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.

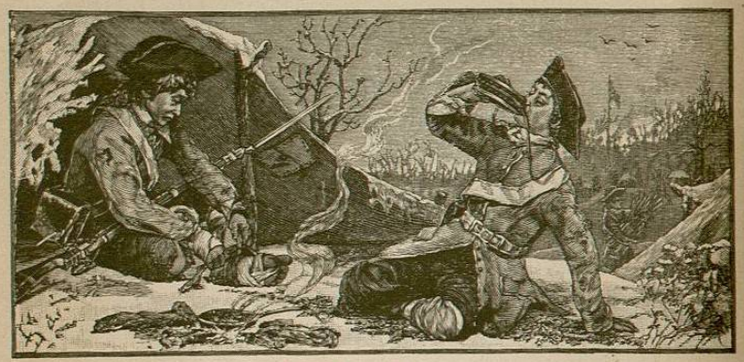
Effects of these Battles.—Burgoyne now fell back to Saratoga. Hemmed in on all sides, there was no hope of escape. Indians and tories were constantly deserting. Provisions were low and water was scarce, as no one, except the women, dared go to the river for it. The American batteries commanded the British 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

the bare earth. Sickness followed. With no change of clothing, no suitable food, and no medicines, death was the only relief. Amid this terrible suffering, the fires of patriotism burned brightly. Washington felt that his cause was just, and inspired all around him with his sublime faith.*



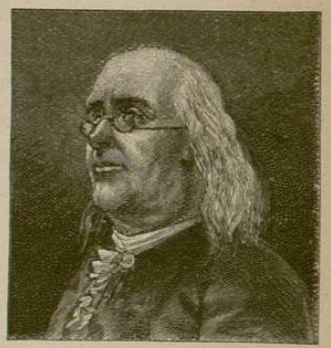
IN CAMP AT VALLEY FORGE.

Aid from France.—In the spring, the hearts of all were gladdened by the news that, through the efforts of Franklin,* France had acknowledged the Independence of the United States, and that a fleet was on its way to help them in their struggle.

* During this winter, Washington was quartered at the house of Isaac Potts. One day, while Potts was on his way up the creek near by, he heard a voice of prayer. Softly following its direction, he soon discovered the General upon his knees, his cheeks wet with tears. Narrating the incident to his wife, he added with much emotion, "If there is any one to whom the Lord will listen, it is George Washington, and under such a commander, our independence is certain."—Besides all the perils of want and famine which he shared with his soldiers, Washington was called upon to suffer from envy and calumny. General Conway, a cunning, restless intriguer, formed a cabal of officers against Washington. Their plan was to wound his feelings so that he would resign. In that event, Gates, whose reputation was very high, would succeed to the command. Pennsylvania sent to Congress a remonstrance censuring Washington. The same was done by members from Massachusetts. Fortunately, the army and the best citizens knew the inspiration of the movement to be jealousy, and their indignation was unbounded. Neither Conway nor Adams dared show himself among the soldiers, and the attack recoiled on the heads of its instigators.—Soon after this, England sent commissioners with liberal proposals, which, before the war commenced, would have been accepted; but that day was past. Next, bribery was tried. Among those approached was General Reed, of Pennsylvania. He was offered ten thousand guineas and high honors if he would exert his influence to effect a reconciliation. "I am not worth purchasing," said the honest patriot, "but such as I am, the king of Great Britain is not rich enough to buy me."

