



"Ours are the plans of fair, delightful Peace,
"Unwarped by party rage, to live like Brothers."

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Biography.

From the Boston Chronicle.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY DEARBORN,
Commander in Chief of the Northern Army.

Courage and alacrity in armies are principally inspired by confidence placed in the commanders. However dangerous the position of a corps may be in the field of battle, if it is convinced the dangers encountered are for the general good of the army they will be endured not only with firmness but cheerfulness. This truth obtains with regard to plans, arrangements and operations of an army. The duty of a soldier is peremptory; he is not permitted to enquire into its expediency, or to doubt its propriety: in order, therefore, that he perform it with alacrity, it is necessary that he have unlimited confidence in the source from which it flows.

To doubt in the hour of danger, is to be destroyed. All consummate commanders have made it a principal object to gain the confidence of their troops, and to restore it whenever startled by accident or misfortune, by masterly strokes of address and policy. When Caesar, with a view to surprize, advanced rapidly on Ariovistus, the German Chief, his soldiers, from accounts of the strength and ferocity of the Germans, became alarmed, and under various pretences muttered their resolution not to obey, if ordered on such an unprepared-for service. Caesar assembled them, & informed them he had understood that some of them had disguised their fears under the difficulties of the ways and the want of provisions. "I am not now to be told (says he) what is due to my trust, or that an army must be subsisted. At precisely two in the morning, I shall decamp; if followed with the tenth legion alone." His troops, humiliated and impatient to retrieve their reputation, advanced with confidence to victory.

The battles of Trenton and Princeton were not very important in their impression on the enemy, but were of essential consequence, as they served to illustrate the fortitude and intrepidity, and develop the resources of the American Commander.

At a crisis like the present, when the determined and persevering hostility of a foreign power compels us once more to resort to arms in defence of life, liberty and property, it is with sentiments of the highest satisfaction, we have observed so judicious and brilliant a selection of officers in the important commands of the army; and none where confidence can be placed with more assurance than in the COMMANDER IN CHIEF. The subjoined sketch of the revolutionary services, rendered by Gen. DEARBORN is imperfectly collected from his brothers in arms.

When the British sent a detachment to destroy the military stores in the vicinity of Lexington, Mr. DEARBORN, then a young gentleman in the study of medicine, resided at Nottingham, in New-Hampshire. Animated by the patriotic resistance of the Americans, immediately on being informed of the battle by express, he assembled the inhabitants, and observed that the time had now arrived, when the rights of the American people must be vindicated by arms, or an odious despotism would forever be riveted upon them. The militia had already gathered, and impressed with these sentiments, a company of sixty-five men, armed, and accoutred, paraded at one o'clock of the next day after the Lexington battle. DEARBORN advanced with them with such rapidity, that they reached Cambridge Common, a distance of fifty miles, in twenty hours. After remaining at Cambridge several days, there being no immediate occasion for their services, they returned. DEARBORN was soon after commissioned a Captain in one of the New-Hampshire regiments under the command of Col. STARK, and such was his popularity, and the confidence of the people in his bravery and conduct, that in ten days from the time he received his commission, he enlisted a full company and marched again to Cambridge. On the morning of the glorious seventeenth of June, information was received at Mystic, [now Medford] where DEARBORN was stationed, that the British were preparing to come out from Boston, and storm the works which had been thrown up on Breed's Hill the night before, by the Americans. The regiment to which he was attached was immediately paraded, and marched to Charlestown

