CHAPTER XIV.

CAMPAIGN OF 1776.

The war for independence was now fully inaugurated, and it was no longer a contest for the redress of grievances. The die had been cast which terminated all hope or expectation of compromise, and the result of the conflict, baptized in the blood of patriots, must be either liberty or slavery. Although in the campaign of 1775 the British had been compelled to evacuate Boston, they had successfully resisted the invasion of Canada by the colonial troops, succeeded in attaching the Canadian troops to the royal standard, and through the agency of the Indian chieftain, Brandt, and the sons of Sir William Johnson, had secured the services of nearly all the Indian tribes.

As has been previously stated, when the contest commenced, and it was ostensibly only an effort for the redress of grievances, the British ministry sought to divide and separate the provinces through the influence of a Tory governor and council, and a Tory majority in the legislative Assembly of New York. In that they had signally failed. New York had stood among the first in resistance to the encroachments and oppression of the mother country. The "Sons of Liberty" were early organized within its borders, liberty poles erected, and freedom's flag flanted to the breeze. The first blood shed in the contest moistened its soil within the city of New York, in the skirmish on 18th day of January, 1770, between the citizens and the English, on Golden Hill, between Cliff and William streets; and again on the next day when the English soldiers were met and resisted by some of the "Sons of Liberty."

The British Government now sought to accomplish the same division by force of arms. Their plan was to enter the State from the north with an overpowering army through Lake Champlain, and thence proceed to Albany, there to form a junction with another army entering the State with a powerful naval force through the Hudson from the south; at the same time their Indian allies, under Brandt and Johnson, stimulated by the promise of British gold for patriots' scalps, were to carry the tomahawk, scalping-knife, firebrand, destruction, and death through the border settle-
ments. With New York thus crushed, the provinces would be divided, the Middle and Southern cut off from the Eastern, the one section unable to assist the other. Their motto was "Divide and Conquer."

The campaign of 1776 terminated with the southern branch of the invading forces kept at bay below the Highlands, but with New York, Long Island, and much of Westchester County in their possession.

A letter from London, dated September 26th, 1776, describes the progress of the Northern Army, according to the British accounts, as follows: "Burgoyne's army have found it impracticable to get across the lake this season, that the Naval force of the Provincials, upon the lake, is too great for them to contend with at present; they must build larger vessels, and they cannot be ready before next summer. The army will therefore be obliged to winter in Canada. They will be in want of provisions unless supplied from England, and General Carlton has requested that a sufficient quantity be sent. The design was that the two armies, commanded by Gens. Howe and Burgoyne, should co-operate, and both be on the Hudson at the same time; that they should join at or near Albany, and thus cut off all communication between the Northern and Southern Colonies."

General Gates in a letter to the President of Congress, dated the 29th of July, 1776, stated that a French gentleman had just arrived who "left Canada three weeks ago. He says Gen Carlton has summoned all the Canadians to be at St John's the last of August, to go with his army of 10,000 men, to drive the rebels before them like sheep, and meet the Grand Army at Albany." General Gates added, "perhaps this may prove a vain boast," and so it did.

Having given a brief summary of the result of the British campaigns in Northern New York in 1776, it will be necessary to turn back and refer more or less particularly to events occurring in the interior, affecting to a greater or less extent the particular subject of this history or its citizens.

The patriots of the Revolution had much to contend against. Not only the well-officered, disciplined, and appointed troops, and British foreign mercenaries on the battlefield and in open warfare, but the country was infested throughout with Tories and British sympathizers, who, living among the patriots as citizens, but loving British gold better than their country, and secretly plotting with, assisting, and furnishing information to the enemy, were ready at any moment for the betrayal of their country or its citizens. The existence of such men in the country, and the consequent necessity of having a force at all times on hand to guard against their machinations, crippled the ability of the patriots to
supply the armies with their appropriate quotas. They did not dare all to go to the battlefield, and leave their wives, their children, and their property at the mercy of those wolves in sheep's clothing. The operations of some of these secret enemies will be brought to light when the proceedings of the Council of Safety shall be referred to in subsequent pages of this work.

General Washington wrote to his brother, under date of July 23d, 1776: "This country abounds in disaffected persons of the most diabolical dispositions and intentions, as you may have perceived, by the several publications in the Gazettes, relative to their designs of destroying the Army by treachery and bribery, which were providentially discovered."

The existence of men of such character and disposition led to the following action by the representatives of the people in convention assembled, on the 16th day of July, 1776:

"Resolved unanimously; that all persons abiding within the State of New York, and deriving protection from the laws of the same, owe allegiance to said laws, and are members of the State; and that all persons passing through, visiting, or making a temporary stay in the said State, being entitled to the protection of the laws during such passage, visitation, or temporary stay, owe during the same time allegiance thereto. That all persons members of or owing allegiance to this State, as before described, who shall levy war against the said State within the same, or be adherent to the King of Great Britain or others, the enemies of the said State within the same, giving to him or them aid and comfort, are guilty of Treason against the State, and being thereof convicted shall suffer the pains and penalties of death."

The campaign of 1776 was opened at the mouth of the Hudson, under the most disheartening circumstances for the patriotic cause. General Howe had landed on Staten Island, and soon had an army of twenty-four thousand men gathered round him, well disciplined, and in every respect grandly equipped, and with a large and powerful naval force at hand and ready to co-operate. Within their ranks all was harmony, their troops were flushed with the expectation of an easy victory and a feeling of contempt for their opposing forces.

Washington, to oppose the invaders, had gathered an army of nearly equal numbers, consisting largely of raw, undisciplined levies with very inferior martial equipments, many of them men who had hastened from the plough, the anvil, the saw, or the woodman's axe, to stem the tide of invasion with whatever weapons could be hastily taken. The army thus gathered was composed of men from almost every section of the Union, of many different nationalities and castes, with sectional feelings and prej-
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udges, the wealthy and the cultured of one section revolting against meeting on terms of equality the uncultured ploughman and artisan of the other. Patriotic ardor was not sufficient to squelch this feeling of aversion and contempt on the one side, which, wounding the pride of the patriot on the other, gave rise to quarrels and disturbances to such an extent as to call for the intervention of the commander-in-chief.

General Washington thereupon issued the following appropriate address: "The General most earnestly entreats the officers and soldiers of the American army, to consider that they can in no way assist our enemies more effectually, than by making division among themselves. The honor and success of our army, and the safety of our bleeding country, depend upon harmony and good agreement with each other, in the union of freemen to oppose the common enemy and the sinking of all distinctions in the name of an American. To make this name honorable, and to procure the liberty of our country, ought to be our only emulation. He will be the best soldier, and the best patriot, who contributes most to this glorious work, whatever his station and from whatever part of the Continent he may come."

As soon as it became known in 1776 what the tactics of the British would be in the struggle or campaign of that year, Washington made the best arrangement he could with the raw and ill-equipped levies and insufficient forces at his command for the protection of the city of New York and Long Island. It was apparent, however, that the subjugation of those places by the British, with the powerful naval and large land forces under the command of their officers, could be only a question of time. The true American policy adopted was to dispute every progressive step, and yield only when compelled so to do.

Fortifications were manned at different points about the city, and special arrangements were made to prevent the passage of the naval force up the Hudson by the erection of forts on both sides of the river at or near the entrance to the Highlands, and by placing obstructions in the channel and across the river at points commanded by the forts.

On the 16th of July the State Convention, by resolution, directed "that one fourth part of the militia of the counties of Westchester, Dutchess, Ulster and Orange be forthwith drawn out for the defence of the liberties, property, wives and children of the good People of this State." Then, after urging by resolution those who remain at home to render all necessary assistance to the families of those who enlist, the resolution directed that "all the men raised in the Counties of Ulster and Orange be stationed in the Highlands, on the West side of the river, to guard those defiles,
the possession of which Brigadier Gen Clinton shall think most conducive to the safety of the State.” The convention at the same time requested General Washington to appoint an officer to take command of all the levies on both sides of the river.

In response to such request, General Washington, on the 19th of July, sent to the convention a communication, as follows: "The State of the Army makes it impossible for me to send up any General officer in the Continental service to take the Command of the levies proposed to be raised; and from the nature of the service, I should apprehend a knowledge of the Country and its inhabitants would be very necessary. General Clinton, on all accounts, appears to me the most suitable person; and as the appointment is made dependent on me I shall nominate him." Immediately on the receipt of the above-named communication, the convention "Resolved unanimously, that Brigadier Gen Clinton be and he hereby is appointed to the command of all levies raised and to be raised in the Counties of Ulster Orange Dutchess and Westchester, agreeable to the resolution of this Convention on the 16th day of July last." The convention then, by further resolution, requested General Clinton to call out the troops of horse in those counties, "in order to watch the motions of the enemy's ships of war now in Hudson River."

General Washington, in a letter to the convention, expressed gratification at the approval of his nomination, and further stated in regard to General Clinton that "his acquaintance with the Country, abilities and zeal for the cause are the motives that induced me to make choice of him." Upon the receipt of the resolutions requiring a levy of one quarter of the militia in Ulster and other counties, Colonel Johannis Snyder, of Ulster County, called his regiment together to set apart the quota of men required. As there was a troop of horse attached to his regiment, a question at once arose, whether they were to be included in the draft, and be thus called on to do militia duty as footmen. They refused to submit to a draft, claiming that after having properly equipped themselves as horsemen, they should not be again obliged to equip themselves as footmen.

The question created a great deal of trouble and angry feeling in the regiment, and threatened its dissolution. In order to settle the question, Captain Silvester Salisbury, commandant of the troop of horse, addressed a letter on the subject to the president of the convention, stating the difficulty, and adding that his men were willing to turn out as horsemen at any time when called upon, but if obliged to serve as footmen, they would dissolve immediately. Colonel Snyder also communicated his views to the president of the convention, urging that the troop of horse
should be subject to command and duties the same as the militia, and closed his communication by stating, "If they should now be excused, particularly in these critical times when all is at stake, we might rather have no troop at all, for the troop are chiefly the principal People, and ought of course to step forth and defend their liberties as well as any of the militia."

The convention on the 3d of August finally settled the question, and "Unanimously Resolved That the troopers in the several troops of horse in the militia of the State, embodied by and under the authority of said State, who have provided themselves with proper horses and accoutrements as troopers, be not compelled to serve as foot soldiers."

The convention allayed all cause of jealousy on the part of the footmen by their resolution of the 8th of August, before noticed, requesting General Clinton to order the horsemen out at once to duty; also, by their general order of the 7th of August, empowering General Clinton to "order out the whole or any part or detachment of the troops of horse, of the said four counties or either of them, for such time or times as he may think necessary, until the last day of December then next, unless otherwise ordered."

Lieutenant-Colonel Johannis Hardenbergh, of Ulster County, was stationed at New York with his regiment, under the command of General Washington, to aid in the defence of that city. His regiment was composed of four companies of militia from Ulster County, and one from Livingston Manor. He was in the brigade commanded by Brigadier-General Scott.

Some of his troops were without arms and without any of the accoutrements of war. On the 9th of August, 1776, Colonel Hardenbergh addressed a letter to General Woodhull, President of the State Convention, informing the convention of the destitute condition of his troops, and that he had done all in his power since he had been in the city to get a supply for them, but had been unable to do so; and he solicited the convention to put him in some way to get a supply for his men, saying that they were willing to allow for it out of their pay.

On the same day that the letter was brought to their notice, the convention gave the necessary order for the supplies to be furnished and paid for out of the soldiers' pay.

On the 12th day of August, 1776, General Washington made an order for the command of the forces stationed in and about the Highlands, as follows: Brigadier-Generals James Clinton, Scott, and Fellows were to be under the immediate command of Major-General Putnam, Brigadier-Generals Mifflin and George Clinton's brigades to be commanded by Major-General Heath.

On the 14th of August General Washington, together with a
brigadier-general's commission, forwarded to General James Clinton the following complimentary letter: "I have the pleasure of forwarding you, by this opportunity, a letter from Congress enclosing your commission for a Brigadier in the Continental Army; on which appointment please accept my hearty congratulations. As the post you are now at [Fort Montgomery] is an object of great importance, and I am acquainted with the officers under you, I must request that you will remain there till you hear further from me."

Kingston, at this time, August, 1776, was burdened with a very large number of state prisoners, and the convention, on the 17th of that month, for the relief of the inhabitants, as well as the safety of the prisoners of war, directed their removal with all possible despatch to Morristown in the State of New Jersey.

General Howe, after his arrival, had located himself with his large and splendidly equipped army upon Staten Island, supported by his brother the admiral with a powerful naval force in the harbor. While waiting for the arrival of his entire forces, he made advances for the settlement of the difference upon the basis of the Americans returning to their allegiance. Congress, however, turned a deaf ear to all propositions not founded upon a full recognition of independence. The British commanders also circulated pamphlets and hand-bills filled with flattering promises designed to create dissatisfaction and dissension among the people. His gilded promises, of course, found many sympathizers and listeners, and through his secret emissaries among them he was kept advised of the American movements, and the disposition and changes of Washington's forces.

As before intimated, the army of General Howe was perfectly disciplined, and supplied with everything necessary for its perfect equipment. On the other hand, the troops of Washington were poorly armed, and consisted largely of raw, undisciplined levies unaccustomed to and impatient of military restraint and hardship. The American forces also, in numbers exceeding the British but little, if any, were necessarily scattered in guarding the many different positions subject to attack and important to be protected and defended.

General Howe, having the full command of the harbor through his naval force, could at any time concentrate his forces at any desirable point and crush its defenders with overwhelming numbers. Under such circumstances the battle of Long Island took place on the 27th day of August, 1776.

Under cover of the night, aided by information gathered from Tory sympathizers, the British were enabled to land at different portions of the island and hem the patriots in on almost every
side. The American troops fought bravely and well, but, surrounded as they were by superior numbers, the result was not at any time doubtful. Those who could escaped; many were taken prisoners, others killed in legitimate warfare, while others were murdered in cold blood by British and Hessian brutes, with the cry of "No quarter," when their victims were prostrate and imploring mercy. General Woodhull, President of the New York Convention, and commanding the Long Island forces, a man equally brave and noble, finding himself and men overpowered by numbers, surrendered, and delivered up his sword to a Hessian officer, who immediately raised his right arm, and said to General Woodhull: "Long live the King," to which the general replied, "Long live all of us;" whereupon the Hessian brought down his sword and cut the general down, giving him a wound which, followed by gross neglect and ill-treatment on the part of the British, mortified and proved fatal.

Washington crossed over from New York to Brooklyn, and there witnessed from an eminence the American defeat and the butchery of his soldiers without ability to succor or relieve. He dared not draw his forces from New York, for then if still followed by defeat, the whole country would have been laid open to the invaders.

Those of the American forces escaping reached the fortified camp, and further pursuit was at an end. The armies then rested within cannon-shot of each other. A very heavy rain set in, and it rained incessantly for two days and nights, interfering materially with hostile operations. Taking advantage of the weather, and favored by the darkness of the night and a heavy fog, Washington was enabled to embark the remnant of his forces, about nine thousand men, and land them safely in New York. He attended, notwithstanding the remonstrances of his officers, personally to the embarkation of his troops, and was the last man of the entire force to step on board a transport. The providential fog lifted when the last boat was beyond reach, and the British general had the mortification of seeing his opponents escape, whom he had considered as secure within his grasp.

General Howe has the reputation among historians of being kind and humane, but the battle of Long Island, with the cry of "No quarter to the rebels," and the brutal and inhuman treatment of the prisoners subsequent thereto, give evidence of a very different character. If not responsible for the inhuman war-cry and conduct of his troops on the battlefield, he cannot escape responsibility for the subsequent treatment of the prisoners; that was entirely within his control. Happier, much happier, was the fate of the patriots whose life-blood moistened the sod of the
battlefield, than that of those who, escaping death on the field of strife, were saved as prisoners of war, to be murdered by degrees in the vile pens and sugar-houses constituting General Howe's military prisons in New York, where it was common for carmen to come in the early morn and carry away bodies by the load. Those dens, kept by Christianized and enlightened Englishmen under the command of General Howe, are properly rated on a par with the celebrated Black Hole of Calcutta.

The possession of Long Island was the first step of the English general toward the occupancy of New York, and compelled the Americans to marshal their entire available forces. The State Convention had, before taking a short recess, appointed a Committee of Safety, and vested it with authority to exercise all or any of its powers during such interim. That committee took immediate action under such power, and on the 29th of August issued an order that "the Brigadier Generals and commanding officers of the Militia in the Counties of Orange, Ulster, Westchester and Dutchess hold their militia in readiness to march at a minute's warning, with five days' provisions and as much ammunition as possible, there being great reason to fear, that the whole force of the State may be needed to repel the invaders."

On the 1st of September, General Washington, alive to the great emergency and danger of the situation, issued an order calling out the entire militia force of the State. Ulster County had then already contributed largely in men toward the defence of the country. A considerable number of its residents had enlisted and were serving in the Continental Army. Several of its regiments had been drafted and ordered for service, and were in the ranks for the defence of New York. One quarter of the remainder had been drafted and were serving in the passes of the Highlands, and the rest were under orders to march at a minute's notice with five days' rations. Thus was Ulster County situated when General Washington's order was issued.

The Committee of Safety, in reply to General Washington, under date of the 4th of September, express very great concern at their inability to assist further in maintaining the important posts, and give among other reasons for their inability, the following: "That from the best representations they have been able to obtain, the number of armed and well affected militia in those counties (Ulster, Orange, Duchess, and Westchester) does not exceed 3100; the number of disarmed and disaffected persons, 2300; and the number of slaves, 2300. From a comparison of these numbers and from our firm opinion that the disaffected only want an opportunity of rising, that Gen Howe is actually endeavoring to enlist men in most of those Counties, and that our enemies would not scruple
to stir up the slaves to bear arms against us, it would be extremely hazardous to the internal peace of those counties to draw out at present any more of the militia.'

After giving the above and other unanswerable reasons for their inability to assist further in maintaining the important posts, they assure his excellency "that the whole militia of the Counties of Ulster, Orange, Duchess and Westchester shall be ready to march, whenever your Excellency or Gen Clinton shall think it absolutely necessary; and to inform you that the Committee of Safety will immediately exert themselves in arming with lances all such of the well affected Militia as are destitute of firearms."

What arms to be thought of as opposing the splendid, well-appointed weapons of England's well-trained, disciplined troops!

At the same meeting in which such letter and assurance were given, the Committee of Safety passed a preamble and resolution, which, after stating that many of the militia in the different counties are destitute of firearms, and declaring it to be the duty of the convention to arm the whole militia in such manner as may prove most formidable, appointed a committee of two from each of the counties of Albany, Ulster, Orange, Duchess, and Westchester, to procure eight hundred lances for each of said counties. Derick Wynkoop and Robert Boyd were designated as the committee for Ulster County.

Previous to the 6th of September, 1776, the convention of delegates of this State had appointed a committee to visit Forts Montgomery and Constitution, and upon the coming in of the report of that committee at the above date, it was "Resolved that it was of the utmost consequence to the safety of the State, and the general interest of America that a re-enforcement should be immediately sent to the forts Montgomery and Constitution, and that six hundred men should, with all possible despatch, be detached from the Militia of the State, and sent to those forts as a re-enforcement for two months."

The convention designated the quota of Ulster for such re-enforcement at two hundred men. It was also ordered that the colonel to command the re-enforcement should be called from Ulster County, the lieutenant-colonel from Duchess County, and the major from Albany.

Colonel Johannis Snyder, of Kingston, was designated as the colonel to command the levies. John Bailey, Jr., of Duchess, as lieutenant-colonel. The major was left for future designation.

The commanding officers of the several regiments in Ulster County, immediately after being advised of the levy ordered, met and agreed upon an apportionment from their respective commands, as follows: Colonel Johannis Snyder's regiment, thirty-
eight men; Colonel Jonathan Hasbrouck's, sixty-two men; Lieutenant-Colonel James McLaughly's, fifty-six men, and Lieutenant-Colonel Jacob Hoornbeek's, forty-four men.

In a letter written by him to the convention, dated the 18th of October, 1776, Colonel Snyder stated that he had arrived at Fort Montgomery on the 27th of September with thirty-three men drawn from his regiment, the other five to complete its quota being sick and unable to come. That at the date of writing, he had only three hundred and seventy-nine men in his regiment, leaving a deficiency of two hundred and twenty-one; he then solicited the convention to order the field officers to forward their quotas immediately.

The following is a list of the officers selected for Colonel Snyder's regiment, drafted for the re-enforcement of the forts under the aforesaid order of the 7th of August. The commissions were not forwarded until the 28th of October:

**Colonel, Johannis Snyder.**
**Lieutenant-Colonel, John Bailey, Jr.**

**Major, — — —.**

Ulster.—Captain, Frederick Schoonmaker; First Lieutenant, Daniel Graham; Second Lieutenant, Cornelius Van Wagonen.

Captain, William Telfort; First Lieutenant, William Cuddeback; Second Lieutenant, Hendricus Terpenning, Jr.

Captain, Matthew Jansen; First Lieutenant, — — —; Second Lieutenant, Evert Hoffman.

Orange.—Captain, James Sawyer; First Lieutenant, George Luckey; Second Lieutenant, Gilbert Veail.

Duchess.—Captain, Thomas Storm; First Lieutenant, Eliakine Barman; Second Lieutenant, — — —.

Captain, Ebenezer Husted; First Lieutenant, John Wilson; Second Lieutenant, David Ostrom.

Albany.—Captain, Ithamar Spencer; First Lieutenant, Henry Irwin; Second Lieutenant, John Murray.

Captain, John Williams; First Lieutenant, Philip Staats; Second Lieutenant, Peter Van Berrigan.

Adjutant, David Bevier.

Quartermaster, Coenraedt J. Elmendorf.

The following copy of a letter, the original of which is in the possession of the author, refers to the adverse progress of events in the lower part of the Hudson, in the month of September:
"Hackensack 23d Sept 1776

"Dear Brother Peter:

"This is the first opportunity I had, since my return from your quarters, to send you a line; the conveniency of a post and almost every other we are now deprived of. I cannot doubt but you must have heard of the alarming changes hereabouts within the last four weeks past, we have lost Long Island, New York as high up as Harlem and Powles Hook. The event of the two former you must have heard the particulars of. The latter, Powles Hook, was taken in possession by the regulars yesterday four o'clock in the afternoon. Our troops brought off everything but a few pieces of heavy artillery, which the regulars took without heavy loss. They are now in possession of every place above New York that could annoy their shipping, and have a free range up the North River as high as the forts Constitution and Washington, which I hope may effectually prevent their farther progress up, for the safety of my friends in your quarter, but have reason to doubt it. We are now left the open frontier, only a few troops along the banks of the meadows. The enemy have free access to all the ferries on this shore. This, together with the many disaffected persons about this place, occasions many citizens to leave it. Mrs Elting has pressed me hard this day to move her and child with some of my most valuable effects to Kingston. This request, although perhaps very necessary, I am loath to comply with, as it must be attended with so many difficulties. First, we have no communication by water, and almost all the wagons are in the Continental Service.

"Last Friday night about one quarter of the town [New York] was burnt to ashes. It broke out at sundry places near White Hall, followed Broad Street up to Beaver Street on the west side. So up to Bowling green, and for some distance consumed both sides of Broadway. Trinity and the southern churches, with almost every house between Broadway and the North river to near St. Paul's are down. We hear from head quarters that a flag had been sent who informed that it had been done designedly, but not by General orders, and that six men had been shot with torches in their hands and others had been hung.

* * * * * * * * * * *

"Your brother

"Peter Van Gaasbeek."

While the country was thus not only alarmed but endangered by the adverse progress of events about the city of New York, on the 2d of October news came from the inhabitants of Papakonk, one of the border settlements, that they were threatened with an
attack by the Indians. Their information or notice was derived from an old squaw, who, being on friendly terms with the settlers, had promised to notify them when any raid might be threatened. The inhabitants at once sent by express to Kingston for assistance, and information was immediately forwarded from Kingston to the convention.

There were nine families in danger, amounting in number, including children, to about sixty or seventy. They were represented, also, to have a large amount of grain and stock on hand, which, unless assistance arrived, they would be compelled to abandon and seek for themselves a place of safety. The convention at once directed the committee of Ulster County to order the rangers raised in the county to proceed immediately to the frontiers, and protect the inhabitants, and further ordered that they expedite the enlistments to fill their ranks.

Besides the preceding specific alarm, the inhabitants of the border towns of Ulster County were kept in continual apprehension of Indian raids upon them, and those who could were moving away from their homes as rapidly as they were able. Johannis Sleight, Chairman of the Kingston Committee, by letter to the representative, Colonel DeWitt, called the attention of the convention to that fact in the early part of October. The convention thereupon directed that the committees of Orange and Ulster provide for the defence of their frontier country by detachments from their militia, and the expense would be defrayed by the convention.

But the troubles were not confined to threatened raids by Indians upon the border settlements, the disaffected, and those of Tory proclivities, were taking advantage of the general alarm, and began to move uneasily in their constrained positions. On the 17th day of September information was given to the convention by the resident members, that there were a great many dangerous persons in the counties of Ulster and Orange, and that from testimony taken by the different town committees, it was evident that efforts had been made in that section of the country to enlist men in the British Army. The matter was at once referred to the members of those counties as a committee, “to examine into the matter, and report what steps were necessary to be taken to prevent the disaffected persons from joining or aiding the enemy.”

In a few days, however, it became apparent to the convention that something more general and effectual was necessary, and that those two counties were not the only sections of the country thus embarrassed. The matter was thus brought up for consideration by the convention as applicable to the entire State. After some discussion it was determined to appoint a very important committee, with full and plenary powers “to inquire into detect and
defeat all conspiracies which might be formed in the State against the liberties of America, with power to send for persons and papers, call out detachments of troops as they may deem necessary to suppress insurrections, and to draw on the Treasurer to an amount not exceeding $500."