Battle of Monmouth (June 28).—Howe having returned to England, Clinton succeeded him. The British government, alarmed by the sending of the French fleet, ordered Clinton to concentrate his forces at New York. Washington rapidly followed the English across New Jersey and

* Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, 1706; died in Philadelphia, 1790. His father was a soap and candle maker, with small means, and Benjamin, being the youngest boy among 17 children, had little opportunity to gratify his desire for knowledge. By abstaining from meat, he managed to buy a few books, which he diligently studied. At seventeen years of age, he landed in Philadelphia with a silver dollar and a shilling in copper. As, with his extra shirts and stockings stuffed in his pockets, he walked along the streets, eating the roll of bread which served for his breakfast, his future wife stood at her father's door and smiled at his awkward appearance, little dreaming of his brilliant future, or of its interest to her. He soon obtained employment as a printer. Being induced by false representations to go to England, he found himself almost penniless in a strange land. With his usual industry, he went to work, and soon made friends and a living. Returning to Philadelphia, he established a newspaper, and in 1732 commenced to publish "Poor Richard's Almanac", which for twenty years was quite as popular in Europe as in America. Its common-sense proverbs and useful hints are household words to this day. Retiring from business with a fine fortune, he devoted himself chiefly to science. His discoveries in electricity are world-renowned. (See Steele's Popular Physics, p. 350.) Franklin was an unflinching patriot. While in England he defended the cause of liberty with great zeal and ability. He helped to draft the Declaration of Independence, and was one of its signers. Having been appointed ambassador to France, he first invested all his ready money, $15,000, in the continental loan, a practical proof of his patriotism, since its repayment was extremely improbable. His influence at the French court was unbounded. He was revered for his wit, his genius, his dignity, and his charming conversation. He became to the American cause in the old world what Washington was in the new. On his return, he was elected president of Pennsylvania for three successive years. He gave the whole of his salary, $30,000, to benevolent objects. In his eighty-second year, he was a member of the Constitutional Convention. At his death, twenty thousand persons assembled to do honor to his memory.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

overtook them at Monmouth. General Lee,* who conducted the attack, ordered a retreat. The men, entangled in a swamp, were becoming demoralized as they retired from the field, when Washington, riding up, bitterly rebuked Lee, by his personal presence rallied the men, and sent them back against the enemy. The fight lasted all that long sultry day.† In the darkness of night, Clinton stole away with his men to New York.

Campaign in Rhode Island.—A combined attack on Newport was arranged to be made by the French fleet under D'Estaing (dĕs tăng′), and the American army under General Sullivan. Soon after the French entered Narragansett Bay, Howe arrived off the harbor with the English fleet. D'Estaing went out to meet him. A storm came on, which so shattered both fleets that they were compelled to put back for repairs. General Sullivan, being thus deserted, retreated just in time to escape Clinton, who came from New York with reinforcements. The French gave no further aid during the year.

The Wyoming Massacre.—In July, a band of tories and Indians, under Butler, entered the beautiful valley of the Wyoming. Most of the able-bodied men had gone to the war. The old men and the boys armed for the defense. The women and children fled for refuge to a fort near the present site of Wilkesbarre. Taking counsel of their courage and their helpless mothers, wives, and children, a handful of

* Charles Lee, for his conduct at Monmouth, and disrespectful letters to Washington, and to Congress, was dismissed the army. He retired to his estate in Virginia, where he lived, with his dogs, in a rude house whose partitions were chalk marks on the floor—an improvement upon walls on which he prided himself.

† During the day, an artilleryman was shot at his post. His wife, Mary Pitcher, while bringing water to her husband from a spring, saw him fall and heard the commander order the piece to be removed from the field. Instantly dropping the pail, she hastened to the cannon, seized the rammer, and with great skill and courage performed her husband's duty. The soldiers gave her the nickname of Major Molly. Congress voted her a sergeant's commission warrant with half-pay through life.

men sallied out to meet the invaders, but were quickly defeated. All that night, the Indians tortured their prisoners in every way that savage cruelty could devise. The fort having been surrendered on promise of safety, Butler did his best to restrain his savage allies, but in vain. By night, the whole valley was ablaze with burning dwellings, while the people fled for their lives through the wilderness.

1779.

Campaign at the South.—At the close of the preceding autumn, the war was transferred to Georgia, and the South became henceforth the principal seat of conflict. Savannah and Augusta were captured, and soon the entire state was conquered. The English governor being restored, England could once more boast of a royal province among the colonies. The British general, Prevost (preh vō′), next marched against Charleston. He had scarcely summoned the city when he heard that Lincoln, his dreaded foe, was after him with the militia, and he was glad to escape back to Savannah.

