

HIGH AND MESSENGER.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THOS. W. ATKIN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Devoted to Politics, Literature and General Intelligence.
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From the Louisville (Ky.) Democrat.

"He Beats his last Revolt."

BY ARON MOORE, JR.

During the passage of the "Splogun," one day, a vessel was overtaken by the pirates, and the crew were all taken on board. The vessel was a small schooner, and the pirates were a party of about twenty men, who were all armed with fire arms. The vessel was taken to the coast, and the crew were all taken on board. The vessel was a small schooner, and the pirates were a party of about twenty men, who were all armed with fire arms.

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The Green Mountaineers, A Story of the Revolution.

BY CAROLINE MORRIS STARK,
GRAND-DAUGHTER OF THE HERO OF BUNNINGTON.

"The trumpets sound, the banners fly,
The glittering spears are ranked ready;
The shouts of war are heard afar,
But it's no the roar of sea or shore
Wad mak me longer wish to tarry,
Nor shout of war that's heard afar,
It's leaving thee, my Bonnie Mary."—Burns.

The country is threatened. We have been loyal subjects of a King. We have fought his battles—we have taken Louisburg, and we have taken Quebec, and we have achieved the conquest of Canada.

While ploughing the plough, threshing the grain, budding the trees, the farmers of New Hampshire and Vermont think of these things.

But the King must not trample upon the people; and lo! there is a king's officer, or who was once a king's officer, and his loud voice is heard as a partisan commander.

The lords of the hills and the lords of the valleys rally around him. But who are the lords of the hills and the lords of the valleys?

They are not men with epaulettes, or even with shoulder-straps, but they own the soil which they fight for. No gaudy dress insignia of military life decorates or mars their persons, but in defiance of the soil they are ready to use their guns with the same precision that brings down the deer, the lobster, and the bear.

But these farmers who have this precision with the rifle and the musket, how shall they be induced to leave their avocations of labor to engage in wars?

John Langdon rises in the council chamber of New Hampshire, and declares that he has three thousand dollars in hard money—that he will pledge his plate for three thousand more, that he has seventy hogheads of Tobacco, which shall be sold for the most it will bring—and that these, with all his personal credit, are at the service of the State of New Hampshire, if the State will raise two regiments, and place one of them under the command of "my old friend, John Stark," (that king's officer) "who has vindicated the honor of our country, at Bunker's Hill, and who will do the same at all times."

If Burgoyne had not been checked in his advance from Canada, the independence of these colonies must have been postponed for at least ten years. The expedition of Stark, suggested by Langdon, checked Burgoyne, a most fatal check, as he admitted himself, in his labored argument before the House of Commons.

With these preliminaries, we proceed to our narrative.

The soldiers march to Bennington. That peaceful village is annoyed, but not attacked by military occupation; for in old times the people of Vermont were patriots, and their ears are not offended, although they hear the roll of the drum, and the call of the bugle.

On the 14th of August, 1777, the town of Bennington is alive with the bustle of military occupation; not hostile, but friendly. The yeoman soldiers of New England have gathered there, determined to strike a hard blow at Burgoyne. The country is threatened—to human calculation the country is in danger—a hard blow is to be struck, but it is not a desperate one. The sons of liberty, reared amid the rough and wild hills of New Hampshire and Vermont, never regard their last blow as desperate. Liberty never despairs. Very many of these stalwart yeomen have scoured the woods—have slept upon the uncut field, with a roll of snow for a pillow, and against Robert Rogers they have fought against superior numbers of the foe. They have seen Fort Anne, and Ticonderoga and Louisburg, and Quebec. Their unshaken confidence in themselves is confirmed by the memory of their past success.

But they remember another officer, under whom they have successfully fought, and he was the friend and neighbor of Robert Rogers, Colonel John Stark; many of them remember him at Bunker's Hill, at Trenton, at Princeton, and they have assembled at Bennington, in the confidence that he is to be their commander; and they despising British tyranny, and all forms of aristocracy, know that he holds British domination, and all aristocratic institutions, in utter abhorrence. But this commander, of whom they are so proud, and whose appearance is nondescriptly looked for, has not arrived.

Two officers, wearing the uniform of the continental army, ride into the village, and it is soon known among the troops and inhabitants that they bear express orders from the commander-in-chief of the northern army to march the New England volunteers to the head quarters in the State of New York.

Can the troops, from the inhabitants, are heard murmurs of dissatisfaction. "It wasn't the bargain." "Where's I with him at Winer Hill. Didn't they tell me when I turned out that the old colonel was to be our general?" "The Congress used him as good before, but this is too bad," is heard from another. From the women comes the cry, "I thought these soldiers had come to protect us. Pretty protection if they are going into York State!"