The appointment of this important committee was taken by the convention into its own hands and selected by ballot. The members constituting that committee, thus selected, were as follows: William Duer, Charles De Witt, Leonard Gansevoort, John Jay, Zephaniah Platt, and Nathaniel Sackett. They were fortunately all men who could be safely and confidently intrusted in that delicate and very responsible position.

On the 12th of September, 1776, the Committee of Safety were startled with the information that General Schuyler asked for re-enforcements for the Northern Army. In a few days, however, fortunately, General Schuyler countermanded his request, as the contingency upon which it was supposed they might be required did not occur. In the mean time, however, the call had been referred to a select committee, by whom a report was made the next day which contains some data in an official form which may be interesting to the reader, and therefore the important portion thereof is inserted:

"The following drafts have already been made from the Militia of Ulster and Dutchess. Under a resolution of the seventh of June from Dutchess and embodied in Gen Scott's brigade and posted near the city of New York 335 men, and* from Ulster 300. A further draft was made on the 19th July of one quarter of the remaining militia of both counties, to form a part of Brig. Gen Clinton's Brigade, and stationed at or near King's bridge. That when in addition the draft of the 7th instant of 175 men from Dutchess, and 200 from Ulster shall be completed to re-enforce forts Constitution and Montgomery, there would not be more than 700 armed and well affected men in the county of Dutchess, and 1000 in Ulster, and that the forts in the Highlands with those re-enforcements would still be far from a state of security."

After the capture of Long Island, it was evident that the possession of the city of New York by the British, and also of the county of Westchester, was only a question of time; the convention, therefore, had their attention directed to the safety of the public records, and for that purpose, on the 9th day of October, they appointed a committee of their number with directions to remove, with all possible haste, the records of the city and county of New York, and of the county of Westchester, to Kingston, there to be placed in charge of Dirck Wynkoop, Abraham Hasbrouck, and Christopher Tappen.
On the 10th day of October, 1776, it was ordered that the commanding officer of the militia of Ulster County send three hundred men of his command, well armed, and with three days' provisions, to Peekskill, to continue in service for three weeks. At a meeting of the field officers of Ulster County, on the 13th day of October, Major Andrew Wynkoop was designated to take command of the detachment thus ordered to Peekskill.

As anticipated, the Americans found it impossible to hold the city of New York, and therefore as soon as it was perceived that General Howe was preparing and locating his troops for its capture, General Washington wisely evacuated it. After the occupancy of New York by the British a number of skirmishes were had and some battles fought between the contending forces, without severe loss on either side, except when Fort Washington was captured, then the English took about two thousand prisoners and a large quantity of artillery and army supplies. In one of the battles referred to, which occurred on the 28th of October, Colonel Ritzemas's Ulster County regiment and Colonel Smallwood's Maryland regiment greatly distinguished themselves, and received special honorable mention.

Winter was now approaching, and an ice embargo would, in the ordinary course of events, before long prevent the use of the naval force in the upper Hudson, so that Howe made no attempt to force a passage through the Highlands, but turned his attention to New Jersey and Pennsylvania with the main strength of his army. In order to prevent New England from rushing to the assistance of those States and re-enforcing the patriot army, he despatched Sir Henry Clinton through Long Island Sound to Rhode Island to take possession there, and another detachment to create a like diversion in the South. The size of the army and navy at his command enabled him to do so without danger.

Washington with his army was in a very embarrassing situation; while the opposing forces were flushed with recent triumphs and successes, and exceeded the Americans in numbers and discipline, the patriot army was fast melting away by the termination of enlistment and other causes, and the men, discouraged by recent reverses, could not be induced to re-enlist. The expected re-enforcements from other States were not sent, but were retained for the defence of their own borders. This greatly increased the burden upon the State of New York, and especially that portion above and about the Highlands. But little rest was allowed that winter for the usual so-called period of "winter quarters."

On the 3d day of November the Committee of Safety ordered that the militia of Orange and Ulster counties hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning to oppose the invasion
of the enemy on the west side of the Hudson River, and that Brig-
adier-General Clinton give orders accordingly, and march for that
purpose on receipt of orders from Major-General Heath.

Congress having on the 16th day of September yielded to the
urgent solicitations of Washington to enlist an army to serve dur-
ing the war, to be under the commander-in-chief, four battalions
had been allotted to the State of New York as its proportion.
Ulster County furnished three companies under that call, and they
were placed in the regiment commanded by Colonel Gansevoort.
The committee on that subject appointed by the State Convention
reported on the 23d day of December the progress made, and at the
same time recommended that the State Convention request of Con-
gress the privilege to raise a fifth battalion, to be under the com-
mand of Colonel Lewis Du Bois, of Ulster County. That sugges-
tion was acted upon favorably by both the State Convention and
the National Congress, and the enlistment of the battalion was
duly authorized. The officers were Lewis Du Bois, Colonel; Jacobus
S. Bruyn, Lieutenant-Colonel; Samuel Logan, Major; and Henry
Du Bois, Adjutant. The captains were: Jacobus Rosecrans, James
Stewart, Amos Hutchins, Philip D. Bevier, Thomas Lee, Henry
Goodwin, John F. Hamtrack, and John Johnston. That regiment
was stationed in the Highlands in the spring of 1777, and remained
there until the forts were taken.

On the 6th day of November, at a meeting of the Committee of
Safety, some resolutions and an address were reported and adopted,
to be published at the head of every regiment in General Scott’s
brigade, and of every company of the detachment commanded by
Colonel Snyder. The resolutions and address represented to them
the necessities of the service, the situation in which the country
was placed, and urged them in the strongest terms to continue in
service until the last day of December.

On the 30th day of November a letter was received from Gen-
eral Scott, wherein he stated that from the returns he found that
the number in his brigade who were willing to continue in service
for another month were too inconsiderable to be retained.

Colonel Snyder’s regiment all left for home as soon as their
term expired, and of General Scott’s brigade only one hundred
remained.

At a meeting of the Committee of Safety for the State of New
York, held at Fishkill, December 8th, 1776, it was resolved that a
committee of three gentlemen be requested to go immediately to
George Clinton at New Windsor, vested with full power, in con-
junction with General Clinton, to call out the militia of Ulster and
Orange counties, and to station them at such places as they may
think will contribute most to the safety of this State and the gen-
eral interest of America. Resolved, That Mr. Robert R. Livings-
ton, General Scott, and Mr. Duer be the said committee. Subse-
sequently, on the same day, at a meeting of Brigadier-General George
Clinton, R. R. Livingston, Brigadier-General Scott, and William
Duer, it was

"Resolved, that all the Militia of Orange and Ulster not at
present in the Continental service, and which compose the Brigade
commanded by Brigadier Gen George Clinton, be forthwith ordered
to march, properly armed and accoutred and with four days' pro-
visions to Chester in Orange County, there to receive further orders
from Brig Gen Clinton. That the said Militia be allowed Con-
tinental pay, and rations and one penny per mile in lieu of rations
'till they come to the place of rendezvous.

"Resolved, that George Clinton be empowered to make use of
the arms and accoutrements belonging to this State, and now at
New Windsor, for the purpose of equipping such of said militia as
are not armed.

"Resolved that it is the opinion of this committee, that Gen
Clinton march, with the militia, the companies of Rangers raised
in the County of Ulster, under the command of Captain Jacob
DeWitt and Captain Jacob Hasbrouck.

"And whereas in the opinion of the honourable general Con-
gress and from the measures pursued by the enemy, it is evident
that the security of the United States depends principally upon the
preservation of the State of New York, which can only be effected
by preventing the passes of the Highlands on Hudson River from
falling into the hands of the enemy; yet it is the firm intention,
and earnest desire of the Convention of this State, to give every
assistance possible to any of their sister States or to the United
States in general consistent with that grand object.

"Resolved therefore, that it is the opinion of this Committee,
that Gen George Clinton be ordered either to join the army under
the command of Major General Lee, or Major General Gates, pro-
vided it be the intention of either of these officers to form a sepa-
rare army for the purpose of falling upon the enemy's rear, or
cutting off their supplies, and that he vigilantly attend to the
motions of the enemy in such a manner, that he may be able to
retain the passes of the Highlands on Hudson River.

"Resolved that if it shall be the orders or intentions of Major
General Lee or Major General Gates to join the main body of the
Continental army, that nevertheless Gen Clinton do forthwith
march into the State of New Jersey so far as he thinks consistent
with the preservation of the passes of the Highlands, and that he
exert himself to the utmost in collecting and rousing the spirits of
the militia of the said State, and overawing and curbing its dis-
affected or revolted subjects, whenever he shall be called upon by a proper civil or military authority of said State."

Thus terminated the campaign of 1776 in New York, leaving the Highlands and the river through and above them in the possession of the patriots, and the English invaders at the north retired to winter quarters on Canadian soil.
CHAPTER XV.

INTERNAL TROUBLES AND TORY OPERATIONS.

BEFORE proceeding to any further detail of the movement of armies or the progress of war on the battlefield, there are other matters which properly claim our attention. The matrons of 1776 were exceedingly fond of the good old Hyson, and were very sensitive at being deprived of its use. When patriotism demanded their abstention, to repudiate the right of Great Britain to tax, they could submit, but when that question was no longer involved, and it was the merchant withholding for the purpose of speculation and demanding exorbitant prices, they considered that a very different principle was involved, and resolved that tea they must and would have. The matrons in the old town of Kingston were specially determined in that matter.

In order fully to understand the true state of the question, it will be necessary to refer back to the history of the tea, or, rather, the manner and time in which it came into this country, and the legislation in regard to it.

Before the English duty attached, and before the importation and sale of teas were prohibited, some capitalists had imported and held a large amount thereof in store on speculation in anticipation of a scarcity. Congress, however, prohibited its sale as well as its importation. After the country became involved in war and independence was declared, the holders made application to Congress to remove the prohibition against the sale, and procured the assistance of the New York Convention in memorializing Congress for that purpose. Congress removed the prohibition against the sale, but prohibited its sale at a greater price than six shillings a pound. The holders of the tea refused to sell at such a price, and exhibited a desire to prey upon the wants of the community, or, as expressed by the Committee of Safety, "have refused to dispose of their stock of tea on hand, until such time as an artificial scarcity shall induce the good women of this State, to tempt them to vend it by offering exorbitant prices."

It appears by the following that the tea-loving matrons were taking another tack than offering exorbitant prices, and were determined to see what influence threats might have upon the action...
of the authorities. On the 26th of April, 1776, a communication was presented to the New York Provincial Convention from Johannis Sleight, chairman of the Kingston committee, in which he stated that "the women surround the committee chamber, and say if they cannot have tea their husbands and sons shall fight no more."

On the 30th of September, 1776, a committee was appointed by the State Convention, on motion of Mr. De Witt, to take into consideration "the abuses committed in the withholding of tea by the owners or agents thereof, within this State, and also in the sale thereof at higher prices than that limited by Congress," with directions to report without delay. The committee made a report promptly to the convention on the 1st of October. The report was read, and after some time spent thereon its further consideration was postponed until the next day. But the convention does not appear to have taken any further action upon the report.

On the 8th day of October, 1776, Johannis Sleight, as chairman of the Kingston Committee of Safety, reported to the convention that a man had been at Kingston to remove some tea which Grodus Beckman had stored in the house of John Elmendorf, and the committee had refused to permit its removal. He further reported that the committee had resolved that no tea stored in Kingston should be removed until the convention took some action on the subject, and in the mean time they would use their utmost endeavors to keep peace and good order.

No action was taken and the people became impatient. Some of the matrons and spinsters in Kingston determined that they would have some of "the creature comfort;" accordingly, a number of them collected together and proceeded in a body to the storehouse of Mary Elmendorf, where they knew it was kept; they forced their way in, and each one, after weighing out what tea she wanted, deposited the price, as regulated by Congress, on the counter, and left rejoicing. This, perhaps, was not the only case of an involuntary sale. But whether it was or not, some complaints which follow will show that there was more or less involuntary disposal of tea to some of the sterner sex without the formality of considering the price.

On the 17th of October the Committee of Safety, sitting during the recess of the convention, had the tea question under consideration, and then ordered "that the Committees of the several Counties take the tea in store within their respective counties, in their possession, and sell it by retail at six shillings a pound, and account for the proceeds to the owners;" at the same time they expressly prohibited the sale of any more than twelve pounds to any one person, for the use of one family. But four days afterward the publication of the resolve was postponed until further orders, so the question remained in statu quo.
On the 18th of November Johannis Sleigh, as chairman of the
Kingston committee, again addressed the convention by letter,
stating that "the Inhabitants of this (Ulster) county till within a
few days have been distinguished for their firmness and attach-
ment to the resolves of Congress and committees; in short, have
been as peaceable, we flatter ourselves, as any people in this State;
but it is with regret, that we are under the disagreeable necessity
to inform you, that we are daily alarmed, and our streets filled
with mobs from different parts of the county, breaking of doors
and committing of outrages to the disturbance of the peace and of
the good People of this town, owing as we have reason to believe,
to the misfortune of having that detestable article, called tea,
stowed here, which is taken by them and divided or distributed in
such manner as they think fit. We have heretofore assured the
good People, that your Congress would pass a resolve for the dis-
posal of that article lodged here; and it is asserted (by what
authority we know not) that your Congress had passed a resolve
to that purpose, but that before the publication thereof repealed or
made void the same, which the People, whom we have had before
us, assign in justification of their conduct in the premises. We
now entreat you to advise us how and in what manner we shall
suppress these disturbances. We will not presume to dictate to
your honourable House, but are well assured that if a resolve was to
be passed, establishing a price and ordering a disposal thereof, it
would tend to the interest of the proprietors, and the peace of the
good People of this State.

"By order of the Committee."

It looks very much as if the monopolists in tea had a pretty
strong hold upon the convention; for some reason they appear to
have been very loath to take action on the tea question. As late
as December 3d the fact of the disturbances was again brought to
the notice of the convention in a letter written by John Elmendorf,
with whom a portion of the troublesome article had been stored.
In that communication he declined to accept a trust Congress had
by resolution conferred upon him, "for reason of such daily depre-
dations and plunder of private property at my house. You are
sensible when such outrages are committed, in having your doors
splintered, forced, etc., it is requisite for an honest man, and a
lover of his country's rights, to alleviate the distress of my good
family with my presence. Nothing grieves me more than daily to
observe, and be an eye-witness to such confusion and turbulent
dispositions of the people."

The convention does not appear to have made any final disposi-
tion of the matter, and a party from Connecticut having three large
packages stored in Kingston of several thousand pounds, made complaint that when he came to take possession one of the packages was entirely gone.

But there are other and more serious internal difficulties to record before proceeding further in the general narrative than the tea episode. The State was cursed with the presence of disaffected men scattered throughout its entire range. Although Tories at heart, many of them lived in apparent friendship with their patriotic neighbors and of the cause of freedom. Ready, however, at any time to betray and sacrifice their country, they had their secret signs, marks, and signals, by which they were well known to each other and well understood by the British spies and emissaries prowling around. They were not all so shrewd, however, as always to escape detection; their doings were occasionally brought to light, the prisons became filled to overflowing, and the gallows was occasionally resorted to to render well-deserved punishment. Prisoners were sent to Kingston from almost every direction, and when its jail was filled to overflowing vessels were anchored out in the Rondout stream and used to take care of the surplus. A company of soldiers was kept constantly on duty to insure their safe-keeping.

The records of a few of the examinations and trials of offenders have been preserved, and narrations of some of the cases will follow. History must necessarily cover the transactions of foes within as well as foes without.

On the 5th day of May, 1777, a preamble and resolution in regard to county committees was passed by the State Convention, as follows:

"Whereas it has been found by experience that the several Committees within this State have greatly contributed to the public security and defence, by expediting the measures necessary for the general weal; and whereas it will be necessary that the salutary influence of such Committees shall be continued until the Government of this State shall be firmly settled and obtain its full energy and vigor

"Therefore Resolved, that it be recommended to the inhabitants of this State to choose such active, spirited and discreet subjects of this State, as they shall deem proper for members of the several Committees within their respective counties, and to continue as members of such committees, until the first day of October next, and although the office of a member of any of said Committees is extremely painful and laborious, yet as the service will expire before the said day, it is most earnestly recommended to the good subjects of this State, cheerfully to undertake, and vigilantly to execute the said offices, more especially as the last hope of our dispirited foes is now grounded upon those intestine divisions,
which they so assiduously labor to promote. By the assistance of
which, they expect to accumulate greater evils upon a country,
which they cannot subdue, and without which all their diabolical
designs must prove utterly abortive.''

On the 31st of March, 1777, an investigation was had and testi-
mony taken before the Committee of Safety and Observation of the
Precinct of Mamakating, in the county of Ulster, in which the
following facts were developed: On the Wednesday previous to the
31st of March, Samuel Waring came to John More and asked him
to join in a plot against the Whigs, and explained that the design
was to meet with Joseph Barton at the Sussex Court House, New
Jersey, on Wednesday of the following week. Barton was to be
there with a large number of men. A party was also expected
from the north, across the Lakes, with a band of Indians. The war
vessels were expected to sail up the river about that time, which
would draw all the militia down to guard along the river, and leave
the country back unprotected. The men would then divide them-
selves in different parties, fall upon the unprotected country, and
cut off and destroy what they could. It also appeared, in that
investigation, that recruiting officers were around, secretly enlisting
men in the service of the King under promise of large bounties and
pay.

On the 5th of April, 1777, a stranger came to the house of Isaac
Low, who kept a tavern in the precinct of New Paltz, and solicited
entertainment; he represented that he came from Warrack, in the
State of New Jersey. After some conversation he applied to Mr.
Low to take him to Mr. Trompoor's, where he had left his horse,
and he exhibited a pass under the name of Jacobus Bay. Low
declined, on account of the sickness of his wife, but finally agreed
to take him part of the way. When they were about starting the
stranger wanted to be taken by a route to avoid Kingston; he gave
as a reason that he came from New York, and as there was a guard
at Kingston, he would be arrested. He then in further conversa-
tion admitted that his real name was Goos Quackenboss, and he
expected to be a lieutenant; that he had been sent up to fetch
people down, and would soon return on the west side of the river
with a number of men. Low then took him to Garret Freer, in the
town of Kingston, on the south side of Rondout Creek, and
left him there. Freer put him forward in his journey, by water,
so as to avoid Kingston.

Complaint was made by Cornelius Elmendorf, Jr., to the
Committee of Safety and Observation of the town of Kingston,
that Jan Freer had, on the 5th of April, conveyed from his house
by water, in his canoe, a person justly suspected of being an enemy
of the State of New York, and that his father, Garret Freer, had
aided and assisted him therein. Garret and Jan Freer were then cited before the committee. Jan Freer acknowledged that he had conveyed the suspected person away in his canoe, and that his father, Garret, had sent his negro with him to assist. The committee then tendered to both Garret and Jan the oath of allegiance, which they refused to take; upon such refusal they were both committed to jail.

Some time afterward Garret Freer being anxious to visit his home, and having applied for permission so to do, his application was granted upon the terms specified in the following resolution of the Committee of Safety:

"Resolved that the Gaoler deliver Garret Freer to the care of such person, as the Minister Elders and Deacons of the Church of Kingston, shall direct, they engaging to return the said Garret Freer to jail, the evening of the same day they take him out; and that the said Gaoler do again receive the said prisoner, and keep him agreeable to his mittimus."

In the proceedings of the convention of the 13th of May is the following entry: "Garret Freer, a prisoner confined in the jail below, was brought up and admonished by the President, and a discharge for him delivered to the Sheriff on his paying the fees due."

On the 8th day of August, 1777, Jan Freer, on account of the dangerous illness of his father, was discharged from prison on his giving a bond, with security in £400 for his future good behavior, and that he would surrender himself whenever required by the Council of Safety or executive power of the State.

On the 9th of April, 1777, Cornelius Newkirk and William McDarmoth, of Wagh Kunk, in the town of Kingston, were cited before the Committee of Safety and Observation charged with certain treasonable discourses. On being separately examined they partially denied the charge. They were then discharged upon voluntarily subscribing and taking the oath, of which the following is a copy:

"I, the subscriber, do most solemnly swear that I renounce all allegiance to the King of Great Britain, that I will be a good and true subject to the State of New York, that I will to the utmost of my power defend the said State against the enemies thereof, and that I will discover all plots and conspiracies against it, which may come to my knowledge, and pray God Almighty so to keep me as I do faithfully and sincerely keep this oath and declaration."

On their journey home, Newkirk and McDarmoth stopped at the house of Mr. Joseph Osterhoudt, about four miles from Kingston, and lodged there. At that time the houses usually were only one story, and the loft not divided into rooms. To secure privacy
for females, their bedsteads were surrounded with curtains so hung as to be closed all round. Newkirk and McDarmoth retired soon after their arrival, and were shown to their beds in the upper room. There was a bed such as is described above in that room, which bed Mrs. Elizabeth Yeomans occupied; but it appears not to have been noticed by the two lodgers.

Soon supposing themselves entirely alone, they commenced a confidential talk, which was substantially, according to Mrs. Yeomans' testimony, as follows: Newkirk said, "They take us to be good Whigs, but my heart is the same as before." McDarmoth replied, "So is mine, but we now have taken the oath." Newkirk said, "They read the oath to me several times, but I had taken care that I should not hear it, for I stop my ears with wool, which I brought from home, as I expected they would offer the oath to me." McDarmoth said, "I did not think so far; when the oath was offered to me I asked what oath I was to swear; they told me to be true to the country, and I could do that, and free my conscience, for it is our country, where we were born, but the King is the ruler of the country." They had considerable further talk; part of it was about hanging a man, and also about keeping an account of all their expenses.

The next morning Mrs. Yeomans gave information of the conversation overheard by her; and the two Tories were again arrested and taken before the committee. Upon examination they admitted the truth of Mrs. Yeomans' statement, and consequently were committed to jail.

It appears by proceedings before the Kingston committee and certificate of Christopher Tappen, that in the latter part of April, 1777, Abraham Middagh called at the house of Jacobus S. Davis, in the town of Marbletown, and inquired of him whether there were any strangers about. Upon receiving a negative reply he stated that Jacob Middagh had come up with him, and was near at hand, and if he would go with him he would bring him to him. They went to the house of Frederick Bush, where they found him.

Jacob Middagh told Davis that he had lately come from New York in order to inform his friends and acquaintances how matters were circumstanced there, and that he would make gentlemen of all those who would go down with him; that the party who had previously gone with him were encamped at Jamaica, on Long Island, and lived well; they had provisions of all kinds in plenty; that every man of family who went down with him to New York would be entitled to one hundred acres of land for himself, fifty acres for his wife, and fifty acres for every son. They would not be obliged to fight unless they were so inclined, but would be
required to take an oath of fidelity to the King of Great Britain; that the British troops were to move up the Hudson River by land as soon as the country would afford grass for their horses. They wanted Davis to go with them, but he refused. They then told Davis that they were going to his father's house to enlist his brother Jacob, and they left.

Next day Jacob Middagh returned with a number of men, and called at Jacob Davis's house. Middagh stated that Christian Winne had gone to Little Shandaken to get more men for him, and was to meet him in that neighborhood; that he would have been away before if Winne had come down. Wilhelmus Merricle and Jacobus Bush were in the company. Merricle encouraged the men who were to go down by telling them that it was a righteous cause in which they had embarked, and endeavored to prove it by Scripture quotations. Jacob Middagh warned Davis that they would be the death of any person who gave information against him or any of his company.

The further history of that expedition appears by the certificate of Cornelius C. Schoonmaker, chairman of the Committee of Observation, etc., of the Precinct of Shawangunk, of examinations had before that committee on the 30th day of April, 1777. Upon the examination of Jacob Davis before that committee, it was disclosed that Jacob Middagh and others came to his father's house on the 23d of April, and asked him to go with them to New York to join the Regulars; he consented, and immediately got ready to go, and his father provided him with provisions and other supplies needed on the march. They went that night to Shocan. The next morning they went to Jagh Cripplebush, and stopped a little while at Abraham Middagh's; from thence to Richard Oakley's, where they arrived about nine o'clock in the evening. After resting there awhile they went to William Wood's, in the Coxing Clove, where they met Samuel Freleigh, James Jones, and a Regular officer, who told them that he and Jones were going along with them in the morning. They lodged that night at William Wood's, and the next morning crossed the mountains near the Widow Bevier's, in the New Paltz Precinct. Lieutenant Jacobus Roosa and Jacob Middagh went to the Widow Bevier's and shortly returned. They then proceeded on their way, and were piloted by Joseph Shuyter to Cornelius Du Bois, where they crossed the Wallkill. They took Joseph Freer and John Van Vliet prisoners. After a short parley they let them go, but took their arms from them, and made them swear that 'they would not tell on them.' They finally reached a barn of Arthur McKinney, where they remained a day and night, while Samuel Freleigh, James Jones, and the Regular went to Major Colden's. The major told them that he
thought it would be impossible for them to get through the guard. Freleigh, Jones, and the Regular officer then left them. On Monday morning they proceeded on their journey, but in the afternoon of that day they were attacked by a company of militia. Jacob Davis and Andries Longyear escaped, but did not know what became of the rest. It also appeared from other testimony that there were twenty-six men in the company.

A large number of the band were arrested, and were tried by court-martial on April 30th and May 1st at Fort Montgomery, charged with "levying war against the State of New York within the same, and of being enlisted soldiers in the service of the King of Great Britain, when owing allegiance to the State of New York."