French-American Attack on Savannah.—In September, D'Estaing joined Lincoln in besieging that city. After a severe bombardment, an unsuccessful assault was made, in which a thousand lives were lost. Count Pulaski* was mortally wounded. The simple-hearted Sergeant Jasper died grasping the banner presented to his regiment at Fort Moultrie. D'Estaing refused to give further aid; thus again deserting the Americans when help was most needed.

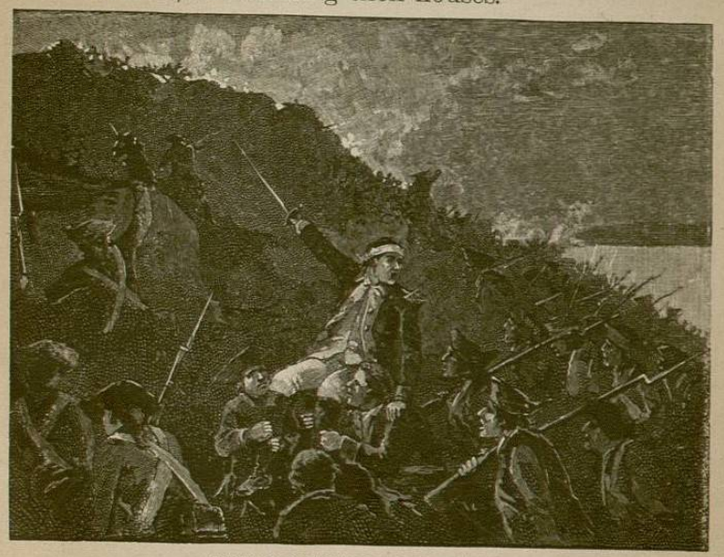
* Count Pulaski was a Polish patriot who, having lost his father and brothers in the hopeless defense of his country, and being himself outlawed, came to fight for the freedom of America. At first, he served as a volunteer. He fought valiantly at the battle of Brandywine. During the second year, he commanded an independent corps, called "Pulaski's Legion". He was buried in the Savannah River. The corner-stone of a monument raised to his memory in Savannah, was laid by La Fayette while visiting that city during his triumphal progress through the United States.

Campaign at the North.—Clinton did little except to send out predatory parties. Norwalk, Fairfield, and New Haven, Conn. were either burned or plundered. Tryon, who commanded the Connecticut expedition,* boasted of his clemency in leaving a single house standing on the New England coast.

The Capture of Stony Point, by General Wayne, was one of the most brilliant exploits of the war. The countersign, which, curiously enough, was "The fort is ours", was obtained from a negro who was in the habit of selling strawberries to the British. He guided the troops in the darkness to the causeway leading over the flooded marsh around the foot of the hill, on which the fort was situated. The unsuspicious sentinel, having received the countersign, was chatting with the negro, when he was suddenly seized and gagged. Wayne's men passed over the causeway and reached the base of the hill undiscovered. Forming in two divisions, with unloaded muskets and fixed bayonets, they commenced the ascent of the steep and narrow path which led to the top. They had nearly reached the picket before they were discovered. Fire was at once opened upon them. Wayne was wounded, but commanded his aids to carry him that he might die at the head of the column. The rush of his men was irresistible. An instant more, and a deafening shout told that the fort was won. The British lost in killed, wounded, and prisoners, about six hundred men.

General Sullivan's Expedition.—The atrocities of the Indians had kept the inhabitants of the Wyoming and Mohawk valleys in continued terror. In the summer, General Sullivan led an expedition into the Genesee country. Near Elmira, N. Y., he fought a fierce battle with the Indians and their tory allies. The savages, being defeated, fled in dismay, while Sullivan marched to and fro through that beautiful region, laying waste their corn-fields, felling their orchards, and burning their houses.*

* General Putnam was at Horse Neck when Tryon was in the vicinity. Hastily gathering a few militia, he annoyed the British as long as possible, and then, compelled to flee before the enemy's overwhelming force, his men hid themselves in the adjacent swamp, while he, spurring his spirited horse over a precipice, descended a zigzag path, where the British dragoons did not dare to follow.



