

the sick-list or not available for duty, leaving on the rolls not far from nineteen thousand effectives, most of them levies and militia, on the day of the battle of Long Island." ¹

Major-General Heath, who had been unfitted for duty by small-pox in May, writes in his "Memoirs," under date of August 8: "About, and a little after this time, the army was more sickly than at any other period. The newspapers of Philadelphia and Boston rated the army at seventy thousand strong, and in high spirits, and asserted that it would soon clear the enemy from America. This was not a little mortifying to General Washington, who had the evidence that the army did not exceed forty thousand, officers included; and a large portion of these were levies and militia, called out for short periods and unacquainted with camp life. Hence, the number of sick amounted to near ten thousand; nor was it possible to find proper hospitals or proper necessaries for them. In almost every barn, stable, shed, and even under the fences and bushes, were the sick to be seen, whose countenances were but an index of the dejection of spirit and the distress they endured." ²

"A far more perfect and formidable army was that which lay encamped on Staten Island, seven miles down the bay. It was the best officered, disciplined, and equipped that Great Britain could then have mustered for any service. The fact that she found it difficult to raise new troops to conquer America only made it necessary to send forward all her available old soldiers. The greater part of Howe's army, accordingly, consisted of experienced regulars. He had with him twenty-seven regiments of the line, two battalions of the king's guards, three brigades of artillery, and a regiment of light dragoons, numbering in the aggregate about twenty-three thousand officers and men. The six thousand or more that came from Halifax were the Boston 'veterans.' These had been joined by regiments from the West Indies; and among the reinforcements from Britain were troops that had garrisoned Gibraltar and posts in Ireland and England, with men from Scotland, who had won a name in the 'Seven Years' war.' * * * *

"The Hessians or 'foreigners' formed more than one-fourth of the enemy's strength. They numbered eight thousand officers and men, which, added to the distinctively British force, raised Howe's total to over thirty-one thousand. His total effectives on the 27th of August was something more than twenty-four thousand. * * * *

"At length, upon the twenty-second of August, after days of expectation and suspense in the American camp, the British moved forward. Thoroughly

¹ Campaign of 1776. *Memoirs of the Long Island Historical Society*, vol. iii., pp. 122, 123, 124, 125.

² *Memoirs of Major-General Heath*, pp. 51, 52.