From the return made by General George Clinton, to the State Convention, of the trial and conviction of the prisoners, dated on the 3d day of May, 1777, it appeared that Jack, a negro man, slave of Gysbert Roosa, with Daniel Reynolds and Peter Aldridge, were by the said court-martial acquitted of the charges brought against them respectively, and that Hendrick Crispell was excused from a trial on the said charges, in order that he might be made use of as an evidence on behalf of the State against other criminals brought before the court. That John Van Vliet, William McGinnis, Cornelius Furier, William Teits, Coenradt Mysener, Andries Keyser, John Rapelye, Sylvester Vandermerken, Jacobus Roosa, Jacob Middagh, and Jacobus Longyear were adjudged guilty of the crimes wherewith they severally stood charged. Alexander Campbell was found guilty of holding correspondence with the enemies of the American States, giving them intelligence and adhering to them, and giving them aid and comfort and secreting them. Arthur McKinney was found guilty of the same crimes, except the charge of secreting them. Silas Gardiner was found guilty of holding correspondence with and assisting the enemies of the said States, and Isaac Lockwood was found guilty of attempting to join the enemy. The court-martial sentenced all who were thus found guilty "to be hanged by the neck until they be dead," except Isaac Lockwood, who was condemned to close confinement in a common jail during the pendency of the war, or until discharged by proper authority.

The findings and sentences were all approved by the convention, except in the case of Alexander Campbell, which was not approved.

On the 12th of May, 1777, the convention passed a resolution pardoning all the condemned persons, except Roosa and Middagh, but directed the pardons to be withheld from them at the discretion of the convention, Council of Safety, or governor of the State, and in the mean time the pardons be kept secret.
Roosa and Middagh were subsequently executed by the sheriff of Ulster County. The others were confined in jail at Kingston: they were eventually discharged, some at earlier and others at later dates; some upon taking the oath of allegiance, others upon giving bonds for good behavior, and others upon enlisting in the Continental forces.

In one season during the Revolution a number of Tories and deserters wintered in the mountains at the west end of Woodstock, at a neighborhood called "Little Shandaken." At that time there were only four or five dwellings at the settlement, occupied by Frederick Row and his two sons, John and Peter, and also the Carle family. Frederick Row was considerably advanced in age. He had one negro. The refugees were some twenty in number, and had a log hut near a dark ravine in the mountains, about three miles from the settlement. In order to procure food, whenever a snow-storm occurred they would take that night to go to the settlement and get what they wanted. They were then always careful to wear their shoes wrong-end foremost, so as to make the track of one going into the woods instead of coming out, and again changing the shoes on returning. Row's negro often carried them victuals by order of his master, but he was a patriot, and disliked the duty. In the spring the refugees went to Niagara and joined the British army. Row was a deserter from Captain Elias Hasbrouck's company.

On the 2d day of May, 1777, the convention, after declaring that a number of artful and designing persons in every county in the State were daily endeavoring, by exaggerating accounts of the power of the enemy, and other wicked and criminal practices, to work upon the fears of weak and timid persons, and to betray the liberty of the country, appointed a committee to prepare two or more vessels lying in the river for the reception of prisoners, and arrange to have them properly guarded. They also authorized the committee for detecting conspiracies, etc., to cause suspicious and dangerous characters to be apprehended throughout the State, and confine them on board those vessels: and they by resolution further declared that any person thus confined who should be found on shore without being properly discharged, would be deemed guilty of felony, without benefit of clergy, and if found guilty by a jury empanelled for the trial, would be immediately executed.

The following orders, made by the committee for detecting and defeating conspiracies, may be of some interest, as showing the usual manner and form of judgment against disaffected and dangerous persons:

"In Committee on enquiring into and detecting and defeating all
conspiracies which may be found in the State of New York against the Liberties of America Jan 29th 1777

"Whereas Matthew Goes Jr and Dick Gardinier are most notoriously disaffected to the American cause and have refused to swear allegiance to the State of New York. And ought not to have an opportunity by returning to their respective places of abode to exert their influence to the prejudice of the American cause

"Resolved that they forthwith be removed to Ulster County and confined at their own expense at the house or farm of such noted friend of the American cause as Charles De Witt Esquire one of the members of this Committee now in the said county shall prescribe. And further that they respectively give their parol of honor to Charles De Witt Esq not to depart from such house without license first had from this Committee or the Convention or future Legislature of this State. And that they will not in the mean time by word or deed directly or indirectly contravene or oppose the measures now pursuing, or which may be pursued by the General Congress or the Convention or future Legislature of this State or others acting under their authority for the establishment of American Liberty. And further that they will neither write nor receive any letters or other papers without immediately showing them to such person or persons as Charles De Witt Esq shall nominate for that purpose

"Resolved that a Copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to Charles De Witt Esq and that he be requested to execute the business thereby committed to him

"By order of the Com
"John Jay Chairman"

Although Ulster County was thus annoyed with Toryism, still they were not troubled to the extent their Whig friends were in the neighboring precinct of Rhinebeck, Duchess County, where, as appeared by a letter of Brigadier-General Petrus Ten Broeck, the Tories were in open rebellion, and refused to obey the orders of the constituted authorities. At a meeting of the Committee of Safety, held on the 3d day of January, 1777, it appearing that the greater part of the privates in Colonel Graham's regiment of militia residing in Rhinebeck Precinct, in the county of Duchess, refused to obey the resolutions of the Convention of the State, by which they were ordered to the defence of the passes in the Highlands, and also prevented those who were well affected from obeying said resolutions. A commission was appointed with full power to compel the obedience of the disaffected persons, and to tender to them an oath of allegiance in the particular form prescribed in the resolutions of the Committee of Safety. Such of them as re-
fused to take and subscribe to the oath were to be disarmed and arrested.

In order to furnish the commission with the necessary power to enforce their orders, the Committee of Safety ordered General Clinton to dismiss two regiments of militia belonging to the north end of the county of Ulster from their then duty, and directed that two hundred men be drafted thereon, put under the command of a field officer, and ordered to repair to the Flats in Rhinebeck on the 13th of January, and be under the direction of the commission appointed as above stated. The commission was also authorized and enjoined to order the detachment of militia to fire upon, and otherwise treat as open enemies, such of the disaffected persons as persisted in their refusal to obey the authority of the State.

The Ulster County militia repaired to their post of duty, and the trouble appears to have been settled without proceeding to extreme measures.

Peter R. Livingston, of the Manor of Livingston, on the 2d day of January, 1777, reported to the Committee of Safety in regard to his regiment, that "upon the strictest inquiry the whole regiment, except a precious few, are so reluctant, and most of them so disaffected, that little or no dependence can be put in them; numbers daily riding about the county, huzzaing for the King and drinking his health in the taverns."

Such is a sample of the internal difficulties our ancestors had to contend against, with a powerful enemy ready to batter at their very doors.

The following are inserted to show some of the proceedings of the Committee of Safety and of the convention, rendered necessary by the Tories and their machinations, and the requisite provisions to put them where they could do the least harm:

On the 28th day of March, 1777, the convention ordered that a body of two hundred men be raised to guard the Continental ships at Esopus Landing, and the public records and Treasury of this State, against the designs of disaffected persons, as well as to guard the different passes and roads frequented by those persons for the purpose of conveying intelligence and going over to the enemy.

On the 29th day of April, 1777, the convention further ordered that one hundred and ninety-eight able-bodied men, well accoutred, and armed with a good musket, a fuse, a sword or tomahawk, a powder-horn and bullet-pouch, or cartouch-box, be raised to serve in the county of Ulster, to be divided into three companies, to continue in service until the 15th day of July next, unless sooner discharged, to be subject to the order and direction of the convention, the Committee of Safety, or future executive power of the State.
That they be divided into three companies, forming one corps. Of first company that Evert Bogardus be Captain, Edward Schoonmaker First Lieutenant, and Cornelius Du Bois Second Lieutenant; of second company that Isaac Belknap be Captain, Roosa First Lieutenant, and Abraham Schoonmaker Second Lieutenant; and of the third company that Frederick Schoonmaker be Captain, Zacharias Hasbrouck First Lieutenant, and John C. De Witt Second Lieutenant.
CHAPTER XVI.

ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

THE year 1777 furnishes for record as important and interesting events as have ever occurred in the colonial or subsequent history of this State, whether considered in a civil or military sense.

From a civil point of view, it witnessed the formation, perfection, and putting in full and complete operation one of the best constitutions and State governments that has ever been framed.

Viewed from a military standpoint, it chronicled the defeat and capture on its soil of one of the finest armies that Great Britain ever sent to America, and thereby taught the world that English troops and their hired hosts were not invincible when brought face to face with men determined to be free, and it further assured the final triumph of American arms and the cause of liberty.

The convention charged with preparing and perfecting a constitution or government for the people, had, on the 1st day of August, 1776, by resolution, delegated the important task to a committee of their number, consisting of Messrs. Jay, Hobart, William Smith, Duer, Morris, R. R. Livingston, Broome, Scott, Abraham Yates, Wisner, Sr., Samuel Townsend, De Witt, and Robert Yates—confessedly the strong men of the convention.

The committee were also directed to prepare and report at the same time, as the foundation for such form of government, "a Bill of rights and privileges for the good people of this State."

After the English had captured New York, and acquired by their naval forces the full control of the Hudson River below the Highlands, and also of the East River, the New York Convention retired to Fishkill, and there held their sessions. Finding insufficient accommodations at that place for the members of the convention and those whose business required their attendance, a committee was appointed to select a more convenient locality.

The committee, on the 31st day of January; 1777, reported that at Kingston fifty members could obtain good accommodations at twenty shillings a week, and a large room in the Court House would be convenient for the meetings of the convention; that only thirty members could be accommodated at Poughkeepsie, but the Episcopal Church would furnish a convenient place for meetings.
The report came up for consideration at Fishkill on the 11th of February, 1777, when the following preamble and resolution were adopted:

"Whereas the many great and momentous affairs now under consideration of the Convention, have occasioned a call of the house, and require the advice and assistance of all its members, and this village being too small to afford proper accommodations for the Convention and those who have business with the public:

"Resolved therefore, that this Convention will adjourn from this place to Kingston in Ulster County, to meet on the nineteenth instant, and all the members of Convention are peremptorily required to give their attendance accordingly"

It was further directed that the absent members be informed that "it is the intention of the house, as soon as they meet in Kingston, to proceed to the business of forming a plan of government."

The Committee of Safety met in Kingston on the 19th day of February, 1777.

The Provincial Convention convened in Kingston on the 6th day of March, 1777. In the proceedings of the convention the place of meeting is not designated. There can be no doubt that it was at the Court House. That was the place designated for the meetings in the report of the committee recommending removal to Kingston; and it was certainly the place of meeting on the 18th of March, when the convention, on motion of Gouverneur Morris, adopted the following preamble and resolution: "Whereas from the past want of care in the prisoners now confined in the jail, immediately underneath the convention chamber, the same is supposed to have become unwholesome; and very nauseous and disagreeable effluvia arises, which may endanger the health of the members of this convention therefore"

"Resolved that for the preservation of their health, the members of this convention be at liberty, at their pleasure, to smoke in the convention chamber while the House is sitting and proceeding on business. On motion of Mr Jay, Resolved that Capt Platt, Mr Cuyler and Mr Duane be and are hereby appointed a committee, to devise ways and means for cleaning the jail below and removing the prisoners."

On the 18th of March the committee reported ways and means for cleaning the jail, and they were agreed to.

At the same meeting resolutions were adopted appointing commissioners in the several counties for taking into possession and exposing for sale the personal property of persons gone over to the enemy, the net proceeds to be deposited in the treasury, to be thereafter paid to the respective owners, or otherwise disposed of
at the discretion of the Legislature, leaving, however, to each of
the families of the persons aforesaid their apparel, necessary house-
hold furniture, and such provisions as will be sufficient for their
subsistence for three months.

Patrick Barber, Benjamin Smedes, Jr., and Johannis Sleght
were appointed commissioners for Ulster County.

On the 13th of March, 1777, Captain Platt, Major Lawrence,
and Mr. Duane were appointed a committee to inquire into the cir-
cumstances of the prisoners confined at Kingston, and to administer
the oath of allegiance, and to discharge such as may appear to be
within the intention of the former resolutions of the convention.

On the 12th day of March, 1777, the committee which had been
appointed in the early part of the session to prepare and report a
plan or form of government, presented their report to the conven-
tion. After being read, it was, on motion of Colonel De Witt, laid
on the table until the next morning, and ordered that the same be
then taken under consideration.

The next day, the 13th, the convention proceeded to the con-
sideration of the reported plan of government, and thereupon
continued from time to time to consider it paragraph by paragraph,
and made sundry amendments thereto, until the 20th day of April,
1777, when it was read throughout, and the proposed amendments
were unanimously agreed to. The question was then put upon the
adoption of the constitution as amended, and it was adopted by
the affirmative vote of every member present except Peter R. Liv-
ingston, who requested that his dissent thereto be entered on the
minutes.

This important act occurred on the Sabbath day, revolutionary
times knowing no day of rest. It was then ordered that the con-
stitution of this State be published at the Court House on the en-
suing Tuesday morning at eleven o'clock; and the convention
further directed that the Kingston committee be furnished with a
copy of the resolution, and that they notify the inhabitants thereof.

On Tuesday, the 22d day of April, 1777, the members of the
convention, together with the people in the vicinity, were called
together by the merry peal of the church and other bells in the
village, to listen to the reading and promulgation of the constitu-
tion of the State in front of the Court House.

Preparatory to such meeting, the local authorities had for the
accommodation of the officers erected a platform consisting of a
few planks resting on barrels. At the appointed hour Colonel
Pierre Van Cortlandt, Vice-President of the Convention, and
Robert Berrian, one of its secretaries, mounted the primitive ro-
strum, and the secretary at once proceeded to read the document in
the presence of the assembled people. Thus was New York placed
under a model constitutional government, and all the sacred rights of freemen guaranteed to her citizens.

The constitution thus promulgated was truly a model for completeness and perfection in whatever light it may be considered, whether viewed simply as declaratory of the rights of the citizen, or as a system of government separately, or both combined. It stood the test of nearly half a century without any fundamental amendment. No subsequent constitution of the State can be said to be any improvement upon it, except in regard to such changes as became necessary by reason of the enormous increase and changes in population, wealth, and business, fostered and produced by its own wise and beneficent provisions.

Kingston has the honor of having been its birthplace, Charles De Witt, a representative from Ulster County, with being one of the members of the distinguished committee who prepared and reported the same to the convention, and Christopher Tappen, Matthew Rea, Matthew Cantine, Charles De Witt, and Arthur Parkes, delegates from Ulster County, with being among those who attended and participated in the revision, perfection, and final adoption of the instrument as the Constitution of the State of New York.

A committee, consisting of Messrs. R. R. Livingston, Scott,
Morris, Jay, and Hobart, was appointed to prepare and report a plan for organizing and establishing the government agreed to by the convention.

On the 30th of April, 1777, the committee reported a plan for organizing and establishing the government, and the convention at once entered upon its consideration. After some time spent thereon, in accordance with the suggestions of the report, they proceeded first to the formation of the Committee of Safety, to consist of fifteen members, to be clothed with full and plenary powers, until the complete organization of the State government. The convention then proceeded to the election of the members of such committee by ballot. The following named persons were elected: John Morin Scott, Robert R. Livingston, Christopher Tappan, Abraham Yates, Jr., Gouverneur Morris, Zephaniah Platt, John Jay, Charles De Witt, Robert Harper, Jacob Cuyler, Thomas Tredwell, Pierre Van Cortlandt, Matthew Cantine, John Sloss Hobart, and Jonathan G. Tompkins.

The convention then proceeded to the appointment of some judicial and other officers, as follows: Robert R. Livingston, chancellor; John Jay, chief-justice; John Morin Scott and Robert Yates, puisne judges; but General Scott refusing to accept, John Sloss Hobart was elected in his stead, and Egbert Benson was elected attorney-general.

On the 5th and 6th of May the convention proceeded to the election of various local officers, including, among others, Egbert Dumont, sheriff; Levi Pawling, first judge; and Derick Wynkoop, associate judge of Ulster County. George Clinton when a young man had been appointed clerk of Ulster County by the old colonial Governor Clinton, and still continued to hold such office. He was continued in the same office by the convention.

On the 8th day of May, the convention, by resolution, directed the sheriffs of the several counties to give at least ten days' public notice of an election to be held in each county, "for Governor Lieutenant Governor and Senators, by the Freeholders thereof, qualified as is by the constitution prescribed, and for Members of Assembly by the People at large."

The convention designated the places for holding the polls in the county of Ulster, as follows: At the Court House in Kingston; at the house of Ann Du Bois, in New Paltz; at the house of Sarah Hill, in Hanover Precinct, and at the house of Martin Wygant, in the Precinct of Newburgh.

On the 5th of May quite an excitement was raised in the convention upon a question of breach of privilege. The House was informed that one of its members, Colonel De Witt, was detained in custody of a guard of militia. The doorkeeper was sent to
inform Mr. De Witt that his immediate attendance in the House was required. Colonel De Witt informed the House that he had that morning been taken in custody by a guard of militia, under command of Captain Gerardus Hardenbergh, as a delinquent who had not furnished a draft for the militia. Gerardus Hardenbergh was at once summoned, and upon appearing was asked by what authority he took Colonel De Witt, a member of the House, in custody. He produced a warrant directed to him and issued by Colonel Jonathan Elmendorf, and said he thought it his duty to obey all orders from his superior officers. Colonel Elmendorf was then summoned. He produced the list of delinquents in Colonel Snyder's regiment as the same was transmitted by Colonel Snyder to him, which included Charles De Witt's name. Captain Hardenbergh was called up and asked whether Colonel De Witt was included in the list of delinquents reported by him to Colonel Snyder. He answered in the negative, but said that Colonel De Witt's negro Pete was on the list. The House then requested General George Clinton to direct Colonel Johannis Snyder to attend the House without delay. Colonel Snyder not attending before the adjournment, it was ordered that the subject-matter be referred to the Committee of Safety to hear and determine thereon.

Colonel Johannis Snyder attended before the Committee of Safety on the 23d day of May, 1777, in reference to the preceding breach of privilege, and after examining witnesses and hearing the explanations and statements of the different parties, it was by the committee "Resolved, That the said Colonel Snyder, Lieutenant-Colonel Elmendorf, and Captain Gerardus Hardenbergh are guilty of a high breach of the privileges of the convention of the State of New York—"

"Resolved That the conduct aforesaid, of the said Johannis Snyder, appears to this committee to have been unwarrantable, with respect to his general, affrontive with respect to the late convention of this State, and malicious with respect to the said Charles De Witt.

"Resolved that the foregoing state of facts, and resolutions, be laid before the council for the appointment of officers, at their first meeting."

Many of the inhabitants of those portions of the State which had been occupied by the enemy had, on account of their Whig tendencies, and support of the cause of freedom, fled from their homes and left their all behind. The convention very properly took action in their behalf, and on the 8th of May, 1777, after reciting that, "Whereas a regard to the sacred cause in which we are engaged, as well as common justice and humanity, dictates the propriety of adopting some mode of relief for such of the inhabitants of
the State, as have, by the hand of tyranny and injustice, been driven from their habitations, and deprived of their substance, and thereby rendered unable to support themselves," by resolution appointed two commissioners for each of the counties of Westchester, Duchess, Ulster, and Orange, to take the general superintendence and care of all such poor as aforesaid, in each of the respective counties for which they were appointed, with power, in said counties, to draw upon the State treasurer for a sum not exceeding five hundred pounds for each county. The commissioners appointed for the county of Ulster were Cornelius C. Schoonmaker and Johannes Slegt.

On the 15th of March the convention empowered the different committees within the counties of Ulster and northern parts of Orange, whenever they should deem it necessary for the advancement of the public service, to issue a warrant to impress such horses and wagons as they might deem necessary. They at the same time authorized and empowered the committee of Kingston to cause the two block-houses within the said town to be repaired and fitted for the accommodation of any sick soldiers of the United States who might pass that way, and transmit the account thereof to the convention, or some future Legislature of the State, to make provision for the payment thereof.

Experience having exhibited the necessity of some troops being subject to the orders of the Committee of Safety, it was ordered that a company be raised in the county of Ulster, to consist of one captain, two lieutenants, three sergeants, three corporals, one musician, and fifty privates, to be properly accoutred, and be under Continental rules and regulations. They were to perform the military service required of them by the Committee of Safety, and the committee was desired to recommend officers.

On the 11th of May the convention received a letter from General George Clinton, dated the 9th instant at Fort Montgomery, requesting leave of the convention to resign his commission of brigadier-general of the militia of Ulster and Orange counties, for reasons assigned in the letter. On the 13th of May the convention declined to accept General Clinton's resignation, and directed the Committee of Safety to write to him assigning the reasons for their refusal, among others that the high sense the convention entertained of his abilities to serve his country at this important hour forbade their complying with his request at present.

On the 13th of May, 1777, the State Convention dissolved after the adoption of a resolution directing the Committee of Safety to assemble at Kingston the next day.

On the 24th of June, 1777, a party of Indian warriors, who had been on a visit to Washington's headquarters, made a brief stop at
Kingston on their way home, when they appeared before the Committee of Safety of the State of New York, and were addressed by the president, as follows:

"Brothers, we are but a small part of the Great Council of the State of New York. The rest of our brethren have left us here to do the public business. Our Great Council have gone home to attend their own business, and are to meet here on the first day of the next month. We are sure they would have been glad to meet their brethren the Senecas in the Grand Council.

"We are sorry to hear that you are obliged to leave this place so soon. It would have given us great pleasure to smoke the pipe of friendship with you, and to have assured you further as we now do, of the determination of our Great Council to keep the road open between your nation and us, and to keep bright the chain of peace, as it has been between your and our forefathers.

"We commend the wisdom of our brethren the Senecas in appointing you to repair to our chief warrior and see the situation of our affairs. We hope you have found us strong for war, and that the enemy are so weak and so much in fear of us, that after coming out of their lines, they have been obliged to retreat precipitately to them without doing our army any mischief. You will now be able to contradict the false reports concerning the enemy's strength and our weakness, which their wicked emissaries have artfully attempted to spread through the Indian nations.

"Brothers we wish you a good journey. Assure our brothers the Senecas, and the rest of the Six Nations of our friendship, and accept this small acknowledgment of the regard we have for you."

At the election held in the State of New York in the year 1777, for the choice of the first governor, lieutenant-governor, and senators, under the constitution lately adopted and promulgated, there were, besides a very few scattering votes, 3762 votes cast for governor, of which George Clinton received 1828; Philip Schuyler, 1199; John M. Scott, 368; John Jay, 367.

There were 3491, besides a few scattering votes, for lieutenant-governor, of which George Clinton received 1647; Pierre Van Cortlandt, 1098; A. Ten Broeck, 746.

The vote in Kingston stood: For governor, Clinton, 66; Scott, 33; Schuyler, 10. For lieutenant-governor, Van Cortlandt, 63; Clinton, 27; Scott, 14.

Thus it will be seen that Clinton was nearly the unanimous choice of the electors for either the one or the other of those offices. Nearly all those who preferred Schuyler, Scott, or Jay for governor selected Clinton as their choice for lieutenant-governor. That was an election truly without a parallel.

On the 9th day of July the Committee of Safety, having examined
the poll lists and ballots returned by the sheriffs of the respective counties of the several elections held in the said counties for governor and lieutenant-governor, and also for senators, did declare that George Clinton was duly elected governor of the State, and that he was also elected lieutenant-governor; that in the middle district, of which Ulster County formed a part, Levi Pawling, Henry Wisner, Jesse Woodhull, Zephaniah Platt, Jonathan Landon, and Arthur Parkes, were elected senators.

The president, by direction of the committee, addressed a letter to Governor Clinton, of which the following is a copy: "Sir, I am directed, by the Council, to present you their congratulations, upon your being elected, by the free suffrage of the freeholders of the State, to the office of Governor and also of Lieutenant Governor; at the same time, I am to desire, that you will make such arrangements of your affairs, as to come with all convenient speed to this place, to take the oath of the office which you shall think proper to accept, according to the ordinance of the late convention, and likewise to signify your resignation of one of them, to the end that a new election may be held."

On the 10th day of July, 1777, eighty prisoners arrived from Albany in two sloops to be confined on board the fleet prison at Kingston, and the warden requested an increase of the guard. The committee at once ordered that Major Van Zandt and Mr. Cantine, with the sheriff of Ulster, immediately proceed to the strand and give the necessary directions with respect to guard and disposition of the prisoners.

On Tuesday, the 15th, the committee ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Elmendorf, by draft out of his regiment of militia, to furnish a captain and twenty men, and Lieutenant-Colonel Hoornbeek, out of his regiment of militia, a lieutenant and fifteen men, to guard the prisoners in Kingston Jail and fleet prison, by Thursday next, the 17th, at four o'clock. And that Captains Elmendorf and Bogardus, of Colonel Snyder's regiment, by four o'clock that afternoon, furnish a guard and twenty-four men to relieve the guards at the Court House and fleet prisons, to be continued until relieved by other guards from the militia.

On the 16th of July Captain Schoonmaker was appointed to raise a company of men similar to the company he lately raised, and commanded to be under the orders of the Committee of Safety. On the 16th of July the Committee of Safety ordered that the Legislature of the State meet at Kingston, on the 1st day of August.

On the 17th of July, 1777, owing to the hostile attitude exhibited by the Indians, it was ordered that two companies of Rangers be raised, to serve in the counties of Tryon, Ulster, and Albany, for
the protection of the frontier inhabitants. The officers were designated as follows: Of the first company, John Harper, Captain; Alexander Harper, First Lieutenant. Of the second company, James Clyde, Captain; John Campbell, First Lieutenant.

On the 11th day of July General Clinton sent a communication to the Committee of Safety accepting the office of governor and resigning that of lieutenant-governor; also stating that as soon as consistent with his duty, and the safety of the State at his post (Fort Montgomery) would admit, he would repair to Kingston and take the oath of office.

On the 30th day of July, 1777, Governor Clinton appeared in the Committee of Safety and took both the oath of allegiance and the oath of office. The oaths were administered by the president in committee.