CAPTURE OF STONY POINT BY WAYNE.

Naval Exploits.—No American successes caused more annoyance to the British than those of the navy. In 1775, Washington fitted out several vessels to cruise along the New England coast as privateers. In the same year, Congress established a naval department. Swift sailing vessels, manned by bold seamen, infested every avenue of commerce. Within three years they captured

* The Indians, in the fertile country of the Cayugas and Senecas, had towns and villages regularly laid out; framed houses, some of them well finished, painted and having chimneys; and broad and productive fields, with orchards of apple, pear, and peach trees. (See note, p. 12.)

five hundred ships. They even cruised among the British Isles, and, entering harbors, seized and burned ships lying at English wharves.

Paul Jones is the most famous of these naval heroes. While cruising with a squadron of five vessels off the northeast coast of England, he met the Serapis and the Countess of Scarborough convoying a fleet of merchantmen. At half-past seven in the evening of September 23, he laid his own vessel, the Bonhomme Richard,* alongside the Serapis, and a desperate struggle ensued. In the midst of the engagement, he lashed the ships together.† The crews then fought hand to hand. The Richard was old and rotten. Water poured into the hold. Three times both vessels were on fire. About ten o'clock, the Serapis surrendered. The Pallas, one of Jones' squadron, captured the Countess of Scarborough, but his other ships gave no aid. Instead, Captain Landis, of the Alliance, treacherously fired into the Richard, hoping to force Jones to surrender, that he himself might have the glory of taking the Serapis and recovering the Richard. After the battle, Jones transferred his crew from the fast sinking vessel to the captured frigate, and sailed for Holland.

1780.

Campaign at the South.—Georgia having been subdued, the war was now renewed in South Carolina. Charleston was attacked by land and sea. General Lincoln, after enduring a siege of forty days and a terrible bombardment,

* Jones had given this name (Goodman Richard) to his ship in honor of Dr. Franklin, whose sayings as "Poor Richard" he warmly admired.

† At this point, the contest had been raging an hour, and the ships had twice fallen foul of each other. The first time, the Serapis hailed the Richard, asking if she had "struck her colors". "I have not yet begun to fight", was the reply of Jones.

was forced to surrender. Marauding expeditions* were sent out which soon overran the whole State. Clinton returned to New York, leaving Cornwallis in command.

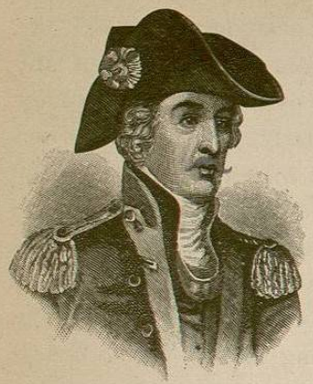
Battle of Camden (Aug. 16).—General Gates, "the conqueror of Burgoyne", now taking command of the troops at the South,† marched to meet the enemy under Cornwallis near Camden. Singularly, both generals had appointed the same time to make a night attack. While marching for this purpose, the advance guards of the two armies unexpectedly encountered each other in the woods. After some sharp skirmishing, the armies waited for day. At dawn, Cornwallis ordered a charge. The militia, demoralized by the fighting in the night, fled at the first fire, but De Kalb, with the continental regulars, stood firm. At last, he fell, pierced with eleven wounds. His brave comrades for a time fought desperately over his body, but were overwhelmed by numbers. The army was so scattered that it could not be collected. A few of the officers met Gates eighty miles in the rear with no soldiers. All organized resistance to British rule now ceased in the South.