neck. DEARBORN's company composed the flank guard to the regiment.—They crossed the neck under a galling fire from the British men of war and floating batteries, and after sustaining some loss, arrived at the heights. The action soon commenced, and the Americans stood their ground, until their ammunition was expended, and they could no longer beat off the British bayonets, with the butt ends of their muskets. DEARBORN carried a fusée into the battle of Bunker Hill, and fired regularly with his men. The next arduous service in which he was engaged was the expedition to Canada, through the wilds of Kennebec, under the command of General ARNOLD. He was not ordered on this dangerous and difficult service, but persuaded a Captain, who was drafted to exchange places with him. Thirty-two days were employed in traversing the hideous wilderness between the settlements on the Kennebec and the Chaudiere, in which every hardship and want of sustenance, his strength failed him, and he was unable to walk out a short distance without wading into the river to refrigerate and stimulate his limbs. With difficulty he reached a poor hut on the Chaudiere, when he told his men he could accompany them no farther, animated them forward to a glorious discharge of their duty, and would suffer no one to remain to attend him in his illness. His company left him with tears in their eyes, expecting to see him no more:—DEARBORN was here seized with a violent fever, during which his life was in danger for ten days, without physician or medicine, and with scarcely the necessaries of common life. His fine constitution at last surmounted the disease, and as soon as he was able to mount a horse, he proceeded to Point Levi, crossed over to Wolf's cove, and made his unexpected appearance at the head of his company a few days before the assault on Quebec. At 4 o'clock in the morning, on the 31st of December, in a severe snow-storm, and in a climate that vies with Norway in tempests and intense cold, the attack was commenced. DEARBORN was attached to the corps under General ARNOLD, who was wounded early in the action, and carried from the field. MORGAN succeeded to the command, and "with a voice louder than the tempest," animated the troops, as they stormed the first barrier and entered the town. MONTGOMERY had already bled on immortal ground, and his division being repulsed, the corps under MORGAN was exposed to a sanguinary but unavailing contest. From the windows of the store houses, each a castle, and from the tops of the parapets, a destructive fire was poured upon the assailants. In vain was the second barrier gained by scaling ladders; double ranks of soldiers presented a forest of bayonets below, and threatened inevitable destruction to any one who should leap from the walls.—Dearborn maintained for a long time this desperate warfare, until at last he and the remnant of his company were overpowered by a sortie of two hundred men with field pieces, who attacked him in front and rear in a short street, and compelled him to surrender. The whole corps originally led on by Arnold were killed or made prisoners of war. Dearborn was now put into rigid confinement, with a number of other officers, who were not allowed to converse with each other, unless in the presence of the officer of the guard. While in prison he was urgently solicited by the English officers to join the British; was promised a Colonel's commission if he would accept, and was assured if he refused, that he would be sent out to England in the Spring and inevitably hanged as a rebel. The only reply he made to their solicitations or menaces was, that he had taken up arms in defence of the liberties and rights of his country; that he never would disgrace himself or dishonor his profession by receiving any

appointment under G. Britain, but was ready to meet death in any shape rather than relinquish the glorious cause he had espoused.

In May, 1776, Col. MEIGS and himself were permitted to return on their parole. They were sent round to Halifax in a ship of war, and treated with the usual contumely and hauteur of English officers, who would not deign to speak to Americans, nor even allow them to walk the same side of the quarter-deck with themselves. They were put ashore in Penobscot bay, and returned by land. In the March following, DEARBORN was exchanged, and appointed Major to the 3d New Hampshire regiment, commanded by Colonel SCAMMELL. In May he arrived at Ticonderoga, and was constantly in the rear guard, skirmishing with the British and Indians, in the retreat of St. Clair, when pressed on by Burgoyne's army. When the advance of Burgoyne was checked, and he encamped on the heights of Saratoga, DEARBORN was appointed Lieut. Col. Commandant of a partisan corps of three hundred men, stationed in front, to act as a corps of observation in concert with MORGAN's riflemen. In the famous engagement of the 19th of September, Col. MORGAN himself commenced the encounter by driving in the out-posts and picket guards of the right wing of the British army, which was commanded by Gen. Burgoyne in person. In the hard-fought battle of the 7th October, he was in the division of Gen. ARNOLD, who commenced a furious and persevering attack on the right wing of the British forces. Whilst ARNOLD pressed hard on the enemy, DEARBORN was ordered to pass the right, and take possession of six or eight heavy cannon, which played over the British into the American lines. In executing this order, he was charged by a corps of light infantry, which he repulsed with fixed bayonets, gained an eminence, took the cannon and the corps of artillery attached to them, made a rapid movement into the rear of the British lines, and gave a full fire before his approach was discovered. The British were soon after forced into a precipitate retreat, and DEARBORN assisted in storming their works through their whole extent, under a tremendous fire of grape and musketry. ARNOLD was wounded in the same leg which suffered when DEARBORN followed him at the assault on Quebec, and was repulsed from the works after having gained a temporary possession of them; but Lieut. Col. Brooks having gained the left of the encampment, was enabled to maintain his ground. During the long contested battle, which decided the fate of Burgoyne's army, DEARBORN was unable to rest, or take any refreshment from daylight until late at night. The succeeding winter he passed in camp at Valley Forge, with the main body of the American army, commanded by Gen. WASHINGTON in person.