The committee then at once issued a proclamation for declaring and proclaiming the governor of the State, as follows:

"Whereas his Excellency George Clinton has been elected Governor of this State of New York, and hath this day qualified himself for the execution of his office, by taking in this Council the oaths required by the Constitution of this State, to enable him to exercise his said office; This Council doth, therefore hereby, in the name and by the authority of the good People of this State, proclaim and declare the said George Clinton Esq Governor General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of this State, to whom the good People of this State are to pay all due obedience according to the laws and Constitution thereof—

"By order of the Council of Safety

"Pierre Van Cortlandt President.

"God save the People

"Ordered that John Holt immediately print 500 copies and that the proclamation be made and published, by the Sheriff of Ulster County, at or near the Court house in Kingston at six O'clock this afternoon.

"Resolved and Ordered That Captain Evert Bogardus and Captain John Elmendorf do cause the companies of Militia, under their respective commands, to appear at the Court house in Kingston at six O'clock this afternoon properly armed and accoutered, at which time and place his Excellency George Clinton will be proclaimed Governor of this State."

At the time and place aforesaid, accompanied with all proper solemnity, the firing of a feu de joie by the military, and the ringing of bells, the proclamation was read announcing the assumption of power by the first governor of the State of New York.

There was not, probably, a more zealous and earnest advocate
for the rights of the people and the freedom of America than the Rev. George J. L. Doll, the pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church in Kingston at that time. He did much to sustain and encourage the patriotic sentiment and ardor so strongly exhibited by the citizens of Kingston during the protracted struggle for independence. The wives and mothers in his flock received from him religious consolation and encouragement during the absence of their loved ones in defence of their country, and he taught them not to stay the hand which was ready to strike for liberty.

The following letter sent by him, in behalf of the Consistory, to Governor Clinton, upon the occasion of his inauguration, breathes the true spirit of patriotism:

"To His Excellency, George Clinton Esq Governor General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of the State of New York;

"May it please your Excellency

"At the commencement of the new Constitution, and at the very hour of your Inauguration, the Minister Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Dutch Church of Kingston, in Consistory assembled, beg leave to congratulate your Excellency upon the highest honours the subjects of a free State can possess, and to assure you of the part they bear in the public happiness of this occasion.

"From the beginning of the present war, the Consistory and People of Kingston have been uniformly attached to the cause of America, and justify, upon the soundest principles of religion and morality, the glorious revolution of a free and oppressed country. Convinced of the unrighteous design of Great Britain, upon their civil and religious privileges, they chose without hesitation, rather to suffer with a brave people for a season, than to enjoy the luxuries and friendship of a wicked and cruel nation.

"With an inexpressible perseverance, which they trust the greatest adversity and persecution will never change, they profess anew, to your Excellency, their interest in the Continental Union and loyalty to the State of New York.

"While the Constitution is preserved inviolate, and the rulers steer by that conspicuous beacon, the people have the fairest prospect of happiness, unanimity and success. With you, they choose to launch, that future pilots may form a precedent from your vigilance, impartiality, and firmness, and the system obtain an establishment, that shall last for ages. For as nothing can be more agreeable to the conscious Patriot, than the approbation of his country, so nothing can more promote the general good, than placing confidence in established characters, and raising merit to distinguished power.

"Take, then, with the acclamations and fullest confidence of
the public—take, sir, the government in your own hands, and let the unsolicited voice, of a whole State, prevail upon you to enter upon the arduous task.

"All ranks in placing you at their head, have pledged their lives and fortunes to support and defend you in this exalted station, and the Consistory of Kingston cheerfully unite in the implicit stipulation, and promise you their prayers.

"As a reformation in morals, and the prevalence of virtue is the immediate object of the Consistory of Kingston, they esteem themselves especially happy, in having cause to believe that religious liberty (without which all other privileges are not worth enjoying) will be strenuously supported by your Excellency, and they congratulate themselves and the State, that God has given them a Governor, who understands, and therefore loves the Christian religion, and who, in his Administration, will prove a terror to evil doers, and an example and patron to them that do well

"Signed by order of the Committee

"George J L Doll Præsid."

"August 2, 1777"

The first court held under the first Constitution of the State of New York was opened by Chief-Justice Jay, in the Court House in the village of Kingston, on the 9th day of September, 1777. The Grand Jury was composed of twenty-two of the most respectable men in the county of Ulster.

After they had been sworn Chief-Justice Jay delivered the following charge:

"Gentlemen It affords me very sensible pleasure to congratulate you on the dawn of that free mild and equal Government, which now begins to rise and break from amidst those clouds of anarchy, confusion and licentiousness, which the arbitrary and violent domination of the King of Great Britain had spread, in greater or less degree, throughout this and the other American States. And it gives me particular satisfaction to remark, that the first fruits of our excellent constitution appear in a part of this State, whose inhabitants have distinguished themselves, by having unanimously endeavored to deserve them.

"This is one of those signal instances, in which Divine Providence has made the Tyranny of Princes instrumental in breaking the chains of their subjects; and rendered the most inhuman designs, productive of the best consequences, to those against whom they were intended.

"The infatuated Sovereign of Britain forgetful that Kings were the servants, not the proprietors, and ought to be the fathers, not the incendiaries of their people, hath, by destroying our former
constitutions, enabled us to erect more eligible systems of government on their ruins; and by unwarrantable attempts to bind us in all cases whatever, has reduced us to the happy necessity of being free from his control in any.

"Whoever compares our present with our former Constitution, will find abundant reason to rejoice in the exchange, and readily admit, that all the calamities, incident to this war, will be amply compensated by the many blessings flowing from this glorious revolution. A revolution which, in the whole course of its rise and progress, is distinguished by so many marks of the Divine favor and interposition, that no doubt can remain of its being finally accomplished.

"It was begun and has been supported, in a manner so singular, and I may say, miraculous, that when future ages shall read its history, they will be tempted to consider great part of it as fabulous. What, among other things, can appear more unworthy of credit, than in an enlightened age, in a civilized and Christian country, in a nation so celebrated for humanity, as well as love of liberty and justice, as the English once justly were, a prince should arise, who, by the influence of corruption alone, should be able to seduce them into a combination, to reduce three millions of his most loyal and affectionate subjects, to absolute slavery under pretence of a right, appertaining to God alone, of binding them in all cases whatever, not even excepting cases of conscience and religion? What can appear more improbable, although true, than that this prince, and this people, should obstinately steel their hearts, and shut their ears, against the most humble petitions and affectionate remonstrances, and unjustly determine by violence and force, to execute designs, which were reprobated by every principle of humanity, equity, gratitude and policy—designs which would have been execrable, if intended against savages and enemies, and yet formed against men descended from the same common ancestors with themselves; men who had liberally contributed to their support, and cheerfully fought their battles, even in remote and baleful climates? Will it not appear extraordinary, that thirteen Colonies, the object of their wicked designs, divided by variety of governments and manners, should immediately become one people, and though without funds, without magazines, without disciplined troops, in the face of their enemies, unanimously determine to be free; and undaunted by the power of Britain, refer their cause to the justice of the Almighty, and resolve to repel force by force? Thereby presenting to the world an illustrious example of magnanimity and virtue scarcely to be paralleled? Will it not be matter of doubt and wonder, that notwithstanding these difficulties, they should raise armies, establish funds, carry on commerce, grow rich
by the spoils of their enemies, and bid defiance to the armies of Britain, the mercenaries of Germany and the savages of the wilderness?—But however incredible these things may in future appear, we know them to be true, and we should always remember, that the many remarkable and unexpected means and events, by which our wants have been supplied, and our enemies repelled or restrained, are such strong and striking proofs of the interposition of Heaven, that our having been hitherto delivered from the threatened bondage of Britain, ought, like the emancipation of the Jews from Egyptian servitude, to be forever ascribed to its true cause, and instead of swelling our breasts with arrogant ideas of our prowess and importance, kindle in them a flame of gratitude and piety, which may consume all remains of vice and irreligion.

"Blessed be God! the time will never arrive when the prince of a country in another quarter of the globe, will command your obedience and hold you in vassalage. His consent has ceased to be necessary to enable you to enact laws essential to your welfare, nor will you, in future, be subject to the imperious sway of rulers, instructed to sacrifice your happiness whenever it might be inconsistent with the ambitious views of their royal master.

"The Americans are the first People whom Heaven has favored with an opportunity of deliberating upon and choosing the forms of government under which they should live; all other constitutions have derived their existence from violence or accidental circumstances, and are therefore probably more distant from their perfection, which, though beyond our reach, may nevertheless be approached under the guidance of reason and experience.

"How far the People of this State have improved this opportunity we are at no loss to determine. Their Constitution has given general satisfaction at home, and been not only approved, but applauded abroad. It would be a pleasing task to take a minute view of it, to investigate its principles, and remark the connection and use of its several parts—but that would be a work of too great length to be proper on this occasion. I must therefore confine myself to general observations; and among those which naturally arise from a consideration of this subject, none are more obvious, than that the highest respect has been paid to those great and equal rights of human nature, which should ever remain inviolate in every society—and that such care has been taken in the disposition of the legislative, executive and judicial powers of government, as to promise permanence to the Constitution, and give energy and impartiality to the distribution of justice. So that while you possess wisdom to discern and virtue to appoint men of worth and abilities to fill the offices of the State, you will be happy at home and respected abroad.—Your life, your liberties, your
property, will be at the disposal only of your Creator and yourselves. You will know no power but such as you will create; no authority unless derived from your grant, no laws, but such as acquire all their obligation from your consent.

"Adequate security is also given to the rights of conscience and private judgment. They are, by nature, subject to no control but that of the Deity, and in that free situation they are now left. Every man is permitted to consider, to adore and to worship his Creator in the manner most agreeable to his conscience. No opinions are dictated; no rules of faith prescribed; no preference given to one sect to the prejudice of others.—The Constitution, however, has wisely declared, that the 'liberty of conscience thereby granted, shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness, or justify practices inconsistent with the peace or safety of this State.' In a word the convention, by whom that Constitution was formed, were of opinion, that the gospel of Christ like the ark of God, would not fall, though unsupported by the arm of flesh, and happy would it be for mankind, if that opinion prevailed more generally.

"But let it be remembered, that whatever marks of wisdom, experience and patriotism there may be in your Constitution, yet, like the beautiful symmetry, the just proportions, and elegant forms of our first parents, before their maker breathed into them the breath of life, it is yet to be animated, and till then may indeed, excite admiration, but will be of no use. From the People it must receive its spirit, and by them be quickened. Let virtue, honor, the love of liberty and of science be, and remain, the soul of this Constitution, and it will become the source of great and extensive happiness to this and future generations. Vice, ignorance and want of vigilance will be the only enemies able to destroy it. Against these provide, and, of these, be forever jealous. Every member of the State, ought diligently to read and study the Constitution of his country, and teach the rising generation to be free. By knowing their rights, they will sooner perceive when they are violated and be better prepared to defend and assert them.

"This, gentlemen, is the first court held under the authority of our Constitution, and I hope its proceedings will be such, as to merit the approbation of the friends, and avoid giving cause of censure to the enemies of the present establishment.

"It is proper to observe, that no person in this State, however exalted or low his rank, however dignified or humble his station, but has a right to the protection of, and is amenable to the laws of the land, and that if those laws be wisely made and duly executed, innocence will be defended, oppression punished, and vice restrained. Hence it becomes the common duty, and indeed the
common interest, of every subject of the State, and particularly of those concerned in the distribution of Justice, to unite in repressing the licentious, in supporting the laws, and thereby diffusing the blessings of peace, security, order and good government through all degrees and ranks of men among us.

"I presume it will be unnecessary to remind you that neither fear, favor, resentment, or other personal and partial considerations should influence your conduct. Calm deliberate reason, candor, moderation, a dispassionate, and yet a determined resolution to do your duty, will, I am persuaded, be the principles by which you will be directed.

"You will be pleased to observe, that all offences committed in this county against the peace of the People of this State, from treason to trespass, are proper objects of your attention and enquiry.

"You will give particular attention to the practice of counterfeiting the bills of credit, emitted by the general CONGRESS or other of the AMERICAN STATES, and of knowingly passing such counterfeits. Practices no less criminal in themselves, than injurious to the interests of that great cause, on the success of which the happiness of AMERICA so essentially depends."

On the 1st of August, the time fixed for the meeting of the Leg-
islature at Kingston, the condition of the country was such that the governor deemed it advisable to prorogue it until the 20th, and again until the 1st of September.

Governor Clinton when in Kingston made the house, in North Front Street, of his brother-in-law, Christopher Tappen, his headquarters, and there performed his ordinary executive duties. When, however, he met the Legislature in joint convention it was at the Court House.

Colonel Levi Pawling, of Ulster County, was one of the senators elected from the middle district, and was the only representative of Ulster County in the Senate.

The Senate met and organized at the house of Abraham Van Gaasbeek. This house was located on the west side of East Front Street, now Clinton Avenue, near the corner of North Front Street. It was a long, low, one-story stone building with a steep roof. The main hall was near the north end, with a room on each side. At the south end was a room with a direct opening or doorway into the street. There is nothing in the legislative minutes showing in what room the Senate met, but from the fact that the south room was the largest, and also had a direct communication with the street, it is presumed that that was the actual Senate Chamber in which the first Senate of the State of New York met and was organized.

John Cantine, Johannis G. Hardenbergh, Matthew Rea, Cornelius C. Schoonmaker, Colonel Johannis Snyder, and Henry Wisner, Jr.; were the representatives from Ulster County in the Assembly.
The Assembly met and organized at the public house of Evert Bogardus, situate at the northwest corner of Maiden Lane and Fair Street. They were unable to meet at the Court House as the Supreme Court was then in session there.

By reason of the want of a quorum in the Senate the Legislature did not become fully organized until the 10th of September.

With the organization of the Legislature the State government became operative and complete in all its three departments—the executive, the legislative, and the judicial—within the bounds of the then village of Kingston, and the wheels of government were there put in full perpetual motion.

The legislative session was brief, and was cut short by the invader’s approach. The burning of the village in October put an end to any hope that might have been entertained of making Kingston the permanent seat of the State government. The Legislature after that partook for a time of a migratory character. When not specially convened by call they met at such place as had been fixed by resolution of adjournment at the last previous meeting. When no place was fixed, then at the place of their last meeting.

By special resolutions from time to time prior to their final location at Albany upon the completion of the Capitol, they met at Kingston in August, 1779, in April, 1780, and in March, 1783.
CHAPTER XVII.

CAMPAIGN OF 1777, INCLUDING BURNING OF KINGSTON.

In the last chapter was chronicled the complete inauguration of the State government and the starting of its wheels in full operation, but still surrounded with perils and dangers on every side, threatened by enemies from without, requiring its entire strength for defence, at the same time that the homes of its loyal citizens and the lives of their families were threatened by bitter and deadly foes from within. It becomes necessary to go back again in our detail to the fall and winter of 1776–77 to note the movements of troops and preparations for continuing the deadly conflict.

On the part of the British, General Howe, the commander-in-chief, chagrined at the failure of the campaign designed to crush New York in 1776, and finding that General Burgoyne, commanding the Northern army, had retired to winter quarters without accomplishing anything, figured out extensive and crushing operations for the year 1777, designed, as he wrote in his official communication to Lord George Germaine, under date of November 30th, 1776, "if possible to finish the war in one year by an extensive and vigorous exertion of his Majesty's arms." He should have added, with those of Russia and Germany.

His plan is thus set forth in his letter:

"1st. An offensive army of 10,000 rank and file to act on the side of Rhode Island, by taking possession of Providence, penetrating from thence into the country towards Boston, and if possible to reduce that town; two thousand men to be left for the defence of Rhode Island, and for making small incursions, under the protection of the shipping, upon the coast of Connecticut. This army to be commanded by Lieut Gen Clinton.

"2. An offensive army, in the province of New York, to move up the North river to Albany, to consist of not less than 10,000 men, and 5,000 for the defence of New York and adjacent posts.

"By the last information from the northward, I learn the army from Canada was obliged, by the severity of the weather, to repass the lake, from Crown Point on the 5th instant, from which event, and a consideration of the difficulties that army must meet with before it reaches Albany, in the course of the next campaign, it is
reasonable to conclude this will not be effected earlier than September.

"3rd. A defensive army of 8000 men to cover Jersey, and to keep the Southern army in check, by giving a jealousy to Philadelphia, which I would propose to attack in Autumn, as well as Virginia, provided the success of other operations will admit of an adequate force to be sent against that province.

"South Carolina and Georgia must be the objects for winter. But to complete this plan, not less than ten ships of the line will be absolutely requisite, and a reinforcement of troops to the amount of 15,000 rank and file, which I should hope may be had from Russia, or from Hanover and other German States, particularly some Hanoverian chasseurs, who I am well informed are exceeding good troops.

"By this calculation the army, in the Southern district, would consist of 35,000 effective men, to oppose 50,000 that the American Congress has voted for the service of next campaign. . . . Were the force I have mentioned sent out, it would strike such terror through the country, that little resistance would be made to the progress of his majesty's arms in the provinces of New England, New York, the Jerseys and Pennsylvania after the junction of the Northern and Southern armies."

Such was the plan set forth by General Howe for the consideration of the ministry. In addition to this magnificent programme from below, preparations were being made for a crushing blow against New York from Canada at the North. General Carleton was superseded by General Burgoyne in the supreme command of the Northern army, and he made his preparations upon a grand and magnificent scale. His programme was to enter the State with his army in two divisions. The left wing, comprising the main branch, to be commanded by himself in person, was to enter through Lake Champlain. The right wing was to be under the command of Colonel St. Leger, and was to enter the State by crossing Lake Ontario near its entrance into the St. Lawrence, and there to form a junction with their Indian and Tory allies.

As it was not expected that General Burgoyne could reach the upper Hudson until September, General Howe left a part of his forces in New York and some in Rhode Island under the command of Sir Henry Clinton, and then took the main body with him by sea to operate elsewhere.

Such delay on the part of the British to attempt the passage up the river with their fleet enabled the Americans to perfect their plans for the obstruction of the river in the narrow passes of the Highlands. They having no naval force worthy of the name, the only way to check the passage of the British fleet up the river was
by obstructions in the channel, with forts located to command the passage. To accomplish this object the Americans stretched a chain across the river at West Point and erected Forts Montgomery, Clinton, and Constitution in the vicinity.

As long as those forts were in the possession of the Americans, and well manned, and the chain of sufficient strength to resist the force of vessels under full headway, the obstruction was complete, for the enemy could use no other means to remove the chain under the fire of the forts. There was also a *chevaux-de-frise* at Polopin Island, but without forts for protection.

It was vitally important, therefore, that the forts should be sufficiently manned at all times. But many circumstances combined to render that almost impossible. New York was hemmed in on the north by the invading forces from Canada, which gave employment for all, and more than all, the strength of Northern New York. On the south was the British army, with a naval force ready to transport it in any direction, or to any unexpected quarter, which gave employment to all the forces which could be gathered below the Highlands from all directions. So that Ulster, Orange, Duchess, and a part of Westchester, were substantially all that were left to furnish troops. Add to this that sufficient men had to be left in the border counties of Ulster and Orange to protect their outer settlements from Indian raids and incursions and to keep the Tories in check, and further consider the great hesitancy evinced on the part of adjoining States to aid New York with needed reinforcements, and it can create no surprise that those forts were seldom, if ever, sufficiently garrisoned.

The following correspondence is of interest to show the great insufficiency of the forces under General George Clinton to defend the forts and protect the river:

"**Head Quarters**

**Morristown 19th Feby 1777**

"Sir Information being lodged, that many of the inhabitants, living near the Passaic Falls, are busily employed in removing their provisions and forage within the enemy's reach, with a design of supplying them, obliges me to beg the favor of you to let me know what success you have experienced in collecting the troops voted, by the Convention of the State of New York. The presence of some men in that neighborhood would be attended with much good; add to this the well grounded probability, that the enemy, being lately reinforced, will make some movement soon, and you will I am satisfied use your utmost exertions to bring a reinforcement to our assistance. At present I cannot check the above mentioned practice, least the detachment, sent that way, may be more wanted for other purposes than this. I therefore
hope that some of your troops will take that duty off my hands, and that you will further enable me effectually to oppose any designs of the enemy.

"I am Sir Your Most obedt Servt

"Gen Geo Clinton New Windsor—"

"GEO WASHINGTON"

It may be noted here that the above urgent call was rendered necessary by some Americans having more regard for the dollar than for their country.

"New Windsor 23 Feby 1777

"Dear Sir

"On my arrival home last night, I received a letter from his Excellency General Washington, of which the enclosed is a copy. By this you will find that more is expected of me than is in my power. Even tho' the 500 men ordered to be raised in Duchess and Westchester were completed, unless they were to join me on this side the river, I should be able to afford but a very inconsiderable reinforcement to the main army (if any at all) after posting sufficient detachments at the pass, for effecting the business more particularly recommended in his Excellency’s letter. Col Pawling’s regiment consists now of only 361 including officers, and they occupy three different posts, to wit Sydman’s bridge, Cloyster and Hackensack, all equally, if not more necessary, than that mentioned by the General, and I don’t immagine he means they should be abandoned. I fear that sending a detachment out of this small force, (already much divided) to Pasaic falls will be endangering the other posts; at any rate it will render the duty on the men exceedingly hard. I will however order a Lieutenant’s party there, for the present, in hopes that some way may be devised to supply this place. Useless as the rangers have been, would it not be best to annex Belknap’s and De Witt’s companies to Col Pawling’s regiment on this occasion. I have issued orders to the Militia Colonels, to complete their complement of men, which they were to have raised, some of whom have been much more deficient in this respect than I could have thought.

"This, and the number that have enlisted, out of Col Pawling’s regiment, in the standing army, and some desertions, of Tory drafts, to the enemy, are the reasons why it falls so much short of its complement.

* * * * * * * * * * *

"I am with due respect your most Obedt Servt

"Geo Clinton"

"To the Hon The Prest of the Convention of the State of N. Y."
On the 26th day of February, 1777, the Council of Safety appointed Messrs. Taylor and Cuyler a committee to confer with Generals George and James Clinton and General McDougall, and inform themselves in regard to the forces requisite for defending the forts and passes in the Highlands, and afterward wait upon the commander-in-chief, General Washington, "with the intelligence they had acquired."

On the 12th of March, 1777, they made their report to the convention, which was then in session.

By the report it appeared that the obstruction to the navigation was in a state of great forwardness; that it would require one thousand men at least to defend Fort Montgomery; that Fort Constitution, from its disadvantageous situation, might be easily taken if besieged with artillery.

On the 18th of March the convention adopted and forwarded letters to Congress, with others from General Washington and General McDougall, urging the strengthening, arming, and manning the fortresses in the Highlands, and the appointment of General George Clinton to their command.

On the 25th day of March, 1777, resolutions were passed by the State Convention authorizing General George Clinton to call out the whole or any part of the militia of the counties of Ulster, Duchess, Orange, and Westchester, whenever he should deem the same necessary, either on the requisition of His Excellency General Washington, or at his own discretion, and station them in such manner as might be most proper for securing the forts and passes in the Highlands, and frustrating the attempts of the enemy to make incursions into this State. The resolutions also directed that whatever sums General George Clinton should certify to be due to any body of the militia so called into service, should "be forthwith paid out of the Treasury of the State."

He was further authorized to impress carriages, horses, teams, boats, and vessels, and take care that the wages or hire for the same be punctually paid; and whenever satisfaction could not otherwise be speedily obtained, he was authorized to draw on the convention.

This extraordinary power vested by the convention in a single man exhibits in a high degree the confidence placed by the sages of that body in the judgment, honor, and integrity of General Clinton, and it is a pleasure to know that their confidence was neither misplaced nor abused.

On the same day, the 25th day of March, the Continental Congress passed a resolution that a commandant of the forts in the Highlands be appointed with the rank of brigadier-general, and
immediately appointed General George Clinton to such command, and promoted him to the rank of brigadier-general.

His commission was immediately forwarded to the New York Convention, and received on the 1st day of April. His former commission was under State authority; this was from the general government.

General Clinton issued orders on the 31st day of March, 1777, requiring that one third part of the militia of the counties of Ulster and Orange be forthwith called into actual service, and that for that purpose "the Colonels of the respective regiments by ballot, or any other equitable manner, immediately detach the third part of their Regiment under proper officers of each company, to consist of sixty two privates, as near as may be. That the men, thus raised, be divided into three regiments commanded by

Col Pawling, Lt Col Mc Claughry Major Logan
" Snyder " Hardenbergh Jr " Hooghteling
" Heathorn " Cuyper " Muffelt

That the Companies of Horse turn out their Quota, and that the exempts be included in the third part of the militia to be raised."

On the 27th of April, 1777, a further order dated at Fort Montgomery was issued, as follows: "It is essential to the safety of this post, that Colonel Pawling's and Col Snyder's regiments be immediately completed to their full complement of men; which being the case will supersede the necessity of calling out any further part of the Militia in this busy season of the year. It is therefore ordered in the most express and positive terms, that the Colonels or Commanding officers of the Militia Regiments do forthwith furnish their respective quotas of Men, as fixed by the order for raising and marching the above two regiments to this post, and that they also return Muster rolls of their said Regiments to the General.

" As many of the men belonging to said Regiments, now at this post, being principally persons hired by others who were drafted, are without arms and otherwise unprovided; it is ordered that the persons who were so drafted do immediately provide and deliver arms and accoutrements to those whom they have so hired, or in failure thereof they be immediately brought to this Post to perform their own duty

"Albert Pawling Major of Brigade"

Such were some of the movements and orders made to put the country in as good a situation for defence as possible. But it was also necessary that some means of communication should be established between the Northern and the Southern armies in the State,
The country being new, and sparsely settled, communication between distant points was slow, and none regularly established. Some special arrangement to that end was therefore necessary. With this object in view, on the 5th day of August, 1777, Captain Salisbury, of the Kingston Light Horse, was ordered to furnish a detachment consisting of a non-commissioned officer and six privates to be stationed at Kingston and at other points between that and the Northern army to serve as expresses; and an equal number at New Burgh of Captain Woodhull's company, between that and Fort Montgomery, and thence to headquarters.