Partisan Corps.—The Carolinas were full of tories. Many of them joined the British army; others organized companies that mercilessly robbed and murdered their whig neighbors. On the other hand, there were patriot bands which rendezvoused (ren'da vood) in swamps, and sallied out as occasion offered. These partisan corps kept the

* One of these, under the command of the brutal Tarleton, at *Waxhaw Creek*, overtook a body of four hundred Continental troops and a small party of cavalry, under Colonel Buford. The British gave no quarter, and after the Americans surrendered, mercilessly maimed and butchered the larger portion of them. "Tarleton's Quarter" became, henceforth, a proverb at the South.

† Lee met Gates on his way to join the southern army. His well-worded caution, "Beware your northern laurels do not turn to southern willows", seems almost prophetic of the Camden disaster.

country in continual terror. Marion,* Sumter,† Pickens, and Lee were noted patriot leaders. Their bands were strong enough to cut off British detachments, and even successfully attack small garrisons. The cruel treatment which the whigs received from the British‡ drove many to this partisan warfare. The issue of the contest at the South was mainly decided by these bold citizen soldiers.



MARION.

Continental Money had now been issued by Congress to the amount of $200,000,000. At this time, it was so much depreciated that $40 in bills were worth only $1 in specie. A pair of boots cost $600 in continental currency. A soldier's pay for a month would hardly buy him a dinner. To make the matter worse, the British flooded the country with counterfeits, which could not be told from the genuine. Many persons refused to take continental money. The sufferings of the soldiers and the difficulty of procuring supplies may readily be imagined.* The Pennsylvania regiments in camp at Morristown, claiming that their time had expired, demanded their discharge. At last, 1,300 strong, they set out for Princeton to secure redress at the point of the bayonet, but a committee of Congress succeeded in satisfying them.†

* A British officer sent to negotiate concerning an exchange of prisoners, dined with Marion. The dinner consisted of roasted potatoes, served on pieces of bark. Surprised at this meager diet, he made some inquiries, when he found that this was their customary fare; that the patriot general received no pay; and that this "Bayard of the South", as Marion was called, had then neither blanket nor hat. This devotion to liberty so affected the officer that he resigned his commission.

† At *Hanging Rock* (Aug. 6), Sumter gained a victory over a strong body of British and tories. He began the action with only two rounds of ammunition, but soon supplied himself from the fleeing tories. Frequently, in these contests, a portion of the bands would go into a battle without guns, arming themselves with the muskets of their comrades as they fell. At *King's Mountain* (Oct. 7), a large body of independent riflemen, each company under its own leader, attacked Ferguson, who had been sent out to rally the tories of the neighborhood. Ferguson and four hundred and fifty-six of his men were killed or severely wounded, and the rest taken prisoners.

‡ An event which occurred in Charleston aroused the bitterest resentment. When that city was captured by the British, Colonel Isaac Hayne, with others, was paroled, but was afterward ordered into the British ranks. At this time, his wife and several of his children lay at the point of death with small-pox. The choice was given him to become a British subject or to be placed in close confinement. Agonized by thoughts of his dying family, he signed a pledge of allegiance to England, with the assurance that he should never be required to fight against his countrymen. Being afterward summoned by Lord Rawdon to join the British army, he considered the pledge annulled, and raised a partisan band. He was captured, and without being allowed a trial, was condemned to death. The citizens of Charleston vainly implored pardon for him. Lord Rawdon allowed him forty-eight hours to take leave of his children, when he was hanged.

Arnold's Treason.—The English did little at the North, and the condition of Washington's army prevented his making any movement. Meanwhile, the cause of liberty suffered a terrible blow from one who had been its gallant defender. General Arnold, whose bravery at Quebec and Saratoga had awakened universal admiration, was stationed at Philadelphia while his wound was healing. He there married a tory lady, and lived in great extravagance. By various acts of oppression, he rendered himself so odious that on one occasion he was publicly mobbed. Charges being preferred against him, he was convicted and sentenced to be reprimanded by the commander-in-chief. Washington performed the duty very gently and considerately; but Arnold, stung by the disgrace and desperate in fortune, resolved to gratify both his revenge and love of

* In this crisis, Robert Morris, of Philadelphia, sent three million rations. Soldiers' relief associations were organized by the women of that city. They made twenty-two hundred shirts, each inscribed with the name of the lady who sewed it.