At the battle of Monmouth, the spirited conduct of Col. DEARBORN, and a corps under his command, attracted particularly the attention of the Commander in Chief. After LEX had made a precipitate and unexpected retreat, WASHINGTON among other measures which he took to check the advance of the British, ordered DEARBORN with three hundred and fifty men to attack a body of troops which were passing thro' an orchard on the right wing of the enemy. The Americans advanced under a heavy fire with a rapid step and shouldered arms. The enemy fled off and formed on the edge of a morass: The Americans wheeled to the right, received their second fire with shouldered arms—marched up until within eight rods, dressed, gave a full fire and charged bayonet. The British having sustained considerable loss, fled with precipitation across the morass, where they were protected by the main body of the army. "What troops are those," enquired WASHINGTON, with evident pleasure at their gallant conduct:—"Full-blooded Yankees from New Hampshire, Sir," replied Dearborn. He accompanied General Sullivan in his expedition against the Indians, and in the battle was attached to Gen. Poor's brigade. When the disaffection and treason of Arnold transpired, he was stationed at West Point, and was officer of the day at the execution of Major Andre. In 1781, he was appointed Dep. Quarter Master General with the rank of Colonel, and served in that capacity at the siege of Yorktown. In short, there was scarcely a battle between Yorktown and Que-

bec during the long protracted war, in which Col. Dearborn did not take a brave, active and conspicuous part.

Soon after the peace he moved into the District of Maine, where he was engaged for several years in agricultural pursuits. He was appointed Major General of the Militia, and elected to represent the district of Kennebec in the Congress of the U. States. No man was ever more popular in the district in which he resided, or will be longer remembered by its inhabitants, than General Dearborn. On the accession of Mr. Jefferson to the Presidency, he was appointed Secretary of War. During a long and arduous discharge of the important duties of this office his political enemies have given him credit for the economy, dispatch and punctuality, which he introduced into the Department. Even Randolph who wanders from satire and sarcasm, and is supposed to feel remorse of conscience, whenever betrayed into reluctant eulogy, rendered the meed of merit to the Secretary of War. After commenting in his usual style on the estimates of Mr. Secretary Smith, he said with respect to those of the Secretary of War, he was already prepared to act; he had never known that gentleman to make an unnecessary or improper call, and was therefore ready to vote the appropriation without any further investigation. In the discharge of the duties of the war department, Gen. Dearborn has had an opportunity to familiarize himself with the improvements in modern tactics, and the economy of war, and to keep alive and add to his former stores of military knowledge. When we consider the strength of his constitution, the decision and promptitude of his mind, his great military acquisition, his tried patriotism and long services so honorably rendered; we are induced without hesitation to say, that in no person could be confided with more hope and assurance, the destinies of the Northern Army.

From the National Intelligencer.

In common, we believe, with the great body of our Fellow-Citizens, we have been highly gratified with the cool and collected spirit which has characterized the proceedings of Congress during their present session. We should certainly have been better pleased had those proceedings been marked by as much celerity as energy; but for much of the time consumed we have found an apology in the complicated nature of the arrangements called for, and in the habitual respect paid in our councils to the rights of a minority. Instead of War speeches, we have had in succession war measures. Instead of rant and noise we have contemplated the gradual disclosure of the features of a PLAN for protecting the rights and maintaining the honor of our country. Moral principles having failed to insure this indispensable end of our government, measures have been taken to array the physical power of the people. Every measure has been avowedly taken with a view to defence or offence against a foreign foe, has been submitted as the offspring of cool reflection, and adopted apparently with the determined spirit of making it efficient.