In preparation for an attack from below, Captains Pawling's, Snyder's, Graham's, Freer's, Humphrey's, and Sutherland's regiments were ordered to hold themselves in perfect readiness to march on a moment's warning, and if the enemy should approach the western frontier, Colonel Pawling was directed to send detachments from his and Colonel Snyder's regiment to protect the inhabitants, besides the frontier companies of Allison's and McClaughry's regiments, which were left at home for the same purpose.

On the near approach of fall it became necessary to prepare for the worst, for the enemy, if they designed striking a severe blow at all, must do it soon. The Council of Safety, therefore, turned their attention to the National Congress, and on the 7th of August, 1777, addressed a letter to the delegates of this State in that body in reference to their unsatisfactory condition, stating, among other things, that, "as the defence of this State is intimately connected with the safety of America, the convention have not only exerted their utmost strength, but cheerfully agreed to sacrifice local attachments, and a great share of their property, to the attainment of these desirable ends. . . . That by far the greater part of the levies ordered, by the Congress, to be raised from our Militia, are completed and at their several stations. . . . The whole number of drafts from the Militia of this State, exclusive of the Continental Battalions raised therein, will amount to about nine thousand men. The stations, the last levies will occupy, being on our frontiers, in the Highlands and on Long Island, prevent their adding to the strength of the army at New York, much as it needs their assistance.

"It gives us great pain to inform you, that the aid received from our sister States is very inadequate to our expectation, none of them having yet completed the levies directed by Congress; which leaves us reason to fear, that instead of using every means that human wisdom dictates for insuring success, we shall (with inferior numbers) on the doubtful issue of a single battle, hazard the glorious cause for which we have hitherto struggled."

Among other matters the letter suggested that the forces em-
ployed on the frontiers were of general utility, and the immediate demand for them required the payment of considerable bounties, and therefore they should be taken into the pay of the general government. "But," the letter proceeded to state, "should the Congress think otherwise, we propose to retain them at our own expense, since we are determined to neglect no measures, (however burdensome) if within our reach, which we conceive necessary for the safety of America."

The object has been to give a sufficient part of this letter to show to what extent New York was in fact left to rest upon her own resources, and the patriotic spirit which animated her representatives.

On Tuesday, the 12th of August, 1777, the Council of Safety received information of a reported design on the part of some Indians and Tories to make a descent upon Kingston on the following Friday night, to burn and destroy it. They placed but little confidence in the report, but advised Colonel Pawling thereof, and requested him to take such precautionary measures as would render the scheme abortive.

The time passed without any appearance on the part of the Indians.

Their attention was then called in another direction for the relief of loyal citizens in an adjoining county. Information was received that one Captain Man had organized a band composed of Tories and Indians in Schoharie to operate against the loyal citizens, and that Colonel Vrooman and a party of Whigs were besieged there by a band of Tories. Colonel Pawling was on the 12th of August ordered out with a detachment of two hundred men from his regiment, to proceed to Schoharie for the destruction of Man and his party, and the relief of the Whigs and loyal citizens.

General Burgoyne in the latter part of June had his (the left) wing of the invading army gathered at Crown Point, composed of nearly eight thousand men, and on the 2d of July he succeeded in capturing Fort Ticonderoga. Thus far he drove everything before him, and apparently had a kind of triumphal march through the country. But General Schuyler not having an army sufficient to oppose his progress, resorted to tactics of obstructing the roads and tearing down bridges to such an extent that General Burgoyne occupied twenty-four days in marching twenty-six miles, thus giving time for the Americans to gather re-enforcements.

Ulster County was then called upon to send troops to the north to strengthen the Northern army in that great emergency.

But General Clinton, on the 13th of August, wrote to the Council of Safety that, though he most anxiously wished it was in his power to re-enforce the Northern army, and give succor to the
brave and much-distressed inhabitants of Tryon County, yet he
could not be induced to think it would be prudent to draw the
militia from so far down as this to the northward until the design
of the enemy’s Southern army could be more fully ascertained.

General Schuyler by letter of the same date to the President of
the Council of Safety, set forth the plight in which he was then
placed. He stated that he had on the previous night received a
letter dated the 9th from Governor Trumbull, of Connecticut, from
which he was given to understand that he must not expect any aid
from that State. The general further stated that by letters re-
ceived on the 11th, he had been advised as to Massachusetts that
orders had been issued for the march of one sixth part of six regi-
ments in the county of Worcester, and one in the county of Middle-
sex: that when they arrived, if they ever did, it would increase
the number of his army about six or seven hundred; that his
whole Continental force of effectives did not exceed three thousand
four hundred rank and file; that he had about forty militia from
this State, but none from any other.

About the same time the Council of Safety communicated to
the delegates from this State in Congress the information they had
acquired in regard to the respective forces on both sides: that
they had no positive information, but as near as they could gather,
from examination of prisoners and other sources, the whole number
of regular troops in the Northern army with Burgoyne was about
six thousand, besides a large number of Tories and Indians, who
had joined him since the evacuation of Ticonderoga; that about
eight hundred Regulars, together with four hundred Canadians,
Tories, and Indians, were besieging Fort Schuyler.

In reference to our own Northern army it was stated that it
did not exceed four thousand men.

The communication further stated that about two thousand of
our militia went up when the army retreated to Fort Edward, and
about twelve hundred came in from the Eastern States and the
Grants. As it was the height of harvest, and the militia were very
uneasy at their stay, the general thought it advisable to dismiss
part of them, on condition that the remainder would continue
three weeks, by which time they expected to be relieved by Conti-
nental troops or militia. One thousand of the militia had remained
until that time. Most of them, who had then come away, had
found it necessary, on account of the retreat of the army, to re-
move their families. The governor had ordered the whole militia
of Albany to supply their places, but fear was expressed that his
order would not be obeyed, as the disaffected had gained ascend-
ancy in many places, and not only refused to go themselves, but
compelled the Whigs to side with them. He had, however, sent
up from Ulster and Duchess counties five hundred men, to remain until the 1st of November; he had also ordered two hundred men to Schokararie, where the Whigs were besieged by Tories and Indians. He had seven hundred militia out in Tryon County, and about two thousand men in passes of the Highlands, seven hundred of these being drafted to continue until the 1st of November, and the rest were the whole militia of the counties of Orange and the lower part of Duchess and Ulster.

The letter proceeded: "You gentlemen who know our weakness, the great drains we have had, the troops we are obliged to keep on posts to guard the disaffected prisoners in every quarter, the number that are pressed into service as wagoners, bateaumen, etc. and that this whole force is drawn from four counties out of fourteen, that we once possessed, will think it much beyond our strength, but we are resolved if we do fall to fall as becomes brave men."

Albany was not included in the above computation for reasons already stated, although it was probable a small force might be drawn from there.

These were dark and desponding days for the Whigs of New York, apparently left almost entirely to their own insufficient resources. But soon rays of light darted forth in the Northern horizon; the nobly-fought battle of Oriskany, under General Herkimer, on the 6th, with the Canadians and Indians, followed on the 16th by the triumphant victory of General Stark with his brigade from the Granite State and the militia and rangers raised in Vermont, over not only the British detachment sent for the possession of Bennington, but also the large re-enforcement sent by Burgoyne to their support, and further supplemented on the 21st by the precipitate retreat of General St. Leger and the entire breaking up of the right wing of the Northern invading army, at once raised the hopes of the desponding, and gave new and increased vigor and strength to the firm and determined Sons of Liberty.

Soon after the news of these glorious triumphs was spread throughout the country enlistments made rapid progress, re-enforcements to the Northern army came pouring in, and General Burgoyne soon found himself within the meshes of a net which he could not break, and was forced to surrender.

As has been previously stated, the design of the British in the conduct of the war was by overpowering armies and a strong naval force from New York, to form a junction with Burgoyne at Albany.

The Americans relied upon their fortifications and obstructions
in the Highlands, with the troops garrisoning the forts, to prevent it.

Notwithstanding their great importance, not only for the safety of this State, but for the whole country, so great was the pressure upon New York in every direction, and so dilatory were her sister States in coming to her aid, that the Highland forts and passes were never at any time sufficiently manned. The garrisoning of those forts and protection of those passes on the west side of the river were not only left substantially to be cared for by the Ulster and Orange County troops, but the necessities at the north had drawn away a large number of men from the northern part of Ulster to aid in the defeat or capture of Burgoyne. It was thus that while the State was necessarily strengthening itself in the north, it was dangerously weakening itself in the south. The forts referred to above were built mainly for the river front, but were of very light construction on the rear or landward side.

Sir Henry Clinton, who was then in command of the land forces at New York, became aware of those facts through information gleaned from the Tories, and determined at once to capture the forts by an overwhelming force. Accordingly on the 3d day of October he proceeded to the attack with between four and five thousand troops, and a large naval force and transports. A few of his forces were landed on the east side of the river for a cover. Some of the ships also were sent up the river, one to take a station so as to prevent any re-enforcements being despatched by General Putnam from the east to the west side of the river by Peekskill Ferry; the others to engage Fort Montgomery in front, so as to divert the attention of the garrison from the rear. The main body, three thousand and upward strong, landed south of Stony Point, on the west side of the river, and were from thence piloted by a Tory, whose name the writer has not been able to ascertain, a circuit of about twelve miles through the wilderness to reach the fortifications in the rear.

The British troops reached the advanced party of the Americans stationed at Doodletown, about two and one half miles from the fort, at about ten o'clock in the forenoon. The Americans received the enemy's fire, returned it, and retreated to Fort Clinton. They soon received intelligence at Fort Montgomery that the enemy was advancing on the west side of the mountain to attack the garrison in the rear. Governor Clinton then ordered Lieutenant-Colonels Bruyn and McClaughrly, with upward of one hundred men, toward Doodletown, and a brass field-piece, with sixty men, to be used at every advantageous post on the road to the furnace. They were all soon attacked by the enemy in their full force. They defended with great spirit, and made much slaughter in the ranks of
the invaders, but of course they were overwhelmed and had to retreat. The party on the furnace road were strengthened to over one hundred; they kept their field-piece in full play until the men who worked it were driven off with fixed bayonets; then they spiked it, and retreated to a twelve-pounder which had been ordered to cover them, and from thence to the fort.

Very soon after the advance parties had been driven in, both Forts Montgomery and Clinton were invested on all sides, and an incessant fire kept up until night.

When the sun was about an hour high the British commander summoned the Americans to surrender as prisoners of war within five minutes and prevent the shedding of blood. The demand was refused, and about ten minutes afterward the enemy made a desperate assault and forced the lines and redoubts at both forts. The garrison being determined not to surrender, as many of them as could fought their way out and escaped through the forest. Governor Clinton slid down a precipice toward the river and escaped in a boat, which he found on the shore, to the other side. General James Clinton also escaped through the woods.

The forts were, without doubt, defended with great and commendable spirit, and against overwhelming odds. The loss on the part of the patriots was about one hundred killed and two hundred and fifty taken prisoners. The enemy lost seven field officers and upward of three hundred and fifty rank and file killed. Sir Henry Clinton commanded the British force in person, and had three general officers with him. A deserter who came in after the taking of Fort Montgomery stated that the attacking force of the enemy consisted of five thousand men, of whom three thousand were British troops and Hessian vanquhers, the remainder new levies under Brigadier-General Robertson and Colonel Fanning. Sir Henry Clinton reported his force at three thousand.

After the surrender of the forts on the west side, as above, Fort Constitution was demolished by the garrison and abandoned. The fortifications being thus silenced, the enemy was enabled without hindrance to remove the obstructions which the Americans had placed in the river, and thus enjoy a free passage northward.

Governor Clinton, the same night in which he escaped from Fort Montgomery, proceeded to General Putnam's quarters to consult in regard to future movements. It was there agreed that General Putnam should withdraw his army to a very defensible pass in the mountains, about three miles below Fishkill Village, and call out the militia of the Eastern States; that Governor Clinton should rally his scattered forces, and call out all the militia of Orange and Ulster counties.

As soon as the enemy passed the chevaux-de-frise both armies
were to move northward, so as to keep pace with the enemy, covering those parts of the country which would be their greatest object. Governor Clinton wrote to the Council of Safety at Kingston that as soon as the ships were likely to pass the *chevaux-de-frise* he would make a forced march to Kingston and endeavor to save that town; that he was persuaded if the militia would join him, he could save the country with the exception of scattered buildings. But he soon afterward wrote again that the militia would not respond to his call. They were well disposed, but anxious about the immediate safety of their respective families, who for many miles back were removing farther from the river; that they would come in the morning and return home in the evening, and he never knew when he had them or what his strength was. He further stated that the moment the enemy moved up the river he would take the route on the west side of the Wallkill to Kingston; that he desired some small works to be thrown up toward Esopus Landing to cover it and secure the defiles leading to the town, and that every man who could fire a gun should be immediately impressed and employed on those works.

The Legislature remained in session at Kingston until Tuesday, the 7th day of October. On that day news was received by express of the reduction of the forts in the Highlands, that at once spread consternation throughout the country. The Senate adjourned until the next morning, but so many members of the Assembly at once absented themselves, some on military service, others for the necessary care of their families under the then existing circumstances, that there was not a quorum of the House left for the transaction of business.

But the state of affairs required action upon many important measures looking to the defence of the country and the safety of the inhabitants, and therefore the members of the Senate and Assembly in attendance at Kingston formed "a joint convention for the State to provide for the public safety."

From Ulster County Mr. Pawling, of the Senate, and Messrs. Hardenbergh, Snyder, Schoonmaker, and Rea, of the Assembly, were in attendance at the convention.

Pierre Van Cortlandt, the President of the Senate, was unanimously appointed president of the convention.

By the first resolution passed, the several county and district committees within the State, which were in being on the last previous 13th of September, and the commissioners for detecting and defeating all conspiracies in the State, were continued in being, and respectively vested with all powers and authorities they had previously had and exercised, and the members thereof respectively continued in office.
They also directed the committees to load the vessels at once with all kinds of provisions found in the immediate vicinity of the river and ship them to Albany, giving proper receipts therefor, and also move into the interior all cattle and live stock except such as in their judgment might be necessary for the immediate use of the inhabitants; and directed keepers to be appointed to have charge of the live stock, and with authority to impress pasture therefor.

The convention then appointed William Floyd, John Morin Scott, Abraham Yates, Johannis Snyder, Egbert Benson, Robert Harper, Peter Pra Van Zandt, Levi Pawling, Daniel Dunscomb, Evert Bancker, Alexander Webster, William B. Whiting, and Jonathan Langdon, or any seven of them, a Council of Safety, vested in the recess of the House, with the like powers and authorities which were given to the like Council of Safety appointed by the last convention of the State; that every member of the Senate and Assembly of the State, and of the delegates to Congress from this State, be entitled from time to time to sit and vote in said council; that they, or any seven of them, continue a Council of Safety as long as the necessities of the State require it.

The Council of Safety met at Kingston on the 8th of October. Mr. Floyd was chosen president.

The council ordered that the prisoners confined in jail, and the fleet prison at Kingston, be forthwith sent to Hartford, Conn., to be confined in such manner and at such places as the Governor of that State should direct.

A letter to be sent to Governor Trumbull with the prisoners was adopted by the House, as follows:

"Kingston October 8, 1777

"Sir You will, before this time, have heard the fate of Forts Montgomery, Clinton and Constitution. While assiduously employed in strengthening Gen Gates and the Northern Army, from an opinion that the fate of America would greatly depend upon our exertions in that quarter, the passes of the Highlands have been of necessity neglected. Add to this, that General Washington had called away almost all the Continental troops, which were in those posts, and you will readily perceive that we are entirely exposed. In this situation, it would be imprudent to keep a number of Prisoners in this State. We have therefore, by the bearer, sent to your care the several persons mentioned in the enclosed list

"Yours etc

"Pierre Van Cortlandt Pres'dl

"To Genr Trumbull—"
On the same day the convention enclosed to General Gates the despatch which had been received from Governor Clinton in a letter, as follows:

"October 8, 1777

"Sir: By the enclosed copy of the Governor's letter, you will perceive the situation we are reduced to; and most probably will agree with us, that no time should be lost in reinforcing the Southern army; for which purpose it is our earnest request to you, that at least the militia from the counties of Ulster and Duchess, should be sent forward immediately if consistent with the safety of your department

"Yours etc

"Pierre Van Cortlandt Pres'dt

"Major Gen Gates"

At a meeting of the Council of Safety held in Kingston on the 10th of October, 1777, Colonels Pawling and Snyder were requested to issue the necessary orders to have all the male inhabitants of the districts in their respective regiments, of sixteen years and upward, capable of bearing arms, immediately equipped and provided with arms and ammunition, and to appoint proper alarm posts and places of rendezvous in case of the approach of the enemy.

It was ordered that Gerard Bancker, Vice-Treasurer of the State, do immediately cause all the moneys and property belonging to the Treasury of the State to be conveyed to Rochester, and that he consult with Hendrickus Hoornbeek, Johannis G. Hardenbergh, and Comfort Sands relative to the proper places for securing the same. After having cared for the moneys, he was required to attend the council from day to day, constantly provided with £1000 to answer such drafts as the council might from time to time order.

That John Henry, commissary of the clothing store, do immediately cause all the clothing of the State to be packed up in packages and taken to Rochester.

That John McKisson and Robert Benson, secretaries of the council, forthwith cause all the public papers under their care to be put into chests and packages and conveyed to Rochester.

It was also ordered that Abraham Hasbrouck, Joseph Gasherie, Dirck Wynkoop, Jr., Christopher Tappan, and Samuel Bayard, Jr., or any two of them, do forthwith cause the public records, which were transported to this place from the city of New York, to be put in proper packages or chests and conveyed to Rochester.

That Dirck Wynkoop and Oke Sudam cause the records of the county of Albany, of the county of Ulster, of the General Committee of the county of Albany, and the records belonging to the
office of the receiver-general of the colony of New York, to be put into boxes or chests and conveyed to Rochester. All the aforesaid records, papers, clothing, etc., were to be deposited in such places as the said Messrs. Hoornbeek, Hardenbergh, and Sands should recommend.

On the 11th of October the Council of Safety advised the governor that they had ordered the militia in the vicinity of Shawangunk to repair to that place, and the residue to rendezvous at Kingston.

It was at the same meeting ordered that Captain Benson cause all the armament and the accompanying apparatus on board of the armed vessel under his command to be landed, and that he should then take on board such provisions as the assistant commissary-general might think proper, and take the same to Albany.

On the 10th of October a picket guard of Colonel Webb's regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Brown, in the neighborhood of Little Britain, Orange County, captured Daniel Taylor, a first lieutenant in Captain Stewart's company of the Ninth Regiment of the royal army, who was on his way at the time as a messenger from Sir Henry Clinton to General Burgoyne. A portion of the picket guard were clothed in British uniform—red coats, which had been recently captured in a British transport. Taylor, deceived by the uniform, considered himself among friends and discovered himself. When arrested he asked the name of the commanding general. He was answered, "Clinton." Deceived further by the identity of the name, he requested to be conducted into the presence of the general. Upon reaching headquarters, instead of meeting Sir Henry Clinton, the commandant of the royal troops, he found himself in the presence of the American general, Governor George Clinton. He was observed to immediately put something in his mouth and swallow it. Dr. Moses Higby, a neighboring physician, was called upon, and administered a powerful emetic, which had the desired effect, and brought it forth; but, although very closely watched, he had the skill to conceal it a second time. Governor Clinton supposing it to be, as it was, a silver ball containing a letter, demanded its immediate production, or in case that was not done he would instantly hang him up and cut him open to search for it. The ball was then produced. It proved to be a small silver ball of an oval form, about the size of a fusee bullet, and which closed by a screw in the middle. Within was found a letter, of which the following is a copy:

"Fort Montgomery October 8th 1777

Nous-y-voici, and nothing now between us but Gates. I sincerely hope this little success of ours may facilitate your opera-
tions. In answer to your letter of the 28th Sept. by C C. I shall only say, I cannot presume to order, or even advise, for reasons obvious. I heartily wish you success.

"Faithfully yours

" H Clinton"

To Gen Burgoyne"

Taylor was detained, and tried by a general court-martial on the 14th of October, 1777, charged with "lurking about the camp as a spy from the enemy by order of Gen Clinton." Colonel Lewis Du Bois was president. The prisoner was found guilty, and adjudged to suffer death, to be hanged at such time and place as the general should direct.

On the 12th of October the Council of Safety received a letter from Governor Clinton enclosing a copy of the letter thus taken from Taylor the spy. In that communication to the Council of Safety the governor, after referring to the favorable news from the north, wrote thus in regard to the intercepted letter: "By a copy of a letter from Gen Sir Henry Clinton to Burgoyne, now enclosed to you, you will observe that Clinton (Sir Henry) is no way confident of their being able to form a junction of their armies, though there are nothing but bars between them. I wish nothing more than that Clinton may attempt it. I am persuaded that though the chance of war may at times occasion our prospect to appear gloomy when the enemy push hard, yet it is in that way their ruin must and will be effected; and I greatly hope that Clinton, not wise enough to improve by example, will, like Burgoyne (flushed with his late success) give stretch to his forces, or at least send parties out to try the affections of the inhabitants; in either case I have no doubt he will meet with the same fate. Should this not be the case, I hope in a few days to have strength enough to be the assailant."

After the enemy had obtained the control of the American forts in the Highlands, they, of course, found no difficulty in removing the obstructions at West Point; but it was still hoped that the chéaux-de-frise which had been sunk from Nicoll's Point to Pollopol Island would form a serious obstruction. Great was the disappointment of the Americans, however, when they saw a part of the British fleet come gliding along in single file, and, after the first vessel had made a momentary stop to reconnoitre, all pass through under easy sail in rotation. The mystery was soon explained; in building the obstruction a secret passage had been left for the river craft, and one of the artificers acquainted with its location had deserted to the British the night before and piloted the vessel through. Such wily secret enemies, coveting British
gold, appear to have wound themselves into misplaced confidence everywhere that an opportunity offered for betrayal.

The British commander, Clinton, after securing a passage through the obstructions for the fleet, despatched Captain Sir James Wallace with a galley, a schooner, and three small vessels up the river on a reconnoitring expedition. They proceeded above the Highlands on the 11th; they went to within about three miles of Poughkeepsie and then returned, having burned Van Keuren's Mills and a number of buildings on the east side of the river, and all the sailing craft that came within their reach.

Upon the return of this reconnoitring expedition the marauding expedition of General Vaughan was organized. It consisted of the following naval vessels under the command of Captain Sir James Wallace, who sailed in the Friendship, 22 guns; the Molloy, Captain A. J. Pye; the Diligent, Lieutenant Farnham; the Dependence, Lieutenant Clarke; the Spitfire, Lieutenant Scott; the Crane, Master Hitchcock; the Raven, Captain Stanhope, and twenty galleys and flat-boats.

On these vessels were embarked, as near as can be estimated, about sixteen hundred men, under the command of Major-General John Vaughan. This force embraced the Seventh, the Twenty-sixth, and Twenty-third regiments. The expedition sailed from Peekskill on the 14th of October with a fair wind, and on the night of the 15th anchored off Esopus Island.

On the morning of the 15th they were discovered by the Light Horsemen on guard at New Windsor, in their progress below Butter Hill under cover of a heavy fog. Governor Clinton was at once notified, and immediately, at 9 A.M., despatched a letter by express to the Council of Safety at Kingston, informing them of the movement of the vessels, and in which he stated, "Had it not been for this movement of the enemy, I intended this day or to-morrow to have drawn my few troops from this place toward the rear of Fort Montgomery, but I must now desist, and watch their motions; and should they land and march against me, with any considerable force, I shall be constrained with my present numbers to retreat before them, annoying them only if favorable opportunity shall offer. I was in hopes 'ere now, to have received the reinforcements from the northward, which you mentioned; not a man of which has yet arrived. I wish Col Pawling with his regiment was with me. Since writing the above the enemy's fleet, consisting of thirty sail, have passed Newburgh and with crowded sail and fair wind, are moving quick up the river, the front of them are already at the Dunskamer. There are eight large square rigged vessels among them, and all appear to have troops on board.

"My troops are parading to march to Kingston. Our route
will be through Shawangunk to prevent delay crossing the Paltz river.

"I leave Col Woodhull's, McClaughry's, and part of Hasbrouck's regiments as a guard along the river. Hawthorn's has gone to the southward, to guard a quantity of arms towards headquarters. . . . Let the Militia be drawn out ready to oppose the enemy: I will be with you if nothing extra happens before day; though my troops cannot

"I am Yours etc

"Geo Clinton"

In the mean time the Council of Safety continued holding two sessions daily, morning and evening, at Kingston, endeavoring to transact the necessary current business and provide for the safety of the public property and records. The last session at Kingston was held on the afternoon of the 15th of October, at the tavern of Conrad Elmendorf, situated at the southeast corner of Maiden Lane and Fair Street. The members in attendance at that session were: Colonel Pierre Van Cortlandt, President, and Messrs. Yates, Dunscomb, Floyd, Van Zandt, Parks, Scott, Webster, Rowan, Harper, Pawling, and Morris.

At that meeting a letter was received by express from John Barclay, chairman of the Albany committee, giving information of the capitulation of the army of General Burgoyne. The bearer of said letter was Bernardus Hallenbeek, to whom the council at once voted a reward of £50.
The council immediately at about five o'clock in the afternoon forwarded that despatch by express, together with a letter, to Governor Clinton, informing him that "we have just received information from the Landing, that about thirty sail of the enemy's vessels appeared opposite the Esopus Island, and are standing up the river. Some works have been thrown up below, according to your Excellency's requisition. Alarm guns have just been fired. We have not any particulars, on this occasion, more than already mentioned. We shall forward any further information to you, as it may from time to time occur, without the loss of a moment. In the meantime Sir, give us leave to assure you, that we will contribute all in our power to enable the militia officers, who command here to make the best possible defence, at this post during your Excellency's absence.

