

sidering the great inferiority of his numbers, and the total unfitness of his raw troops to contend with the veteran force opposed to them.

General Washington had most perplexing difficulties to encounter whilst at the head of our armies in the campaigns of '76 and '77. Soon after the surrender of Fort Mifflin, the greatest part of the American army having served served out the time for which they were enlisted, claimed their discharge. In a little time the whole of the force remaining with General Washington was reduced to about three thousand men, and even these were in a most forlorn condition, without tents, or blankets, or other necessary camp utensils. In the mean time the British army rapidly continued its pursuit through the Jerseys and part of Pennsylvania. As they marched through the country, few had the courage or patriotism to join the retreating army; whilst numbers were daily flocking to the British Commander for protection. This, indeed, was a trying time, and many Americans began to lose all hopes of being able to maintain their Independence. The great mind of Washington, however, did not despair. Having upon mature deliberation engaged in the cause of Liberty and Independence, he determined to defend it to the last extremity; and at this critical period, his *unabated fortitude* served to preserve alive the almost expiring flame of Human Freedom; his firmness and perseverance saved the spark which has since enlightened and warmed the Western hemisphere, and even extended its beneficial influence to the Eastern continent.

Having received a small reinforcement of Pennsylvania militia, the American Commander formed the bold resolution of re-crossing the Delaware, and attacking that part of the enemy which was posted in Trenton. The enterprize proved successful. Nine hundred Hessians were killed, wounded, or taken prisoners. Such a conquest, by the remains of a retreating army, which the enemy but a few days before affected to despise, is an instance of heroic perseverance seldom to be met with. This bold enterprize was

in a few days followed by another which was also planned and executed with great address. General Washington, with his army, stole away, under cover of the night, from the vicinity of a force far superior to his own, and attacked in their rear a detachment of the British posted in Princeton. In this affair, 400 of the British were killed, wounded or taken prisoners. This victory, obtained by a harrassed and wearied party, which had been engaged the day before, and marched all night without refreshment, is attended with such a scene of circumstances, and displays such superiority of Generalship, as will ever give it a place on the first line in the history of great actions.

It is pleasant, and sometimes profitable, to look back upon past dangers; and when we reflect upon the gloomy months and perilous days that passed in the years '76 and '77, during which time the future liberty and happiness of America seemed suspended by a thread, we cannot but feel a triumph of joy at the recollection of her delivery, and a reverence for the character of those illustrious men, who, by their bravery and patriotism, saved her from destruction; and upon such review, must not our thoughts and our gratitude be particularly directed to that man whom the "God of Armies" honoured to be the chief instrument of supporting the American cause, and of conducting her armies to victory and triumph? Let us, then, this day, consecrate the memory of this heroic General and patriotic Statesman, and let us teach our children never to forget that the fruits of his labours, and his example, are their inheritance.

But to proceed in our historical review of the life of our departed friend. The two victories obtained by General Washington over the detachments of the enemy at Trenton and at Princeton, served to revive the drooping spirits of the Americans, and seemed, under Divine Providence, to have been the means of their political salvation. They made the British so cautious of extending their posts, that General Washington, with an army of 1500 men, for several months, kept nearly 15,000 of the enemy closely pent up in Brunswick.