† Clinton's agents went among the troops and offered large rewards for desertion. The emissaries mistook their men, for the soldiers gave them up as spies.

money by betraying his country. He accordingly secured from Washington the command of West Point, at that time the most important post in America. He then proposed to Clinton, with whom he had previously corresponded, to surrender it to the British. The offer was accepted, and Major André appointed to confer with him. André ascended the Hudson, and on the night of September 21, went ashore from the English ship Vulture to meet the traitor. Morning dawned before they had completed their plans. In the meantime, fire having been opened on the Vulture, she had dropped down the river. André, now left within the American lines, was obliged to make his way back to New York by land. He had reached Tarrytown in safety, when, at a sudden turn in the road, his horse's reins were seized, and three men* sprung before him. His manner awakening suspicion, they searched him, and, finding papers which seemed to prove him a spy, carried him to the nearest American post. Arnold was at breakfast, when he received a note announcing André's capture. He called aside his wife, and told her of his peril. Terrified by his words, she fainted. Kissing his boy, who lay asleep in the cradle, Arnold darted out of the house, mounted a horse, by an unfrequented path reached the river, jumped into his boat, and was rowed to the Vulture. He received, as the reward of his treachery, £6,315, a colonelcy in the English army, and the contempt of everybody. The very name, "Arnold the Traitor", will always declare his infamy.† André was tried and hanged as a spy. Every effort was made to save him, and his fate awakened universal sympathy.

* The names of these men were Paulding, Van Wart, and Williams. André offered them his horse, watch, purse, and any sum they might name, if they would release him. The incorruptible patriots declared that they would not let him go for ten thousand guineas. Congress voted to each of them a silver medal and a pension for life.

† Arnold was thoroughly despised by the British officers, and often insulted. Many stories are told illustrative of English sentiment toward him. A member of Parliament, about to address the House of Commons, happening, as he rose, to see Arnold in the gallery, said, pointing to the traitor, "Mr. Speaker, I will not speak while that man is in the house." George the Third introduced Arnold to Earl Balcarras, one of Burgoyne's officers at Bemis' Heights. "Sire", said the proud old Earl as he turned from Arnold, refusing his hand, "I know General Arnold, and abominate traitors." When Talleyrand was about to come to America, he sought letters of introduction from Arnold, but received the reply, "I was born in America; I lived there to the prime of my life; but, alas! I can call no man in America my friend."

1781.

Campaign at the South.—General Greene, who was appointed to succeed General Gates, found the army to consist of only two thousand half-clothed, half-starved men. A part of his force, under Morgan, was attacked (January 17) at COWPENS* by Tarleton. The militia fleeing, the continentals fell back to secure a better position. The British mistook this for a retreat, and were rushing on in confusion, when the continentals suddenly faced about, poured in a deadly fire at only thirty-yards' distance, and drove them in utter rout. Tarleton fled to Cornwallis, who set out in hot haste, eager to punish the victors and recapture the prisoners. Morgan started for Virginia, and crossed the Catawba just before Cornwallis appeared in sight. Night came on, and with it rain, which raised the river so high as to keep the impatient Cornwallis waiting three days.

Greene's Retreat.—General Greene now joined Morgan, and conducted the retreat. At the Yadkin, just as the Americans had reached the other side, it began to rain. When Cornwallis came up, the river was so swollen that he could not cross. He, however, marched up the stream, effected a

* Colonel William A. Washington, in a personal combat in this battle, wounded Tarleton. Months afterward, the British officer, while conversing with Mrs. Jones, a witty American lady, sneeringly said, "That Colonel Washington is very illiterate. I am told that he can not write his name." "Ah, Colonel," replied she, "you bear evidence that he can make his mark."—Tarleton expressing, at another time, his desire to see Colonel Washington, the lady replied, "Had you looked behind you at Cowpens, you might have had that pleasure."