"I have the Honor to be Your Excellency's Most Ob't Serv't

"Pierre Van Courtlandt Pres'dt

"His Ex Gov Clinton"

The express messenger to whom this letter and above-mentioned despatch were intrusted for transmission to the governor was Cornelius Cole, the same Light Horseman who had been summoned on the 9th of October before the Council of Safety upon complaint of neglect or refusal on his part to do his duty when called upon. He did not appear to have improved any under the warning of the Council of Safety, as instead of pressing forward with his despatches, to hasten if possible the arrival of the troops, he studied his ease and comfort, and stopped for the night at a farm-house by the wayside, where he was found the next morning by another and subsequent express leisurely preparing to depart on his journey. His residence, unfortunately, did not happen to be in the threatened village of Kingston.

In Kingston there was, of course, the greatest excitement and commotion, the inhabitants striving to get away themselves, and moving as much of their worldly possessions and valuables as possible out of reach of the vandal hordes. All who were able billeted themselves upon their friends, principally through Hurley, Marbletown, Rochester, and Warwasing.

Governor Clinton arrived with his staff about nine o'clock on the evening of the 15th, having left his army to press forward as rapidly as possible. After learning the situation of affairs, and transmitting several despatches, he left on the morning of the 16th for Marbletown. Finding that it was impossible for the main body of his army to reach Kingston in time to be of any service, he sent orders for them to halt and proceed no farther.

The British fleet, on the night of the 15th of October, came to
anchor near Esopus Island, and next morning, the 16th, they weighed anchor at an early hour, and arrived at the mouth of Rondout Creek, opposite Columbus Point, about nine o'clock. The Lady Washington galley was at that time lying in the mouth of the creek opposite Poneckhockie. The British from their fleet soon opened a heavy fire upon the said galley and upon two batteries or earthworks which had been hastily thrown up on the high ground back of Poneckhockie, since known as Breastwork Hill, and where five light pieces of cannon were in position.

The firing was continued for some time on both sides with but little damage. Soon after noon the British made preparations to land in two divisions, one, comprising about four hundred men, in Rondout Creek, where the old Cantine Dock, afterward known as the Tremper Dock, was formerly situated, and the other in the cove above Columbus Point.

The Lady Washington galley was then run up the creek and scuttled near Eddyville. A party of British seamen who were in chase of that vessel landed on the south side of the creek, where South Rondout is now situated, and burned the house of Wilhelmus Houghteling, Jr. Other British seamen, with boats from their respective vessels, boarded and set fire to the fleet prison and other vessels lying in the creek.

The division of the English invading, or, rather, marauding force, which landed at the Poneckhockie Dock, at once attacked and carried the breastworks at the point of the bayonet. The defenders, only one hundred and fifty in number, under Colonels Levi Pawling and Johannis Snyder, remained until the last minute, then spiking the guns, retreated up the creek. The English at once burned the only houses that were then standing along the creek at the landing, three in number, and when that brave feat was accomplished, they proceeded to form a junction with the other division and attack the village of Kingston.

The main body of the force, commanded by General Vaughan in person, landed on the beach in the cove just above Columbus Point. They seized a negro and compelled him to act as guide, and then took the direction to Kingston, mounted the hill, and united with the other division, which had marched up the landing road, at or near the present junction of Union and Delaware avenues. On their way they fired the house of Moses Yeomans, but the fire was extinguished by his slaves before much damage was done.

General Vaughan was met by Jacobus Lefferts, a Tory from the city of New York, who was residing with his family in Kingston. He informed him that a despatch had been received in Kingston the evening before alleging the capitulation of General Burgoyne.

The invading force marched to the village without resistance. Some accounts state that there was a scattering fire kept up by
a few men stationed in the woods near where the City Hall now stands, but the writer has been told by a number of Kingstoni
cians living at that time, some of whom were members of the militia, that there was a small detachment of militia stationed
in the woods in that locality, about one hundred strong, and the men were anxious and begged to be permitted to fire and pick off
the officers; but the officer in command would not allow, but for
bade it. Such, in the early days of the writer, was the traditional
and generally received opinion in this vicinity, confirmed by the
statements of contemporaries. If the commandant of that detach-
ment had not been the nobler man of the two, and thus careful of
the lives of British officers, General Vaughan might not have lived
to set forth in his official report the wilful and base falsehood,
as a justification for his act of vandalism, that "on our (the British
troops) entering the town, they (the citizens) fired from their
houses, which induced me to reduce the place to ashes, which I
accordingly did, not leaving a house." The truth is that the
people had fled from their homes, and no resistance at all was
offered after the troops reached the village. The manufacture and
pronouncement of the falsehood, however, shows that he appreciated
the villanym of his conduct, and was not altogether devoid of
shame.

As soon as the troops reached the village they were divided into
small parties and led through the different streets, firing the houses
and outbuildings as they proceeded. They did not tarry long, but
made haste to complete their work of destruction, as they were
informed by the Tory Lefferts, and knew from other sources, that
Governor Clinton was en route with his army to meet them, and
could not be very far distant. They therefore hastened in their
work, gathered what plunder they could, and returned to their
ships within three hours of the time of their embarkation.

Thus was the village of Kingston, then the third place in size
and importance in the State of New York, wantonly destroyed and
the inhabitants punished for their patriotism by the destruction of
nearly all their worldly stores, and in some cases reduced to
actual poverty and want.

The advance division of Governor Clinton's forces reached the
high grounds at Kuycknyt, on the Greenkill road, overlooking the
village, in time to see the whole village in flames and the invading
forces retiring in haste to their ships.

On the next day, the 17th of October, desiring to make a further
display of their valor where there were no opposing forces to stay
their progress, and that their official despatches might blazon forth
the statement that "the officers and men upon this occasion
behaved with the greatest spirit," they landed about four miles
above Kingston, at the isolated farm-house of Petrus Ten Broeck, on the west side of the river, and, finding no one to welcome or oppose them, burned his house, storehouse, and barn. That property is still in the hands of the immediate descendants of Mr. Ten Broeck, and the marks of the burning are still visible upon a tree which stood within a few feet of the house, and which, having recovered from the effects of the fire, is still standing, of large proportions, with its century's growth. They at the same time in the same way visited their vengeance upon the sterling Whig families, the Whittakers.

The following are the official accounts of the British officers in regard to the burning of Kingston:

"On Board the Friendship off Esopus"
October 17, 10 O'clock Morning

"Sir I have the honor to inform you that on the evening of the 15th Instant I arrived off Esopus; finding that the rebels had thrown up works and had made every disposition to annoy us and cut off our communication I judged it necessary to attack them, the wind at that time being so much against us that we could make no way. I accordingly landed the troops attacked the batteries drove them from their works, spiked and destroyed their guns. Esopus being a nursery for almost every villain in the country I judged it necessary to proceed to that town. On our approach they were drawn up with cannon which we took and drove them out of the place. On our entering the town they fired from their houses which induced me to reduce the place to ashes, which I accordingly did not leaving a house. We found a considerable quantity of stores, which shared the same fate.

"Sir James Wallace has destroyed all the shipping, except an armed galley which ran up the creek, with everything belonging to the vessels in store.

"Our loss is so inconsiderable that it is not at present worth while to mention.

"I am etc
"John Vaughan"

"Galleys and Armed Vessels off Esopus Creek"
Oct 17, 1777

"Sir We proceeded up the river destroying a number of vessels as we sailed along without stopping till we arrived at Esopus Creek where we found two batteries one of two guns the other of three guns erected, and an armed galley at the mouth of the creek who endeavored to prevent our passing by their cannonade. Gen Vaughan was of opinion such a force should not be left behind. It was determined to land and destroy them, and imme-
diately executed, without retarding our proceeding up the river. The general marched for the town and fired it. The boats from the armed vessels went up the creek burnt two brigs, several armed sloops and other craft with all their apparatus that was in store upon the shore. Lieut Clarke of the ‘Dependence’ with two or three others, in firing the stores was blown up, but we flatter ourselves not dangerously.

"The officers and men on this occasion behaved with the greatest spirit."

"By all our information I am afraid that Gen Burgoyne is retreated if not worse.

"I have etc"

"Jas Wallace"

"Commodore Hotham"

In the official report of the commanding general, Sir William Howe, to Lord George Germaine, dated October 25th, 1777, is contained the following passage:

"I have the satisfaction to enclose to your Lordship a report just received of a very spirited piece of service performed by Major Gen Vaughan and Sir James Wallace up the Hudson river."

The following notice of the proceedings of the expedition up the Hudson appeared in the New York Gazette, November 3d, 1777:

"October 15. Three sloops taken in attempting to escape to the Fishkill, and two pettiangers destroyed.

"The house mill and outhouses, and a sloop belonging to Col. Francis Stoutenburgh at Crum Elbow, burned. Two sloops on the East side burnt that evening.

"October 16. Set fire to two brigs, etc and burnt Kingston

"October 17. The house, storehouse, barn, etc of Mr Petrus Ten Broeck, a rebel General, the house, barn and outhouses of Robert Gilbert Livingston and a house and mill belonging to Judge Livingston on the East side of the river burned.

"October 18. Another house belonging to Judge Livingston, one to Mr John Livingston, with three others destroyed in like manner.

"Oct 22—Two houses one the property of Judge Smith, on the east side a sloop and barn likewise two houses, with their appendages on the west side were burnt and on the 23rd a sloop was burned on the stocks.

"In the town of Kingston, a large quantity of powder, and a large number of fire arms together with many valuable stores were destroyed."

The Gazette then further proceeds to state that:

"Another more accurate account from Esopus informs us that on the landing of Gen Vaughan with the troops under his com-
mand the rebels without the least prospect of advantage to themselves fired upon them from a breastwork just thrown up and which they did not stay to defend. This joined to an insolent and provoking behavior occasioned the army to march up and set fire to the town which was presently entirely consumed.

"There were destroyed 326 houses with a barn to almost every one of them, filled with flour besides grain of all kinds much valuable furniture and effects, which the royal army disdained to take with them. Twelve thousand barrels of flour were burnt, and they took at the town four pieces of cannon, with ten more upon the river, with 1150 stand of arms with a large quantity of powder were blown up. The whole service was effected and the troops re-embarked in three hours."

Governor Clinton immediately after the burning and the arrival of his forces, concentrated them at Hurley, and wrote the following letter to General Gates:

"Marbletown 17th Octr 1777

"Dr General

"Yesterday afternoon about four O'clock, the enemy took possession of and burn't the town of Kingston. For want of a proper number of troops, no resistance could be made. I have now the body of men under my command, which marched from New Windsor to my assistance, and shall immediately proceed to the ruins of Kingston, which the enemy have abandoned. I have sent off a party of Lighthorse to reconnoitre, and shall act in such manner as the motions of the enemy may direct. . . .

"I have the honor to be etc

"Geo Clinton"

"P. S.—A prisoner, by no means intelligent, says that the enemy are two thousand strong commanded by Gen Vaughan."

When General Gates received the news of the burning of Kingston, just after the surrender of General Burgoyne, he forwarded the following letter to General Vaughan by the boat carrying Lord Petersham with despatches from Burgoyne to Sir Henry Clinton informing him of his surrender:

"Albany 19 October 1777

"Sir

"With unexampled cruelty, you have reduced the fine village of Kingston to ashes, and most of the wretched inhabitants to ruin. I am also informed, you continue to ravage and burn all before you on both sides of the river. Is it thus your King's generals think to make converts to the Royal cause? It is no less surprising than true, that the measures they adopt to serve their
master, must have quite the contrary effect. Their cruelty estab-
lishes the glorious act of Independence, upon the broad basis of
the general resentment of the People.

"Other Generals, and much older officers than you can pretend
to be, are now by the fortune of war in my hands; their fortune
may one day be yours, when, sir, it may not be in the power of
any thing human to save you from the just vengeance of an injured
People.

"I am Sir Yr most obedt hum serv’t

"Horatio Gates

"The Hon John Vaughan Majr General"
CHAPTER XVIII.

EXTENT OF DAMAGES—MAP, AND LIST OF SUFFERERS—RELIEF FURNISHED—SOME TRADITIONS STATED.

HAVING thus recorded the act of vandalism by the high-toned Britons, it will be interesting to pause and contemplate, as far as we are able, the extent of the damage and the names of the suffering patriots.

In the absence of any official record the opinion has generally prevailed, based upon tradition, that Kingston was entirely consumed, only one house and one barn having been left standing. The house was understood to have been that of Tobias Van Steenbergh, Jr., which is still standing, having undergone some slight alterations, on the west side of Wall Street, directly opposite to the western terminus of Bowery Street.

The barn was that of Benjamin Low, which stood on the east side of Wall Street, directly adjoining the north end of the burying-ground. It was afterward moved back about seventy-five feet, to make room for a building put up by one Noah Wells, a subsequent owner, for a hatter's shop. The barn remained standing there until a short time before the savings-bank building was erected, covering its original site.

Rivington's New York Gazette (a Royalist paper) of October 27th, 1777, contains an abstract from a letter written on board the British fleet at Esopus, which states that "every house except that of Alderman Lefferts of New York, was set on fire and consumed." Alderman Lefferts's house is understood to have been the house then standing, where Mr. Hayes's house now stands, on the north side of Albany Avenue about three hundred feet distant therefrom. At that time the eastern boundary of the settled part of the village was East Front Street, beyond which street the Lefferts house was more than half a mile distant. All beyond East Front Street, outside of the fence above the brow of the hill, was lying in commons, and called "the plains." That may account for the Lefferts house not being included generally in houses saved in the village.

The New York Packet of October 23d, 1777, says that "the conflagration was general, and in a very short time that pleasant
and wealthy town was reduced to ashes—*one* house only escaped the flames.

There is still another tradition that a brewery situated on the south side of North Front Street, a short distance west of Greene Street, was not burned. The tradition in reference to that building is that a negro slave of the proprietor rolled out the beer-barrels and treated the soldiers bountifully with their national drink, at the same time accompanying the act, in the negro's melodious voice, with singing English national songs, with which the soldiers in their hilarity were so much delighted, that they spared the building for his sake, and enthusiastically joined in the choruses.

Colonel Abraham Hasbrouck, who was a resident of Kingston at the time, in his diary, which is still in existence, and was kept by him with regular entries for many years, states that "the enemy burnt all the houses and barns except one house and barn in the town."

The only *official* document giving the names of the sufferers at the burning of Kingston is the list of names reported by Andries De Witt, Edward Schoonmaker, and Benjamin Low, who in June, 1786, were appointed a committee by the trustees of the corporation of Kingston "to make a list and estimate of the persons entitled to, and having an interest in the donation of lands, made by Chancellor Livingston to the Inhabitants and residents of this
town, who are the sufferers in the late conflagration of the said town."

The particulars of the donation will appear in a subsequent chapter. It was of five thousand acres of land to be disposed of by the trustees "in such way as will be most advantageous to the suffering inhabitants of Kingston." The tract was divided by the trustees in one hundred fifty-acre lots. The committee reported only a sufficient number of names to equal the number of lots to be distributed. So far as it goes it is reliable, but does not name all the sufferers. Upon what basis the selection was made does not appear.

In 1886 some parties in looking over bundles of old papers which had been packed away in the loft of an office by Peter Marinus Groen, the grandfather of the writer, including some of his personal papers, as well as some which came into his hands as administrator of the estate of Peter Van Gaasbeek, long since deceased, an old paper was found purporting to be "a true account of the Dwelling houses, Barns, outhouses and Barracks destroyed at Kingston 16 Oct'r 1777 by our enemies under the command of Maj G. Vaughan."

It contains 113 names, 115 dwelling-houses, 103 barns, 146 barracks, 17 storehouses, including a market and brew-house; also a church, an academy, 2 school-houses, and court-house.

It has the appearance of being and undoubtedly is an ancient paper; but there is nothing upon it to indicate when it was made or by whom. In appearance it indicates more clearly a rough draft than a carefully prepared statement.

It omits the names of several persons who are reported as sufferers in the official statement above referred to.

Nathan Smedes's mill in North Front Street, Jacob Tremper's house in Greene Street, were all unquestionably burned, and they are put down as only having had barns burned.

In it the brewery is put down as having been burned and as belonging to Dirck Wynkoop, whereas it belonged to Johannis Sleigh, and according to tradition was not burned.

Both papers will be set forth in full in the Appendix. A rate bill of the English school, for six months immediately preceding and up to the day of the burning, with names of parents and scholars, will also be given in the Appendix, and be particularly referred to in a subsequent chapter.

The large number of barns and barracks burned at a time of the year when the entire season's crop must have been gathered in a locality noted for its fertility, and the then great grain-producing region of the State, indicates a loss to the farming community which must have been great and cannot be estimated.
HISTORY OF KINGSTON.

It has been generally supposed that the Lefferts property escaped destruction by reason of the rank Toryism of the owner. But if the memorandum previously referred to, and contained in the Appendix, is correct, his barn and two barracks were burned. On account of a hole in the paper it cannot be seen what report it made as to the house. There is also a tradition in regard to the Lefferts place, that the soldiers, after firing the barn and barracks, were determined also to burn the house, and while Mrs. Lefferts was parleying with them to prevent it, the return call sounded and the soldiers left, leaving the house untouched. In reference to the Van Steenbergh house there are various accounts given. One is, that Mrs. Hammersly, a prominent Tory lady, lived there, and the house was spared on her account. That does not appear very probable, judging from the conduct of the red-coats on other occasions. Another is, that they set fire to the house, but the recall was sounded before the fire had progressed much, and was quickly extinguished by the slaves, who were concealed in the woods in the immediate neighborhood. Another account given is that, it being a hotel, one of the slaves who remained behind rolled out a barrel of rum, knocked in the head, and treated the soldiers to their hearts' content until the recall sounded, when they left, leaving the house untouched.

As to the brewery, the account of its escape is also accredited to beer-barrels being rolled out by a slave and the contents freely distributed among the soldiers, as before stated.

The following is a list of the sufferers at the burning of Kingston, October 16th, 1777:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cornelius Beekman</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evert Bogardus</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Bogardus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Brinckerhoff</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petrus Burhans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Cox</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham De Lametter</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannis B. De Witt</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egbert Dumont</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Dumont</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Elmendorf</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Elmendorf</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coenraedt J. Elmendorf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Elmendorf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jacobus Elmendorf</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Elsworth</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Eltinge</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abraham Freer.............. 101
Johannis Freer.............. 55
Joseph Gasherie.............. 8
James Hamilton.............. 89
Abraham Hasbrouck, Jr.............. 88
Abraham Hermance.............. 5
Anthony Hoffman.............. 97
Tennis Houghteling.............. 37
Cornelius Janse.............. 64
Richard Inglis.............. 64
William Kirby.............. 40
Abraham Low.............. 25
Cornelia Low.............. 79
Jacob Marius Groen.............. 19
Abraham Masten.............. 108
Cornelius Masten.............. 10
Johannis Masten.............. 29
Johannis Persen.............. 7
James Roe.............. 42
Henry Sleight.............. 3 & 4
Johannis Sleight.............. 2
Petrus Sleight.............. 26
Nathan Smedes.............. 2
Oke Sudam.............. 25
Benjamin Swart.............. 79
Philip Swart.............. 19
Benjamin Ten Broeck.............. 10
Matthew E. Thompson.............. 90
Abraham Turck.............. 87
Christopher Tappan.............. 50
Philip Van Buren.............. 50
Nicholas Vanderlyn.............. 46
Gerrett Van Keuren.............. 46
Abraham Van Gaasbeek.............. 34
Ann Van Steenbergh.............. 59
Matthew Van Steenbergh.............. 42
Tobias Van Steenbergh, Jr.............. 92
Tobias Van Steenbergh.............. 21
(not burned).............. 95
Direk Wynkoop.............. 68
Cornelius Wynkoop.............. 76
The Academy.............. 33
Two Schoolhouses.............. 104
Mill.............. 2
Anthony Freer.............. 12
Solomon Freer.............. 5
Abraham Hasbrouck.............. 67
Elias Hasbrouck.............. 51
Jacob Hermance.............. 90
Philip Houghteling.............. 69
Petrus Hudler.............. 112
Johannis Janse.............. 71
Dr. Thomas Jones.............. 82
Dr. Luke Kiersted.............. 37
Benjamin Low.............. 56
Jacobus Low.............. 58
John McLean.............. 77
Benjamin Masten.............. 91
Ezekiel Masten.............. 87
Johannis Masten, Jr.............. 90
Matthew Persen.............. 30
Frantz P. Roggen.............. 31
Henry Sleight, Jr.............. 21
Johannis Sleight, Jr.............. 23
Tennis Sleight.............. 84
Johannis Snyder.............. 100
Adam Swart.............. 80
Petrus Swart.............. 50
Tobias Swart.............. 109
Jacob Ten Broeck.............. 46
Jacob Tremper.............. 66
Tobias Van Buren.............. 81
Cornelius Van Keuren.............. 98
Johannis Van Keuren.............. 59
Abraham Van Gaasbeek, Jr.............. 63
Lena Van Steenbergh.............. 92
Tobias Van Steenbergh.............. 103
Cornelius Velie.............. 21
Johannis Wynkoop.............. 17
Church.............. 54
Market.............. 110
Brewery (not burned).............. 3
Those whose property was located within the village are given in alphabetical order, and the location of their houses designated, as far as practicable, by corresponding numbers upon the accompanying map. Those whose houses were not within the village, but on the creek or river, are stated below. Some of them were burned a few days subsequent to the burning of the village, but by the same marauding expedition.

Those whose houses cannot be located have no numbers. It will be found that there are several houses located by number on the map which have no corresponding number on the list, because the then owner cannot be positively designated.

Jacobus Lefferts's property, located north of 109 and beyond range of map.

Sufferers along water front, Rondout Creek and Hudson River, outside of village:


In another chapter an account is given of a large fire which originated in the house (No. 35 on map) of Colonel Abraham Hasbrouck, in October, 1776, by which houses located at points numbered on the map as 10, 13, 34, 35, 40, and 41, were burned at that time. Some were rebuilt wholly or partially before October, 1777, and some were not.

The colored burying-ground is numbered on the map as 113.

It is reasonable to suppose that when the British approached Kingston the unarmed inhabitants who had not already fled from the village made what expedition they could to get out of harm's way. They did not all take it as easy as the two industrious burghers who were so intently engaged at work in a field on the "Arm-bowerye" near the village, as tradition asserts, that they did not notice the approach of the enemy until they were directly upon them, when, in the height of their astonishment and alarm, one cried out, "Me haave oop!" and the other in chorus said, "Ek oke!" thus, in the tremor for their lives, acknowledging themselves the dutiful subjects of the King.

Whatever may have been their expedition, however, whether speedy or laggard, it gave rise to the following Dutch doggerel:

"Loop, jongens, loop, de Rooje
Komme. Span de wagon
Voor de paerde, en vy na
Hurley toe."

The translation is as follows:

"Run, boys, run, the red-coats are coming. Harness the horses before the wagon, and to Hurley ride."
After the British had completed their work of destruction and returned to their shipping, those of the inhabitants who were in the immediate vicinity returned to endeavor, if possible, to recover something from the smoking ruins. But the destruction generally was complete, and nothing but ashes and bare walls left of their once comfortable homes. Many who, notwithstanding the taxation and burdens of protracted war, had accumulated some property, found themselves by this act of vandalism again reduced to poverty. All were obliged for a time to throw themselves upon the hospitality of their friends. As soon as practicable, the suffering inhabitants commenced building temporary shelters to withstand the blasts of approaching winter. Those whose homes had been of stone were enabled to rest their huts, in the form of a lean-to, against the standing walls.

The cry of indignation and shame at the uncalled-for brutality was heard from every part of the land, and the true American heart, which ever beats in sympathy for the wronged and the oppressed, sent forth sympathetic resolves and donations from various portions of the country. A country impoverished by war and oppression could not be expected to do much for the relief of others, but what they did was received with the thanks and the prayers of those whose burdens, to some extent at least, were lightened thereby. Noblest among all of our sister States in that day of trial stood South Carolina, as shown by a letter still extant, written in behalf of her citizens to Governor Clinton.

"Charlestown 31 March 1778.

"Sir,

"I do myself the pleasure to send you, herewith, the sum of £3711 10 equal to $927 17 6 New York currency. This money has been received for the charitable purpose of alleviating the distresses of the now indigent inhabitants of the town of Kingston, who by the ravages of the enemy are reduced to poverty and want. A much larger sum would have been collected had not a melancholy accident by fire called the immediate attention of many liberal souls to dissipate the wants of many of the inhabitants of the capital of this State, who are reduced to beggary by the late dreadful conflagration.

"From a personal acquaintance with your excellency, I persuade myself you will readily excuse the trouble I give, in requesting your attention to a proper distribution of this donation. I have the pleasure to be with sentiments of esteem and respect

"Your most obedient Hum’l Serv’t

"Abm Livingston

"His Excellency George Clinton"
Robert R. Livingston, too, richer in lands than in personal property, and embarrassed by the destruction of his house and the ravages of the enemy upon the same marauding expedition, made the munificent gift of five thousand acres of land for the relief of the inhabitants of Kingston. The fact is simply noted here, as it will be necessary to refer to it more fully hereafter.

There are some family incidents and traditions connected with the burning of the place which may be of some interest, and will be noticed here, embracing in some cases the reasons why some buildings supposed to have been saved were not burned.

Before stating those traditions, however, it deserves special mention here that the family of Christopher Tappen, who was deputy county clerk and also clerk of the trustees of the corporation of Kingston, devoted their entire energies, upon the approach of the British, toward the preservation of the public and corporate property in his charge, at the expense and loss of all his chattels and private papers, which were left behind and consequently rifled and destroyed by the British.