But the order was imperative. No officer was present who conceived either that he had authority, or that it would be safe to take the responsibility of interfering with it.

The troops are mustered, and the march commences. There is growing and grum-

bling in the ranks. But in a short time, a stern and peremptory voice is heard, and many of the soldiers recognize the voice in the order "Colonel Stark!" The person who gave the order, rode swiftly to the head of the column. He was a man apparently somewhat under the age of fifty, of the middle size, stout and compact frame, and broad bearing, and in his person, and in his aspect were marks of great energy of thought and of action; and impatiently dashing his spurs into the flanks of his horse, he rode like a courier. He reined up. The sudden halt created some confusion, but gazing upon his bold and striking features, and catching the glance of his deep-set eye, a loud shout of recognition greeted him. "How is this, sir?" said he to the officer conducting the march. "What are you doing with my troops?" "I do not know that they are your troops," replied he, irritated by the tone of the interrogator. "They are the troops of Congress, and I am marching them to the head-quarters of the main army, to join Pook's brigade." "And by whose orders, sir, do you take upon yourself this duty?" "By the order of the general-in-chief of the Northern Department." "The name is well enough, sir, and all I have to say on the subject is, that they shall never form a part of Pook's brigade. I am here as the representative of the sovereign State of New Hampshire, and I am the commander of these troops." "You are taking a fearful responsibility upon yourself, sir," is the reply, "in thus arresting the march of these men." "I'll arrest you, sir, if I hear another word from you." "Another officer now rode up. "What is this," says he, addressing the officer who conducted the march. "The troops are called to halt," is the reply, "by a person not in authority. I am Brigadier General Stark, and am not to be questioned by subordinates." The officer bowed and said, "General, are you aware that these troops are marching by the authority of Congress?" "I believe that orders have been sent by an officer, acting under the authority of Congress. But my commission authorizes me to act independently of Congress." "But are you not, sir, assuming fearful responsibility?" "Well, sir, I'll take the responsibility. A man is not fit to be trusted with the defence of his country, who is either unwilling or afraid to take responsibility."

The general now gave orders to the troops to return to quarters. The men gave three cheers, and commenced their counter-march, leaving the continental officers to settle their dispute with the general as best they could.

The regiment has now returned to Bennington; and as the general rides through the village, the soldiers and inhabitants salute him and the news spreads that Brigadier General Stark has arrived. Joy is in the houses, and frolicking and gossiping at the taverns. "Well, now, want he give the red coats the devil. Didn't he do it at Bunker's Hill, and didn't that infernal old King George want him on his side? But the old colonel, though he can fight like the Evil One, has got a heart, and it is just here," said the speaker, laying his hand upon his breast. "Why, the colonel, no matter how grand he looks in his uniform, he shakes hands with every body."

This was true; but there was one exception. He would not shake hands with the Continental Congress; and his rank and command had been given to him by the Provincial Congress of New Hampshire, and the command and commission, had been accepted with the express understanding, that he was to be responsible solely to the State of New Hampshire; and no way responsible to the Continental Congress or to any continental commander.

The events we shall sketch will show the wisdom of the State in giving him a separate command. And the reason that he assigned for his non-intercourse with Congress, namely, that a man who could not protect his own rank was not to be trusted to protect the honor of his country, was sufficient to him; and a brave, gallant and successful officer of our own times has declared the same.

The general had hardly alighted at his quarters, when news was received that a body of Tories and Indians were in the vicinity. A party was detached with orders to skirmish with them, and hold them in check as long as possible, and then to retire slowly upon the main body, in order that the Americans might have time to secure the military stores collected at Bennington, and send to Colonel Warner for reinforcements. But this detachment was encountered by the force of Col. Baum, who had effected a junction with the Indians and Tories, or what is more probable, the Indians and Tories were the advanced party of Baum's force. The American detachment was repulsed, after considerable skirmishing, and Baum's army advanced. Upon coming in sight of the American force, the enemy halted; and after some maneuvering, retired to elevated ground, along the front of which flowed a small stream. This elevated ground rose with a regular and gentle slope, without trees or underbrush, except upon its crest, where there were several sturdy oaks which were at once cut down by the enemy, and used in building a breast-work, upon which their cannon were mounted.

