

"On the thirtieth of August, Arnold solicited an interview with some responsible party in order definitely to settle upon the price of his honor. On the eighteenth of September he wrote, advising that [Major John] Andre be sent up the river to the Vulture, a sloop of war, then at anchor in Haverstraw Bay, promising 'to send a person on board with a boat and a flag of truce.' General Clinton received the letter the following day; troops were embarked under the pretense of an expedition into the Chesapeake, and Andre reached the Vulture on the twentieth.

"On the twenty-first, about midnight Andre landed, met Arnold, and accompanied him first to the Clove, and then to the house of Joshua Helt Smith [on the east side of the road, not far north of the village of Haverstraw]. * * * * The terms of the purchase were soon settled; simply 'gold and a brigadier-general's commission.'

"Andre crossed the Hudson to return to New York by land, was captured [at Tarrytown] on the twenty-third, and on the second of October was executed as a spy.

"General Clinton wrote to Lord Germaine: 'Thus ended this proposed plan, from which I had conceived such great hopes and imagined such great consequences.'" * * * *

"During these months of uncertain plans, depreciated credit, and exposed treason at the north, the south was the theatre of active war. For a short time there had been a superficial peace in South Carolina and Georgia, and Lord Cornwallis, then at Charleston, undertook to reduce North Carolina to submission."¹

General Washington, writing on December 20, 1780, to Benjamin Franklin, the United States ambassador at the Court of Versailles, remarks: "The movements of Lord Cornwallis during the past month or two have been retrograde. What turn the late reinforcements which have been sent to him may give to his affairs remains to be known. I have reinforced our southern army, principally with horse. * * * *

"I am happy, however, in assuring you that a better disposition never prevailed in the legislatures of the several states than at this time. The folly of temporary expedients is seen into and exploded, and vigorous efforts will be used to obtain a permanent army, and carry on the war systematically, if the obstinacy of Great Britain shall compel us to continue it. We need nothing but the aid of a loan to enable us to put our finances into a tolerable train. The country does not want resources, but we want the means of drawing them forth."

"It appears from this letter that Washington had reached a point where he

¹ Battles of the American Revolution. By Henry B. Carrington, pp. 505, 506.