Benjamin Low lived opposite the Court House in Wall Street. A short time before the burning of Kingston a well-dressed, gentlemanly-looking man on horseback stopped at the door and saw Mrs. Low. Mr. Low being away from home. He wanted to stop there; said he was sick, and could not go any farther. She told him it might not be safe for him to do so, and he might be a British spy. He said he came from Newburgh, and was going to Rochester to teach school. His horse was put out, and he came in, and she showed him to a room where he could lie down. When Mr. Low came home and found a strange horse in the barn he wanted to know whose it was. Mrs. Low told him that a man had come there, complained of being sick, and she could not turn him away. Mr. Low replied, "He is a British spy, I know he is." He remained there a week, and Mrs. Low doctored and cured him, so that he got up and walked round the place and premises.

One night when Mr. Low came home he said to his wife, "Becky, they are going to arrest that man in the morning as a spy; leave the back door unlocked, as they will come very early." He said he would not sleep any, and when they went to bed he spread Mrs. Low's gown out and laid on it. He did get asleep, however, and she then slipped her gown from under him and made her way quietly up-stairs. She found her guest sitting up and writing; he had a brace of pistols and a sword lying on the table, and his boots standing on the floor at the side of him. As soon as he saw her he came up to her and said in a whisper, "My good little Dutchwoman, I am a British spy. I have heard all that was said, and will get away and be off." She said to him, "Prom-
ise me one thing, that you will not burn Kingston." He said he could not do that, but he would promise that "that house would not be burnt, and the family would not be injured." He told her if he got away safe he would write to her. (But she never heard from him.) He offered her a bag of gold, but she refused to take it. She then left him and slipped quietly to bed without having aroused her husband or being missed by him.

Very early in the morning the men came, passed very quietly up-stairs, to find "the bird flown." They soon came down, making a thundering noise.

As soon as it was known that the British were coming up the river the women and children in the family were sent to Hurley. After they were there Mrs. Low told her husband that she wanted to wash. He told Peter, their colored man, to harness up the team and take Mrs. Low to town. While she was at the house a woman came in and said the British were on the plains. She then called Peter, and when he came to the house with the team she got in the wagon; the British were then coming round the church corner, firing the buildings as they came. She looked round, and recognized the first man on horseback as her lodger. Mrs. Low thought their house had not been fired, but had caught by sparks from other buildings.

This statement is given as it was told by Mrs. Low herself to her daughter, the mother of Benjamin Newkirk, one of the oldest and a highly respected inhabitant of this city.

This family tradition seems to explain the exemption of the barn from the general destruction. If that had been fired, considering the inflammable material in barns at that season of the year in a farming community, it is not probable that it could have escaped; and adjoining the burying-ground, unless the wind was from the north, there was no dangerous exposure.

A woman and her daughter, at the time of the burning of Kingston, had been boarding for some time with a widow lady, Mrs. Cornelia Low, at her house standing at the southeast corner of Wall and John streets. When it became apparent that Kingston was the objective point of the British, marked for destruction, and Mrs. Low commenced preparations for the removal of her goods, this lady told her that she was the wife of a British officer, and would stay and protect her property from destruction, and urged her not to move anything. Mrs. Low placed no confidence in her protecting power, and, in the first place, buried the best part of her china in the garden. The next day she had a wagon at the door loaded with her choicest furniture, and her daughter Catharine on horseback, with a tea-caddy containing her silver spoons, ready to depart for a place of safety, when her brother John came and in-
sisted upon putting everything back in the house, saying that he did not believe the British would burn the village.

Mrs. Low and her daughter went to Kyserike to a brother's and left everything behind, and this British officer's wife in charge.

When the red-coats came this woman, true to her word, protested against anything being touched, claiming exemption and protection as the wife of a British officer. Her plea was of no avail; they hooted her and said, "You will all claim to be British officers' wives now." They seized her chest, drew it into the street, broke it open, and rifled it of everything that was valuable; fired the house, and dragged the daughter away with them, the mother following with screams and cries. Finally when they reached the plains, where the Academy now is, they tore the earrings out of the daughter's ears and let her go.

This statement comes direct, substantially as above related, from the grandmother of the writer, who was the person on horse-back ready to leave with the spoons.

To digress, it may be said the result of this protection was very similar to that of Robert R. Livingston on the opposite side of the river. There were then some sick British officers staying at Mr. Livingston's under parole and nursed by the family. When the British were marauding on that side of the river Mrs. Livingston made preparations to remove what goods she could. The officers then advised her not to do so, and offered to protect the property. She did not feel it safe to rely on their promises. She caused to be piled what furniture they could upon a couple of carts, and the last load was not out of sight when she turned around to see the dwelling in flames.

Gratitude and kindness have saved many lives from the tomahawk and scalping-knife, and buildings from the savage torch, but they made no impression upon the wearers of the British red-coats in that day.

Some years ago, when improvements had been commenced and were in progress upon some of the table-land rising above Ponekhoekie, the workmen exhumed, about three feet below the surface, twenty-nine six-pound cannon-shot in a heap, and a straggling one a short distance from the rest. By the balls was a decayed stump. A few yards from this spot were found four wrought-iron axles of a gun carriage, about a foot below the surface. The balls were coated with rust, and the axles hardly oxidized.

Those things were found on a table-land somewhat higher than the Ponekhoekie level, and the trace of a breastwork at that time was distinctly visible. This was undoubtedly the locality of the breastworks hereinbefore referred to as erected and manned by a
few of our militia, and stormed and taken by the detachments landing at Ponckhockie.

It may be a relief from the dull prose of history, and not entirely inappropriate, to close this chapter with a short but beautiful extract from one of Cooper’s novels, “The Pioneers,” in which his hero, Leatherstocking, after describing the beauties of the Otsego Lake and its surroundings, proceeds to say: “I have travelled the woods for fifty-three years, and I have made them my home for more than forty, and I can say that I have met but one place that was more to my liking, and that was only to eyesight and not for hunting or fishing.”

“And where was that?” asked Edwards.

“Where! why, up on the Catskills. I used often to go up into the mountains after wolves’ skins and bears; once they bought me to get a stuffed painter; and so I often went. There is a place in them hills that I used to climb to when I wanted to see the carryings-on of the world that would pay any man for a barked shin or a torn moccasin. You know the Catskills, lad, for you must have seen them on your left as you followed the river up from York, looking as blue as a piece of clear sky, and holding the clouds on their tops as the smoke curls over the head of an Indian chief at a council fire. Well, there is the High Peak and the Round Top, which lay back like a father and mother among their children, seeing they are far above all the other hills. But the place I mean is next to the river, where one of the ridges juts out a little from the rest, and where the rocks fall for the best part of a thousand feet, so much up and down that a man standing on their edges is fool enough to think he can jump from top to bottom.”

“What see you when you get there?” asked Edwards.

“Creation,” said Natty, dropping the end of his rod into the water and sweeping one hand around him in a circle; “all creation, lad. I was on that hill when Vaughan burnt ’Sopus, in the last war, and I seen the vessels come out of the Highlands as plain as I can see that line scow rowing into the Susquehanna, though one was twenty times further from me than the other. The river was in sight for seventy miles under my feet, looking like a curled shaving, though it was eight long miles to its banks. I saw the hill in the Hampshire Grants, the highlands of the river, and all that God had done or man could do as far as eye could reach. You know that the Indians named me for my sight, lad, and from the flat on the top of that mountain I have often found the place where Albany stands; and as for ’Sopus! the day the royal troops burned the town the smoke seemed so nigh that I thought I could hear the screeches of the women.”
"'It must have been worth the toil, to meet with such a glorious view.'

"'If being the best part of a mile in the air, and having men's farms and houses at your feet, with rivers looking like ribands, and mountains bigger than the vision seeming to be haystacks of green grass under you gives any satisfaction to a man, I can recommend the spot.'"
CHAPTER XIX.

FROM THE BURNING OF KINGSTON, 1777, TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE WAR, 1783.

Leaving the sufferers at Kingston for a time, presumably erecting temporary protections for themselves and their families, the attention of the reader will be called to some movements and operations of the military.

After the burning of Kingston, and as soon as Governor Clinton's army arrived, he concentrated his forces at Hurley, and his plan and intentions are best developed by the extracts from letters which follow.

On the 17th of October, 1777, he wrote to General Gates as follows: "Yesterday afternoon about four O'clock, the enemy took possession of and burned the town of Kingston. For want of a proper number of troops no effectual resistance could be made. I have now the body of men under my command which marched from New Windsor to my assistance, and shall immediately proceed to the ruins of Kingston, which the enemy have abandoned. I have sent off a party of Light Horse to reconnoitre, and shall act in such manner as the motions of the enemy may direct."

The following is appended to the letter as a postscript: "A prisoner, who is by no means intelligent, says that the enemy are two thousand strong commanded by Gen. Vaughan."

On the 18th he wrote from Hurley to General Putnam as follows: "I am this moment favored with yours of this morning. There is nothing new happened in this quarter since I wrote you yesterday. The enemy is 8 or 10 miles above this burning away. But as there are no capital settlements there, on this side the river and the situation of the country such, as with my present force I cannot advance opposite to them with safety to my artillery, I mean at present to continue where I now am in front of the most valuable settlements and where the stores and effects from Kingston are removed. I imagine the enemy will not proceed much higher up the river, and that on their return, they will attempt to lay waste the places they have passed going up, after our troops are drawn from them."

On the 21st of October Governor Clinton wrote to General Gates,
describing the situation so fully that although quite lengthy, it is inserted entire.

"Hurley 2 Miles and a half from Kingston Oct 21 1777

"Dear Sir

"I have repeatedly done myself the Honor to inform you of my situation, and think it my duty again to do so, that if any of those consequences should happen, which may now be easily foreseen, the blame if any may not lie at my door.

"When I undertook at the request of Gen Putnam, to put myself at the head of a body of men to protect the western shores of Hudson River, and to throw myself between the enemy and your army, should they proceed up the river, I represented to him in strong terms the situation of this part of the country, thinly inhabited, and the interior part unsettled, and separated from all assistance by a chain of mountains. In consequence of which representation, he agreed to let me have 3000 men, if the Eastern Militia should come in as he expected they would, of which number however he hath not sent four hundred. I then clearly saw that it would be impossible for me, to protect the country, unless I could be reinforced from the Northern Army, which from your letter I had reason to expect; I wrote also to Gen Dickinson of New Jersey upon the same subject, and I am informed that he, notwithstanding the exposed situation of his own State, has ordered six hundred men to my brother's assistance at New Windsor. Kingston hath been destroyed merely because I have been so deceived in my expectations of assistance, that it was impossible to take measures for its security.

"I am now, sir, at the head of little more than one thousand men, to cover the most valuable part of the county of Ulster.

"The enemy have lain still yesterday, and the day before, with a strong southerly wind, from whence it is evident, that a knowledge of Burgoyne's fate hath changed their intentions against Albany. If they land in force, I must either retreat, or sacrifice my few men and lose seven very valuable pieces of field artillery. If I retreat, this whole country will be ravaged and destroyed, and that at a season of the year when the Inhabitants (who are warmly attached to the American cause) will want time to provide cover for their families against the inclemencies of the ensuing winter.

"While we act merely on the defensive, two thousand men on the river will find full employment for twelve or fifteen. But if four thousand are left to cover Albany, two thousand here, and two thousand on the other side of the river, it will be by no means impracticable, to recover the passes in the Highlands, in which case the greater part of the army, now along the banks of the river,
may be brought to act offensively against the enemy and perhaps render the present campaign decisive in our favor.

"Col. Malcolm, who is the bearer of this letter, will do himself the honor of stating and explaining to you my ideas upon this subject; and you will do me a particular favor, if in answer to this, you will inform me what I am to expect, and what is expected from me.

"I am Dr Genl with particular esteem
"Your most obt servant
"GEO CLINTON

"To the Honbl Maj Gen Gates, Albany."

If General Vaughan had in truth intended to proceed up the river to Albany, the plan was abandoned upon receipt of the confirmatory news of Burgoyne's surrender. He then, after having partially satiated the cruelty of his nature by burning and destroying what residences and private property he could reach, proceeded down the river on the 23d of October, and after anchoring over night opposite Kingston Point, joined the British forces in the Highlands the evening of the 24th.

After the enemy had thus returned from their marauding expedition the troops were withdrawn from this section and proceeded to New Windsor.

The convicted spy, Taylor, was executed by order of the governor at Hurley, in the presence of his troops, on the 18th of October.

The Council of Safety, after the burning of Kingston, convened at the house of Andrew Oliver, in Marbletown. The president, Pierre Van Cortlandt, and ten members were in attendance.

After attending to some business in reference to the discharge of some prisoners, some under parole and others in confinement, they passed the following preamble and resolution:

"Whereas the late destruction of the town of Kingston, and a vast number of dwelling houses, improvements, grain, and fodder, on each side of Hudson's river, by a cruel, inhuman, and merciless enemy, has deprived many persons and families, the good subjects of this State, of shelter and subsistence for themselves and their cattle, Calamities which by the blessing of God on the fruits of this land, those, who have not shared in so uncommon a misfortune, are enabled in a great measure to relieve, Resolved therefore that it be and it is hereby most earnestly recommended to the several and respective general and district committees of the Counties of Ulster, Dutchess, Orange and Westchester to make or cause to be made a proper, and proportionate distribution of the aforesaid distressed persons and families and their cattle, to the
end that they may all be provided for, as the circumstances of the country will permit; and it is hereby most strenuously urged on all those, who have not shared with them in their afflictions, to receive the aforesaid persons, families and cattle, and furnish them with shelter and subsistence at a moderate price."

The Council of Safety continued in session at Marbletown for a time, when they adjourned to Hurley, Ulster County. They held regular sessions at Hurley until the 17th of December, when they adjourned to Poughkeepsie, where they continued until the 7th of January, 1778, when the Provincial Convention, consisting of the members of the Senate and Assembly of the State, commenced their sessions at Poughkeepsie in joint convention.

The citizens of Kingston, after the burning of their homes, together with their outbuildings, in which were stored the gatherings of their harvest and their other crops, were, of course, put to very great straits in regard to all the comforts of life. Without a shelter, except such as might be afforded temporarily through the
compassion and hospitality of friends, many built huts and temporary abodes with the materials they could gather. As the buildings originally were principally of stone, and many of them with kitchen additions projecting out in the rear, some were able to finish that part off with temporary roofs, so as to make them, to some extent, comfortable for the winter, others made temporary additions or lean-tos against the standing walls, and a few made temporary covers or huts in the best way they could for shelter.

_House at Hurley where Council of Safety met._

making preparations for the restoration of their buildings the following spring and summer. Judging from the old ruins and old neglected cellars, which could be seen in different parts of the village when the writer was a youth, many buildings after the fire were entirely abandoned and never rebuilt.

The winter was employed by those who were able to do so in preparing timber for permanent reconstruction the ensuing year. They had much trouble in procuring boards and necessary sawed material by reason of their scarcity, and that explains a portion of Mr. Livingston's letter, which will soon be referred to.

The committee of Kingston, in order to obtain some relief for
the inhabitants, on the 9th day of February, 1778, addressed a communication to the governor as follows:

"To his Excellency George Clinton Esq Governor and Commander in Chief of the State of New York

"The humble address of the Committee of Safety and Observation of the town of Kingston shews—

"That in the dispute raised between America and the King of Great Britain touching and concerning taxation, America held that such taxation was unjust and illegal, and unwarranted by the Constitution of Britain, and soon entered upon and into measures to prevent such illegal taxation. Kingston unitedly joined in and seconded the measures taken to prevent the expected oppression by early embarking in the cause of liberty. Their persevering and continued exertions in support thereof have undoubtedly incurred the bitterest resentment of the enemy, and to vent such resentment the expedition up the North river was determined upon and the destruction of Kingston thereby effected to the great loss and damage of the inhabitants.

"Many of the sufferers would fain build who are discouraged by the enormous prices of materials and labor. They have always supported the cause with proper spirit, have always submitted to the present government, cheerfully turned out their number of men on all detachments and those ordered to be raised to re-enforce the army, and always acted with spirit and resolution whatever might be the situation circumstances and difficulties.

"The committee therefore conceive it to be their indispensable duty to address your Excellency in behalf of the sufferers of Kingston and ask that your Excellency will be pleased to interest yourself in devising means whereby the poor sufferers may obtain relief. Their spirit to rebuild the town is good, but their abilities weak. Assistance for that purpose would be exceedingly agreeable and greatly revive the drooping spirits of many of the poor sufferers.

"The Committee may it please your Excellency conclude by praying that your Excellency will use all your influence and interest to obtain relief for the poor sufferers of Kingston

"By order of the Committee

"Andries De Witt Junr Ch'n"

To which petition the governor replied as follows:

"Poughkeepsie 17th Feb'y 1778

"Andries De Will Junr Jun Ch'n

"Sir I have received the address of the Committee of Kingston dated the 9th instant respecting the distresses of the inhabitants of Kingston and the aid required to enable them to rebuild the
town. You may rest assured, gentlemen, that whatever may be in my power to render them shall not be withheld but most cheerfully afforded. I have already suggested to sundry members of the Legislature the propriety of rebuilding the Court house and gaol at public expense and have reason to hope it will be done. I have likewise mentioned the propriety of exempting such number of artificers as shall be necessary from military drafts and duty, providing they agree to work at rebuilding the town for reasonable wages, which likewise I hope I shall be enabled to do.

*I* * * * * * * * * *

"I am with due respect
"Your most obed’t serv’t
"Geo. Clinton"

Subsequently orders were issued in military matters on the 30th of May, and again on the 23d of July, 1778, exempting from service in the militia, or upon drafts for the time being, the two companies of militia of the town of Kingston, and such persons as were actually employed in rebuilding the town.

During the season some were fortunate enough to get their houses finished, others completed only a section for habitation, some finished off their rear kitchens, leaving the main building untouched, and a few abandoned their ruins to their fate.

The first meeting of which we have any record after the fire was the meeting for the annual election of trustees and other officers, held on the first Tuesday of March, 1778, only a few months after the fire, at the house of Mr. Tobias Van Steenbergh, Jr. This is evidence that that house was then standing. The meetings were continued there until the 2d day of October.

On that day an order was made to have the lead which was stored in Mr. Low’s barn run into bullets.

This is looked upon as circumstantial evidence that those two buildings were not, in fact, burned.

As previously stated, for the alleviation of their distress, the citizens of Kingston received considerable assistance from abroad. The letter of Robert R. Livingston, the Chancellor, referred to above, was dated March 1st, 1778, addressed to the trustees of Kingston, and was as follows:

"GENT

"The inconvenience I daily experience from the destruction of my house, and the ravages of the enemy, serve only to increase my sympathy with the inhabitants of Kingston, and animate my desire, in proportion as they lessen my power, to contribute to their relief as liberally as I wish. My inattention to my private
affairs for three years past, and the disaffection of my tenants, who have during this controversy very generally withheld their rents, put it out of my power to contribute, what might perhaps be of more immediate use to my distressed friends at Kingston. Yet, I flatter myself, that my present proposal may meet with their approbation, and be attended with permanent advantage, and in this view I am induced to make it. I mean a grant of 5000 acres of land, in any part of Hardenbergh's patent, that falls to my share—which I promise to make to the Trustees for the use of the Inhabitants thereof under the following restrictions. 1st to be taken in a regular square, 2nd not to be located in Woodstock or Shandaken, nor at any other place, on which a settlement has been made,—and that the location be made within three months from the date hereof, and a survey returned in order to perfect the grant. This land the Trustees will dispose of, in such way as will be most advantageous to the suffering inhabitants of Kingston.

"As I have been informed, that many of them have been disappointed in not being able to procure boards, I have prevailed upon my mother, to suffer Mr Saxe to dispose of all but her third, which she reserves for her own use. I shall be happy if this, or anything else in my power can in the least contribute to the ease or convenience of those whose attention to me early in life entitles them to my friendship, and who are more endeared, by the generous cause in which they suffer

"I am Gentlzn with great regard

"Your most obedient Hum Servt

"RONT R LIVINGSTON"

The preceding letter of Mr. Livingston was read at the meeting of the trustees of Kingston held at the house of Tobias Van Steenbergh, Jr., on Friday, the 27th day of March, 1778, and it was thereupon "Ordered that Mr Cockburn be requested to attend this Board, in order to enable the Trustees to make the location of the lands contained in the above grant."

Mr. Cockburn attended with a map of the Hardenbergh Patent, when it was resolved that the location of the said lands be made either on the Schoharie Kill, or between the Packatakan branch and the Delaware or Fishkill, in Lots Nos. 39 and 40, or in such other place as a committee to be appointed for that purpose shall judge most valuable in quality and situation.

Mr. Henry Jansen and Mr. Philip Houghteling, two of the trustees, were appointed a committee to view and locate the lands to be donated by Mr. Chancellor Livingston, and employ Mr. Cockburn to survey the same.

At a meeting of the trustees held on the 12th day of February,
1779, the speaker stated that the chancellor had requested that the
five thousand acres to be donated should be located as early as
practicable. The trustees at once ordered that Mr. Cockburn be
requested to attend with his map in order to make the location.
Accordingly, at the next meeting, on the 15th day of April, 1779,
Mr. Cockburn attended with a map of the Great Patent, and after
full consultation with Mr. Cockburn, Peter Dumont, Jr., and
Peter Hynpagh, they located the tract at a place called the Platte-
kill, near Packatakan, in Great Lots Nos. 39 and 40. And Mr.
Tappen was designated to draw the deed and wait on his honor the
chancellor therewith for execution.

At a meeting of the trustees on the 18th day of October, 1782,
a deed was received, duly executed by the Hon. Robert R. Livings-
ton to the trustees, for five thousand acres of land, as located by
them as before stated, as a donation to the suffering inhabitants of
Kingston. The deed was at once ordered to be accepted, and a
letter of thanks prepared and sent to the said Hon. Robert R.
Livingston for his benevolence.

The trustees by resolution directed Mr. Tappen, their clerk, to
inquire by letter of Chancellor Livingston what character of suf-
ferers he designed to benefit by his real estate donation. The re-
ply does not appear in the records, but on the 19th day of June,
1786, the trustees by resolution appointed Andries De Witt,
Edward Schoonmaker, and Benjamin Low a committee "to make
a list and estimate of the persons entitled to and having an interest
in the donation of lands made by Chancellor Livingston to the
Inhabitants and residents of this town, who are the sufferers in the
late conflagration of the said town."

Subsequently, under the direction of the trustees, the tract was
divided into fifty-acre lots, and then arranged into ten classes of
ten lots each. The allotment of the several classes is set forth in
the Appendix, as giving an official statement of the greater part of
the heads of families who suffered at the conflagration. It evi-
dently does not include all, as there were more than one hundred
sufferers.

Notwithstanding the trials through which the town of Kingston
had passed, we find their patriotism and zeal in the cause of their
beloved country was neither mitigated nor abated, for at the annual
election of trustees held on the first Tuesday of March, 1779, little
more than a year after their town had been laid in ashes, the
trustees-elect immediately qualified, and at once "Ordered that the
Treasurer deliver to Edward Schoonmaker one thousand two hun-
dred pounds to put in the Continental loan office and procure a
certificate for the same."

After the surrender of Burgoyne and the burning of Kingston,
Sir Henry Clinton hastily abandoned his marauding expedition and returned to New York, and thus ended the operations of the British regular troops in this vicinity. But Ulster County was not thereby relieved entirely from the horrors of bloody strife. The Indian allies of the British, and the Tory blood-hounds, stirred up by British emissaries, were constantly menacing the border settlements, which required continual watching and action. Although but little humanity and much brutality during that war was exhibited under cover of the British red-coat, still, that was not to be compared with the brutality of the Tories, who, covering themselves with war paint in imitation of the savage warriors, appeared thereby to divest themselves of every vestige of humanity, and to aim at throwing the brutality and heartlessness of the Indian far in the shade. Sometimes a feeling of humanity was aroused, as in the case of Brant, when in one of his raids he found a number of helpless school children in terror, weeping around the corpse of their murdered school-mistress; he dashed his exemption mark of black paint upon the clothing of each one of them, and told them to hold that up when an Indian appeared, and they would not be harmed. Then with a savage war-whoop he rushed into the woods. Many Indians passed, but the children remained uninjured.

Search will be made in vain for a similar tale in reference to any one of the paint-bedaubed Tories. The hatred of their country and of their liberty-loving countrymen appeared to have blunted all the finer feelings of their nature. Tradition gives a tale of a Tory and an Indian in one of these raids. Having entered a house, they found a child sleeping sweetly in a cradle. The infant’s smile in its sleep made the Indian draw back and withhold the intended blow with the tomahawk; but the Tory, marking the hesitation of the Indian, stepped forward, and in a single blow clave the skull of the sleeping innocent.

Some of them in the hypocritical guise of friends served as spies for the Indians, to gain knowledge and carry information to their savage friends in order to facilitate deadly raids, and to designate the proposed victims and the most favorable time, so that in the border settlement no man was safe who openly advocated the principles of liberty, and indeed even to disclose them in private. Such were some of the hardships under which the war for independence was prosecuted. The following is given as an example: In 1777, in the vicinity of Pine Bush, in the town of Rochester, near the extreme northern border of the town, three families resided in the neighborhood of each other, respectively named Baker, Miller, and Shurter. Shurter was one day approached and charged with being a Tory; he denied it, and gave strong assurances of at-
attachment to the cause of freedom. Not many days elapsed before the report of firearms was heard in that vicinity, and soon the smoke and flames of several conflagrations were seen ascending heavenward. The neighboring townsmen rushed to the scene to find the houses and outbuildings in flames or in ashes. Shurter lying in one place with his brains dashed out, Miller in another perforated with bullets. Baker was never found or heard of, probably carried away for torture to enliven some of the midnight savage orgies.

