

his instructions, and somewhat offensive for its vanity, while it lacked the wisdom which a better knowledge of his opponents soon inculcated. It aroused sensible men to a more stubborn resistance, and was more effective than appeals of congress, to induce the people of New England to take up arms for border defence. They knew well from experience just what a war with savages meant, and they were induced to class the British troops who employed them in the same list of enemies with the savages themselves.

“ Washington issued a counter-proclamation. One paragraph is worthy a space in all records of that war, and is peculiarly expressive of the character, consistency, and faith of the man, while it affords an index of his firmness in the path of duty. It reads as follows :

“ ‘ Harassed as we are by unrelenting persecution, obliged by every tie to repel violence by force, urged by self-preservation to exert the strength which Providence has given us to defend our natural rights against the aggressor, we appeal to the hearts of all mankind for the justice of our course; its event we leave to Him who speaks the fate of nations, in humble confidence, that as His omniscient eye taketh note even of a sparrow that falleth to the ground, so He will not withdraw His countenance from a people who humbly array themselves under His banner, in defence of the noblest principles with which He has adorned humanity.’

“ The army advanced to Crown Point, rested three days, and moved forward on the thirtieth. The British light infantry and grenadiers, with the twenty-fourth British foot, some Canadians and Indians, with ten pieces of artillery, marched down the west shore and took post within four miles of Ticonderoga. The German reserve, Brunswick chasseurs, light infantry and grenadiers followed the east shore, and General Burgoyne accompanied the fleet.

“ On the first of July the investment [of the fort at Ticonderoga] began. General Burgoyne, muster of that date, gave his force rank and file as follows : British regulars, 3,724 men ; German, 3,016 ; artillery, 473 ; Canadians and Provincials, about 250 ; Indians, about 400 ; total, about 7,863 men.”¹

The retreat of the American troops from Ticonderoga on the sixth of July, the disastrous skirmish at Hubbardton on the following day, their abandonment and burning of Fort Ann, and the further destruction of Fort Edward by them, and the withdrawal of the Army of the North to Saratoga (Schuylerville), at the end of the month, not only brought great dismay to the patriotic inhabitants of the Hudson and Mohawk valleys, but led them to asperse with much bitterness of feeling Major-General Schuyler, who had been reinstated in May to the command of the Department of the North. The false interpretation

¹ Battles of the American Revolution. By Henry B. Carrington, 1876, pp. 306, 307.