We did believe that a course thus marked with all the attributes of true spirit, would neither have been misunderstood or misrepresented; especially when we contemplated a great part, if not the greater part, of the federal members, concurring in all the measures of defence, and voting for the large disbursements they necessarily involved. We did hope, from these symptoms, that returning harmony was about to cheer our hearts, and that like a band of brothers we were with one mind about to rally round the ark of our safety. War, with all its evils, under such circumstances, would have no terrors to a people strong in their resources and conscious of their virtue.

This hope has not abandoned us, although there have recently occurred some local indications of an unpropitious aspect, which it may be useful cursorily to notice.

Too many of our public prints have been embarked in so steady and vehement an opposition to the measures of the general government, that it could not perhaps be rationally expected from them at once, in any event, to support measures that emanated from a source to which their hostility had been so uninterrupted; and of course we find some of these prints at this very mo-

ment, when we are on the eve of War teeming with the most scurrilous effusions of faction. We may be in error, but nothing short of damning facts shall convince us that these vehicles speak the language of any considerable portions of the people, much less the language of any state in the Union. We are led to estimate their influence very lightly, when we contemplate the pitiful strain in which most of their libels are couched, which are generally as destitute of decency as of truth. What, for instance, shall we say, to the base epithet of *Conscription*, applied to the constitutional body of militia, directed to be organized by the government, a body provided by the constitution itself for the sacred ends of maintaining the empire of the laws, suppressing insurrections and repelling invasions. What shall we say to the unprincipled slander cast on our Chief Magistrate by denouncing him *Copenhagen Madison!* And what contempt can be too poignant for the ribaldry, which after inveighing against subscribing to the loan authorized by Congress, exclaims "Let every highwayman find his own pistols!"—[see Register of 8th instant.]

Can the miscrant pen that indulges in such low insolence either represent or influence the opinions or feelings of any respectable Americans? Were this possible, we should indeed blush for the American character. The writers of such articles can only be compared to those reptiles, whose existence depends on their habitual emission of venom. For the honor of human nature they are few and insignificant, and so far from promoting the ends for which their pens are daily dipped in gall, they often serve the useful purpose of beacons to honest men of their own sect, to avoid the criminal lengths to which unbridled faction would carry them. Yes, such effusions are the rank offspring of faction, which, unfortunately for poor human nature, will exist in some degree in every community. However solid the general happiness, however pre-eminently comfortable the lot of almost every citizen, there are some men whom disappointment, revenge, envy, and other low and grovelling passions, will always dispose to sicken at the general prosperity, because they do not enjoy power or place, or distinction or money, which they foolishly consider as their dues. With such men the people are a Golden Calf, which they are ready to worship, so long as they find them an inexhausted mine for the gratification of their ambition or avarice; but as soon as their drafts are dishonored, their masks fall, and no mark of detestation can be too strong for the recent object of their idolatry. A government or people that could permit themselves to be influenced by such men could not fail to receive the contempt that will otherwise sooner or later overtake their standers.

Extract of a letter from the Hon. B. Hall, member of Congress, to a gentleman in Augusta.

Washington, 3d April, 1812.

"The correspondence between Henry and Craig establishes two facts beyond the possibility of doubt: First, that England has endeavored to sow the seeds of discord among us; to dismember the Union, and destroy our independence. Secondly, that there is a party who have aided the views of the British ministry in their diabolical plans. When this view is taken of our situation, the tardy proceedings of Congress, and what by some has been considered as a want of energy, is at once accounted for. The difficulties which we have to encounter from third party men, as postate republicans, federalists, Tories and British hirelings, cause us to drag heavily along. This being our situation, makes it absolutely necessary to proceed with the utmost caution. If war had been declared previous to Henry's disclosure, there was a party ready organized to join the enemy, and divide the Union. If we did not declare war, the outrage and insults which we had received were so great, that the citizens were losing all confidence in the government. Whilst the federal party were foremost in the cry of a want of energy, they were the sole cause, and had used every exertion in their power to paralyze the government; and no doubt were secretly rejoicing in the fair prospect which by their villainy had been brought out happy for the purpose of destroying our happy inimitable government. May I put in the language of Cato ask, if there is not some chosen