Scarcely a year passed during the entire Revolutionary War but the border settlements of Ulster County were visited to a greater or less extent by these savage raids. In the early part of the war they were not conducted under any organized expedition, but were carried on by small predatory bands of Indians, with Tory allies, for marauding and robbing purposes, and to procure scalps for redemption by British heroes. Many sensational stories have been written in reference to those raids, but a few only will be noticed here. None of them actually reached the territory of Kingston, but the assistance of its inhabitants was necessary in furnishing money and troops for protection. Block-houses were built, and houses in suitable localities in the neighborhood of settlements picketed and turned into forts, as places of refuge for the inhabitants in case of danger. Patrol parties were constantly kept out scouring the woods as a protection against surprises, to whom the block-houses and forts afforded necessary shelter. Yet notwithstanding all these precautions the wily savages frequently eluded their vigilance. During the early period of the war, and until the fall of 1777, when the defeat and capture of Burgoyne put an end to the hopes of British victories in that quarter, the British had drawn their Indian allies to their assistance in the northern part of the State and along the northern frontier settlements. But after that, in 1778 and 1779, expeditions under Brant and Johnson were organized for havoc and destruction along the borders of Ulster and Orange.

In the fall of 1778 Brant, with a band of Indians and Tories, appeared on the frontiers of the county of Ulster and carried dismay through the settlements. The inhabitants with their families rushed to the interior, and to the forts, block-houses, and other places of safety. The approach of the savages was heralded by the burning of buildings and the screams of the unfortunates who had found no place of safety.

One of the forts in the valley on the west of the Shawangunk Mountains was called Fort Gunner. Captain Cuddeback, who was in charge, had only nine men with him besides the women and children who had come there for protection. Feeling that his
force was not sufficient to resist an attack by the savages, he resorted to a ruse for a display of strength. The fort being on a plateau having a commanding view for a considerable distance all around, he dressed up the women who were with him with hats and coats so as to resemble men, and armed them with guns and sticks. As soon as the Indians appeared in the distance he paraded his whole force in Indian file outside, and in full view of the distant Indians marched from the rear to the front of the fort, and entering the fort, at once closed the barriers and made preparations for defence. The Indians passed them by without attack, simply firing a few shots upon their onward march, without injury to any one, and continuing their depredations and destruction as they proceeded.

The next year, 1779, Brant made another incursion, and during that raid occurred the celebrated battle of Minisink, in which so many of the citizens of Goshen were slaughtered, and to whose memory an appropriate and fine monument adorns the public square in that village.

These raids, together with the horrible massacre in the Wyoming Valley in 1778, exhibited to the commander-in-chief the necessity of summary Indian punishment to break their power for evil and protect the inhabitants of the border territory. Accordingly an expedition was organized for that purpose, and the command intrusted to General John Sullivan. The expedition consisted of four brigades, including General James Clinton's brigade, which comprised four New York regiments.

The Second New York Regiment, under command of Colonel Philip Van Cortlandt, was in camp at Wawarsing, and on May 4th struck their tents under orders of march to Wyoming. When about starting the colonel discovered smoke ascending in a southerly direction, and received a messenger with information that the Indians were at a settlement about six miles distant, Fantine Kill, which they were burning and destroying. Colonel Van Cortlandt at once marched to their relief. He found Brant was there with about one hundred and fifty Indians, but on the approach of Colonel Van Cortlandt he with his followers fled to the mountains. In that raid by the Indians the widow of Isaac Bevier and her two sons were killed, also the entire family of Michael Socks, consisting of seven or eight persons.

The Indians had also attacked the house of Jesse Bevier, but the inmates succeeded in defending themselves until relieved by Colonel Van Cortlandt. On the 7th of May the regiment again struck their tents and marched to join the rest of the expedition.

In three weeks' time the expedition broke the strength and completely subdued the tribes of the hostile Indians, so that they sued
for peace and the burial of the hatchet. Predatory bands still loitered round in small numbers, robbing and murdering where they could, even until some time after the close of the Revolutionary struggle. They were not the representatives of any tribe, but virtually outlaws and outcasts, generally aided and assisted by their painted Tory associates.

In 1780 there was an Indian known by the synonym of "Shanks Ben" hovering about the frontier with a few Indian followers and bloodthirsty Tories. He was the terror of the country, and always succeeded in evading pursuit and capture. Negroes he never injured unless by some specific act they aroused his anger, but woe to the white man or woman who came within his power.

In 1780 Johannis Jansen, who was a colonel appointed in the early period of the war in command of a regiment of Ulster County militia, and who had rendered service to his country as such, was at home at his farm residence in Shawangunk. The house was a large stone one, with a wing containing the kitchen, and standing on the north side of the road upon a slight elevation above the flat skirting the Shawangunk Mountains. Early one Monday morning, in the warm season of the year, when he had gone to his barn, he discovered some Indians and a Tory prowling around. He at once, being unarmed, rushed toward the house, and they after him, but did not fire for fear of alarming the neighborhood. When he reached the house he was almost within their grasp. But he succeeded in getting inside of the kitchen and slamming the door shut, but could not fasten it. He held it shut against the Indian force by pressing against it with his arms and head. One of the Indians then seized a broad-axe which lay near and gave blow after blow upon the door. The door, with Colonel Jansen's strength, still withstood the battering. The colonel then called upon his wife to get him his gun and pistols. The Indians then left the door, and the colonel stepped into the main building, closed the door behind him, and with his gun and pistols awaited their entrance.

They entered the kitchen, ransacked that and the cellar, but made no attempt to enter the main building. A young lady from New York, who was stopping in the neighborhood with a connection of hers and who was engaged to do some spinning, came to commence her work while the Indians were in possession of the kitchen, and on entering it she was immediately seized and taken prisoner, and they, of course, were deaf to all her entreaties for release.

A young man by the name of Scott was stopping at Mr. Jansen's at the time, and had left the house before the Indians arrived. Mrs. Jansen, who was up-stairs, called loudly to Miss Hardenbergh, who was in another room, and inquired where Scott was. Miss
Hardenbergh replied in a loud voice that he had gone to Mr. Sparks's. The Indians overhearing the question and reply, and knowing that Sparks was a near neighbor, suspected that he had gone for assistance. They at once gathered their booty, drove some of the negroes before them, and dragging the lady captive with them escaped to the mountain.

The attacking party consisted of "Shanks Ben," three other Indians, and a Tory painted in Indian style.

On their retreat, after putting an end to the cries and screams of their lady captive with the tomahawk, they proceeded up the mountain, and when near the summit saw a party consisting of an old man by the name of Mentz, his son and daughter. They succeeded in capturing and murdering the old man and his daughter, but the son escaped by jumping down a precipice. With a sprained ankle and much pain he reached Colonel Jansen's, where he found a number of the neighbors assembled. They at once started up the mountain, and found the murdered victims on the mountain-top; but the Tory and his Indian allies escaped their vengeance.

During the Revolutionary struggle Captain Jeremiah Snyder with his family resided near the Kaatsban Church, in the northern part of the then town of Kingston. Some time in the year 1779 he, with his son Elias and three others, were out upon a scouting party ransacking the neighborhood in quest of Tories, and to ascertain whether any enemies were prowling around. In the course of their wandering Captain Snyder and Anthony Van Schaack became separated from the rest of the party. They moved along very cautiously through the forest, but for some time saw no living creature. At length passing under the brow of a cliff, they were suddenly startled by the discharge of musketry, and five bullets penetrated the earth near the person of the captain. They looked up and saw the enemy on the top of the rock, who ordered them to lay down their arms; but as their muskets were discharged, they preferred the chances of escape. They ran for their lives, and both escaped unhurt, although in all thirteen deliberate shots were fired at them.

The next year, 1780, the Indian, "Shanks Ben," who figured in the attack upon Colonel Jansen as before related, was with a number of his Indian and Tory followers on a marauding expedition through the mountains. On the 6th of May they came suddenly upon Captain Snyder and his son Elias when they were working in a field near the homestead. Snyder and his son at once started on a run to escape, but they soon found their escape cut off by the enemy appearing in every direction and surrendered. Captain Snyder surrendered to John Runnip, one of the pursuing party, at which the flanking party were very wroth, thinking they were
entitled to his capture. A rule existed among the Indians that
the one who first laid hands on a prisoner or obtained his scalp
should be entitled to the reward from the British Government. A
dispute as to the right was generally terminated by the death of
the prisoner. The leader of the flanking party, being thus disappo-
pointed, advanced in a threatening attitude and struck his tomahawk
at the head of the captain, but fortunately it glanced off and
made only a deep cut near the ear. Runnip interfered, and eventu-
ally saved the captain's life.

After the capture they all proceeded to the house, which they
found deserted, the family having sought shelter and a hiding-
place in the woods. They made a general sack of the premises.
The buildings were then fired, and the marauding party with their
plunder set out for the mountains, carrying the captain and Elias
away with them as prisoners. This occurred within four or five
hundred yards of the residence of a Tory, who saw what he deemed
sport, and kept out of hearing of any cry for help. The Indians
and Tories proceeded with their captives and booty, crossing the
Gauterskill where Palenville now stands. They passed to the south
of Pine Orchard between two lakes, and thence to the east branch
of the Schoharie Kill, which they crossed, and there bivonacked for
the night.

The next morning the Tories and Indians separated, the former
taking the Continental money and guns, of which they had robbed
the captain, while the Indians proceeded with the captives and the
rest of the booty on their journey for Niagara, under the leadership
of Runnip, who assumed the command. On the 9th of May they
ascended a lofty peak of the mountains where the snow, compact
and hard, still lay four feet deep; toward sunset they reached the
east branch of the Delaware River.

Two of the Indians then set off for Poghatoghhou (Middletown)
in quest of potatoes, which the settlers, in their haste to abandon
the country the fall previous, had left in the ground, and which
were found to be still in a good state of preservation. Four other
Indians proceeded to fell an elm-tree for a bark canoe, and two
others were left in charge of the captives.

An Indian bark canoe was soon built. The process was as fol-
loows: After the elm was felled the bark was ripped up to the
length of the proposed canoe. The Indians then removed it with
the utmost care from the trunk to prevent its bursting, after which
they chipped off the rough outside so as to make it pliable, and
bent it over, the inside out, with stays of green withes fastened to
the bottom and sides in the manner of ribs to preserve the shape.
A spot on each side near one end was pared away so as to double
up, and this being done, it assumed the form of a bow with a sharp
point. The stern was constructed in the same way. To prevent leakage at the doublings and knot-holes they pounded slippery elm bark into a jelly and calked them. After constructing their canoe in this way, and making their paddles by splitting a small white ash-tree, the eight Indians and their prisoners embarked therein the next day, Wednesday, and drifted down the east branch of the Delaware to Shehawcon (now Hancock), at the junction of the two branches of the Delaware. At this place they abandoned their canoe and continued their journey westward on foot. After marching a few miles, Runnip, one of the Indians, was seized with a violent attack of the fever and ague, which detained them until the next morning. At noon on Saturday they struck the Susquehanna about sixty miles above Tioga Point. Here one of the Indians killed a rattlesnake and brought it to Runnip. "He skimmed it, cleaned it, chopped it up in small pieces, made a soup of it, drank the soup and ate the flesh—and was a well man."

Here they constructed another bark canoe and floated down the current to Tioga Point. There they left the canoe and marched along the banks of the Chemung River. They passed the breastwork which the Indians had thrown up to resist the invasion of General Sullivan, and between that and the Genesee Flats Runnip pointed out two mounds which were alongside the path, and which were the graves of a scouting party of thirty-six men belonging to Sullivan's army which had been intercepted and killed by the Indians. At the Genesee Flats they met John Young and Frederick Rowe, two Tories from Saugerties, on their way to the frontier in company with Indians. Young had lived a number of years within a mile of Captain Snyder's.

The Indians again resumed the journey with their prisoners, and finally delivered them over to the British at Fort Niagara. After spending some time in captivity, first at Niagara, then at Montreal, and afterward on an island in the St. Lawrence, they made their escape and reached home shortly before the close of the war.

The five Continental regiments which were raised in the State of New York in the early part of the war made a record which should be appropriately noticed. In them were officers and troops from Kingston, as well as other portions of Ulster County.

The first, third, and fourth of the regiments were at Saratoga under Gates in 1777, and a portion of them at the forts in the Highlands under James Clinton. In July, 1778, the five regiments were brigaded under General James Clinton. In 1779 the third regiment, under General Clinton, formed a part of the expedition against the Six Nations. They were consolidated in two regiments on the 1st of January, 1781.
Of those regiments Mr. Ruttenber, in an address before the Historical Society at Newburgh, said: "In their ranks were those who had borne the banner Excelsior from Quebec to Yorktown. Returning from the latter they were conspicuous in the entertainment of our French allies at Peekskill. As a part of the right wing (Gen Gates) 2nd Division Gen St Clair, First Brigade Col Cortlandt, they took up quarters in the New Windsor encampment in November 1782. They had long been and continued to be the pride of the State—the pride of the Army—the pride of Baron Steuben—the pride of Washington, who in 1782 wrote thus, 'The commander in chief cannot conceal the pleasure he receives from finding the two regiments of New York in the best order possible, by the report of the Inspector General, which also concurs with his own observation.'"

There does not appear to be any specific record of what services were rendered in the war by the citizens of the town of Kingston after the destruction of their village, and after the scene of the war was removed from their immediate locality; still, they were not exempt from the trials of the conflict, nor from impending and apprehended dangers.

At a meeting of the trustees held on the 12th day of January, 1781, the following resolution was passed and adopted:

On motion of Mr. De Witt, seconded by Mr. Tappen, after reciting: "That as the frontier parts of this county are at present without any troops, and no prospect to have them supplied by men, before the next campaign, or even then, and consequently the enemy may make such inroads into the interior of the country as they may see cause

"Therefore Resolved, that a petition be presented to the Hon Legislature now convened at the city of Albany, praying for a sufficient number of troops to defend the frontier parts of this county.""

At the next ensuing meeting of the trustees held on the 19th day of January, 1781, a petition to the Legislature, which had been prepared by Mr. Tappen under the direction of the preceding order, was presented, adopted, and signed by the trustees. As the petition recites at considerable length the warlike services they had been called upon to perform since the conflagration, it is inserted entire, as follows:

"To the Honorable the Senate and Assembly of the State of New York in Legislature convened

"The Petition of the Trustees of the Freeholders and Commonalty of the town of Kingston in Ulster County for themselves and the Inhabitants of the said town Humbly Sheweth
"That your Petitioners, inhabitants residing in and near the Western frontier part of this County, have during the course of this unhappy war, by the frequent incursions of the Enemy, been extremely harassed and many actually reduced to great want and poverty.

"That your petitioners, during the course of this war, have clearly furnished their quota of men and supplies required of them, as well for the service of the United Army, as for this State in particular, that exclusive of this service they have by draft out of the militia in rotation kept up a guard for a length of time for the defence of the frontiers.

"That to ease the militia from their monthly classes, in the course of the last campaign when by an act of the Legislature they were required to raise levies to re-enforce the army of the United States, they by the advice of his Ex the Governor of this State, at great expense raised one third more of the number of men than was required of them for the purpose of protecting their frontiers: by these exertions and by the aid of divine Providence, they partly repelled, and partly escaped the cruelties of a barbarous enemy.

"Permit your Petitioners to add, that though willing to support the cause of their injured country, in which they have so early embarked, yet if unassisted, find themselves unable to withstand the shock of another campaign, which they have reason to apprehend may be levelled at this and the adjacent towns of this county, having already completed the ruin and devastation of a great part of the Western frontiers of this State. Your petitioners naturally conclude themselves the next victims of their rage. And whether the fertility of their soil, and richness of their crops is considered, or whether their steady and distinguished opposition to the Engines of Tyranny is remembered, they equally appear additional motives of revenge to an implacable foe. Satisfied that the Hon Legislature will be equally solicitous for their preservation and Safety.

"The prayer of your Petitioners thereof is, that a sufficient number of troops may be provided for the defence of the Frontier parts of this county—and your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray" etc.

On the 12th of March, 1781, the trustees, deeming it advisable to act for their own protection and not depend entirely upon outside assistance, ordered that four men be employed to range the woods in order to discover whether any of their enemies were on the frontiers. The route to be covered by the scouts was to be the border line extending from the Hurley bounds to the bounds of Albany at the expense of the trustees.

At the same meeting it was "ordered that Mr. Benjamin Low run the lead he has in his possession into bars, and sell the same to all
persons who are within the township and are well attached to the liberties of their country; but not exceeding three pounds to one person, at sixpence per pound."

The trustees then also directed Captain Van Buren to cause the cannon and field-pieces belonging to the town to be put in good order at the expense of the trustees. Before the adjournment the trustees made an arrangement with Peter Hynpagh and Isaac Dumont to range the west half of the route at six shillings a day in specie or grain, the trustees to find provisions.

The inhabitants of the town, fearful of attacks from Indians and Tories, were anxious to prepare for defence against them. There were so many emissaries of Great Britain still around that they felt at all times unsafe. Accordingly it appears that at a meeting of the trustees held on the 3d day of April, 1781, a committee of the inhabitants of the town waited upon the trustees, to inform them "that they were about devising ways and means to fortify the town against the common enemy, and that for that purpose it would require a quantity of timber for stockades, and they were informed Mr. Jacobus Van Gaasbeek would sell a parcel of pine-trees for that purpose." The trustees thereupon resolved to pay Mr. Van Gaasbeek the sum adjudged to be the value of the trees, not exceeding three hundred in number.

On the 16th of April the trustees sent Mr. Abraham Low to a Mr. WINERS for one hundred and fifty or two hundred-weight of gunpowder at the expense of the trustees.

On the 4th of June the trustees appointed Messrs. Elmendorf, De Witt, and Van Buren a committee to consult with Colonel Johannes Snyder in respect to the defence of the town.

It will thus be perceived that the citizens were kept continually on the qui vive for protection against their savage enemies of the red and paint-bedaubed species.

The battles of the war between the hostile armies subsequent to the capture of Burgoyne occurred in other portions of the confederacy, but Ulster County, including Kingston, throughout the whole period, and until the last shot was fired and peace proclaimed, furnished their full quota of men and materials for the support and defence of their country.

The capture of Burgoyne, speedily followed by the acknowledgment of the independence of the United States by France, and the formation of an alliance between the two countries on the 6th of February, 1778, dissipated every cloud of doubt in regard to the ultimate result of the war. The fleet and armies of France were soon battling side by side with ours for the triumph of the right. It was not long thereafter that, decisive victories perching upon the allied banners, England was forced to give up the contest.
On the 16th of November, 1782, Kingston was honored by a visit from General Washington, on his way, by a circuitous route, from New Jersey to West Point. After passing the night of the 15th with his companion-in-arms, Colonel Cornelius Wynkoop, at his homestead at Stone Ridge, which is still standing unaltered, and was for many years the residence of John Lounsberry, he proceeded on his way to Kingston. At Hurley he was greeted by an enthusiastic crowd, and the following address of welcome was delivered to him by President Ten Eyck:

"The humble address of the Trustees of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the town of Hurley To his Excellency George Washington General and Commander in Chief of the American Army etc

"Sir We, the Trustees of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the town of Hurley, beg leave to approach your Excellency with hearts deeply sensible of the signal services you have rendered our common country, by a conduct, resolution, and courage so happily combined, and so dignified by the noblest virtues, that the latest posterity shall revere you as the protector of the country. Silence must muse our gratitude (for the power of language cannot display it) to the Supreme Being who has been graciously pleased to ap-
point a person of your Excellency's virtue and ability, to be his happy instrument of rescuing these United States from the many dangers with which they have been threatened by a cruel and powerful enemy. We cannot refrain from joining in the universal applause that awaits such distinguished merit.

"May your Excellency enjoy the greatest possible blessings that heaven can bestow; may you always be crowned with success:

may your illustrious exploits and undertakings for the public good be productive of a speedy, permanent and honorable peace; and after living a blessing to mankind, be rewarded with endless happiness in the mansions of the righteous.

By order of the Trustees

"Hurley Nov 1782"

His Excellency, General Washington, replied, as follows:

"Gentlemen"

"I return you my thanks for this very flattering mark of your esteem, and exceedingly regret that the duties of my station will
permit me to make but so short a stay among a people, from whom I have received the warmest proofs of regard, and for whose character I entertain the highest respect.

"It is peculiarly pleasing to me to find that my conduct has merited the approbation of my fellow citizens. If my endeavors shall have contributed to the freedom and independence of my country, that consolation will more than amply repay all my labour.

" Geo Washington

Hurley Nov 1782

"To the Trustees of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the town of Hurley"

The general with his staff then proceeded to Kingston. On his arrival there he was met by the trustees of Kingston and a large body of citizens, preceded by Henry J. Sleight, the speaker or presiding officer of the trustees, who in behalf of the trustees presented to him the following address:

"We the Trustees of the Freeholders and Commonalty of the town of Kingston, for ourselves and in behalf of those we represent, beg leave, with the most unfeigned love and esteem, to congratulate your Excellency on your arrival in this place.

"To a People, whose principles of Liberty were early decided, and whose actions have been correspondent, the appearance of a character among them, who by his wisdom has directed, and by his fortitude has led the armies of America to victory and success, affords a joy more sensibly felt than is in the power of language to express. While Sir we take a retrospect of the past campaigns, in every vicissitude of the war we observe your Excellency exhibit the most steady patriotism, the most undaunted courage; and while as a consequence of this the ministry are sunk into negotiation and their armies into inaction, we trust, it is our prayer, that the same benign Providence which has hitherto guided will enable you speedily to terminate the present contest in the unmolested Glory and Freedom of this extended Empire. When that day shall arrive, and the welfare of your country prevail, may you then exchange the fatigues of the camp for the sweets of domestic retirement, may your well earned fame run parallel with time and your felicity last through eternity."

To which his Excellency made the following reply:

"Your polite and friendly reception of me proves your sincerity.

"While I view with indignation the marks of a wanton and cruel enemy, I perceive with the highest satisfaction that the heavy
calamity which befell this flourishing settlement, seems but to have added to the patriotic spirit of its inhabitants; and that a new town is fast rising out of the ashes of the old.

"That you and your worthy constituents may long enjoy that freedom for which you have so nobly contended is the sincere wish of

"Gentlemen—Your most obedient humble servant

"Geo Washington"

The Consistory of the church in Kingston also united with their fellow-citizens in bidding the great hero welcome, and delivered to him the following address:

"Sir—Amidst the general joy which instantly pervaded all ranks of People here on hearing of your Excellency's arrival to this place

"We the Minister Elders and Deacons of the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church in Kingston participated in it, and now beg leave with the greatest respect and esteem to hail your arrival.

"The experience of a number of years past has convinced us, that your wisdom, integrity and fortitude have been adequate to the arduous task your country has imposed upon you; never have we in the most perilous of times known your Excellency to despond, nor in the most prosperous to slacken in activity, but with the utmost resolution persevere until by the aid of the Almighty you have brought us this year to Independence Freedom and Peace.

"Permit us to add, that the loss of our religious rights was partly involved in that of our civil, and your being instrumental in restoring the one, affords us a happy presage that the Divine Being will prosper your endeavors to promote the other.

"When the sword shall be sheathed and Peace re-established, and whenever it is the Will of Heaven that your Excellency has lived long enough for the purposes of nature, then may you enter triumphantly thro' the Blood of the Lamb into the regions of bliss, there to take possession of that Crown of Glory, the reward of the virtuous and which fadeth not away."

To which address his Excellency replied, as follows:

"Gentlemen—I am happy in receiving this public mark of the esteem of the Minister Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in Kingston

"Convinced that our religious liberties were as essential as our civil, my endeavors have never been wanting to encourage and promote the one, while I have been contending for the other, and
I am highly flattered by finding that my efforts have met the approbation of so respectable a body.

"In return for your kind concern for my temporal and eternal happiness permit me to assure you that my wishes are reciprocal; and that you may be enabled to hand down your Religion pure and undefiled to a posterity worthy of their ancestors is the prayer of

"Gentlemen

"Your most obedient servant

"GEO WASHINGTON"

The arrival of the general and his suite was greeted with great rejoicings on the part of the citizens. He put up at the public house of Evert Bogardus, but accompanied by his staff he dined with Judge Dirck Wynkoop, in Green Street. In the evening there was a gathering of ladies in the Bogardus ball-room, which was honored for a short time by the attendance of the general, when the ladies were severally introduced to him. The next morning at an early hour he left the village and continued his journey.

Hostilities ceased in 1782. Soon after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis with his army of seven thousand men, the British ministry entered into negotiations for peace, and a preliminary treaty was signed on the 30th day of November, 1782. But the definitive treaty acknowledging the independence of the United States, was not signed until nearly a year afterward, September 3d, 1783, and New York was not evacuated until the 25th of November following.

Thus terminated British rule in this country, and the triumph of liberty over tyranny and despotism became complete.

The final conclusion of the long and bloody war, during which much suffering had been endured and sacrifices made, followed by a full and absolute recognition of the independence of the United States as a nation, gave rise to rejoicings and jubilations in every section of the country. Kingston was not behind other places in the character and extent of her rejoicings. Its inhabitants had always stood among the firmest and foremost friends of liberty and advocates of the contest for independence. Their ardor had never been cooled or dampened, even by the tremendous sacrifices they had endured; now it rather enhanced their joy at the glorious termination of the conflict, and they looked upon the result as a compensating reward for all their sufferings.
By His Excellency

GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq.

General and Commander in Chief of the Forces of the United States of America.

These are to CERTIFY that the Bearer hereof

Walter Bannister, Soldier

in the Second Militia Regiment, having faithfully served the United States

Three Years

and being inlisted for the War only, is hereby DISCHARGED from the American Army,

GIVEN at HEADQUARTERS the

[Signature]

By His Excellencies

Command.

[Signature]

REGISTERED in the Book

of the Regiment,

[Signature]

Adjutant.

The above Walter Bannister

has been honored with the BADGE OF MERIT for

Three Years faithful Service.