On the right and left were the cornfields, and still farther from the breast work on the banks of the enemy's position, the forest afforded shelter for their sharpshooters and the Indians. Of these advantages of the ground Col. Baum skilfully availed himself. The American General, aware

that nearly all his soldiers were accustomed to the woods, perceived at once that while the forest at either end of the enemy's position sheltered the enemy, it also concealed the American operations from observation. And he resolved at once to flank the enemy. And thus the American General planned his attack; but it was now nearly sunset. He therefore drew off his force, leaving only a small party of riflemen to skirmish with the enemy's advanced parties, which they did with considerable effect. In these skirmishes two Indian chiefs fell. In the night it rains, the troops are sheltered but imperfectly, in hastily constructed. The next morning, an hour before daybreak, the camp is disturbed by the arrival of the Berkshire militia, under their pastor, Parson Allen, who upon being introduced to the general's quarters announces himself, "Sir, I am here as the leader of the people of Berkshire, who have come down to do battle for the rights of their country against the British and the Tories, and adventure some pangs from the wilderness; and we are now ready to go and fight them." "What, in this rain and darkness?" "Well, sir, my people want wait, they want to fight." "Tell them to wait until we have sunshine, and if I don't give them fighting money, I'll never ask them to come again!"

August the sixteenth—the rain has ceased, the sun has risen. In pursuance of the plan of attack we have already indicated, Colonel Nicholas was ordered to attack the enemy in the rear of their left. Colonel Harriot to attack the rear of the right, and to unite if possible before commencing the fight. Colonels Hubbard and Sickness were ordered to advance upon the right and front, to divert attention from the real point of attack; and the commanding general was to move forward in the direct front, until the fire should be heard from the rear. All of which dispositions were admirably executed. When the forces were paraded for action, the general made a brief address to the troops; which, although his was the poetry of action rather than of numbers, we give here in words of one who has most felicitously immortalized that Roman speech:

"When on that field his hand the Hessians fought,
Briefly he spoke before the fight began—
Soldiers! those German gentlemen are bought,
For four pounds eight and seven pence per man,
By England's king—a bargain as is thought.
Are we worth more? Let's prove it, now we can,
For we might beat them, boys, except of song,
Or Mary Stark's a widow?—It was done."

It is the season of harvest. Corn and grain are waving in the fields, silver beaches glisten with rain drops, although the sun is shining. The commanding general at the head of the main body rides slowly forward. But, hark! here is the rattle of musketry, and the word is heard, "at them boys, the game has begun;" and without artillery the whole force has attacked the entrenched camp of the enemy. A second volley is heard, mingled with Indian cries, and the savages are seen running; many of them are brought down by the unerring shot of the Yankee rifles. The combat rages. The Germans fight with the obstinacy of veterans. The Provincials imitate them. No sound is heard save the roar of battle. The word of command can scarcely be passed through the incessant reverberation of the small arms and artillery.

But, although the Germans fight well, some of them will attend to their military duties with a pipe in the mouth; and late in the afternoon, in handing out ammunition from a tumbrel behind the German lines, a philosophical gentleman, officer of private we know not, with a pipe in his mouth, sets fire to the cartridges. The whole explodes, and at the same time, like a hurricane, on rush the Americans. The vigor and resolution of their assault, and the confusion created by the explosion of the tumbrel, cause the enemy to stagger in their ranks. It becomes a hand-to-hand fight. The brave Germans are driven back; their commander mortally wounded. With loud shouts the Americans pursue their advantage.

The rout is complete. The Americans in exulting with success, scatter in pursuit of the disorganized fugitives. The sun is sinking below the horizon. But, hark, drums and bugles are heard in the distance. Breyman is coming to the rescue. The flying troops of Baum recognize the friendly notes of the German bugles and instinct with the discipline of regular troops they rally. Will Breyman turn the fortune of the day?

The Americans, flushed with their success, are forgetful of the little discipline they ever knew. It requires all the influence and personal effort of their general to rally them. But, hark again! A drum and fife is heard in the distance; and if any American heart, in that now diminished host, had doubted of the success of the day, the doubt gives place to hope at the sound of that drum and fife. Yankee Doodle announces that the brave Warner is at hand. The Americans rally, and united with fresh troops encounter Breyman and the remnant of Baum's force.

The action is renewed, Breyman is routed. The ground is strewn with the paraphernalia of war, and the bodies of the slain; and the Americans, wholly occupied with the custody of the many prisoners taken, have no time to pursue the few fugitives who are hastening to tell Burgoyne of their tale of disaster.

Colonel Baum dies, receiving every attention, that the brave can render to the brave; and with an honorable funeral, is buried on the banks of the Wallonschick. A messenger is dispatched express to Boston, with the news of the battle and its

result. From Boston the news is despatched to France, and the long-protracted negotiations for French alliances with the