers sat. Under these circumstances, the decision was quickly made. The entire army, nearly six thousand strong, laid down their arms, and an American detachment marched into their camp, to the tune of Yankee Doodle. General Burgoyne handed his sword to General Gates, who promptly returned it.

A shout of joy went up all over the land at the news of this victory. From the despair caused by the defeats of Brandywine and Germantown, the nation now rose to the highest pitch of confidence.

1778.

Winter in Valley Forge (1777–'78).—The winter passed in Valley Forge was the gloomiest period of the war. The continental paper money was so depreciated in value that an officer's pay would not keep him in clothes. Many, having spent their fortune in the war, were compelled to resign, in order to get a living. The men were encamped in cold, comfortless huts, with little food or clothing. Barefooted, they left on the frozen ground their tracks in blood. Few had blankets, and straw could not be obtained. Soldiers, who were enfeebled by hunger and benumbed by cold, slept on