FOR KING OR CONGRESS? By JOHN T.M'INTYRE.

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ROMANCE

SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS INSTALLMENTS

A STRONG, hardy, well-favored New Englander George Prentiss, comes to New York with dispatches from General Washington to General Putnam. On the whart opposite the Briganting Inn. at the foot of Broad street, he meets. Mr. Dans and his partner, Mr. Camp, two Tory merchants; also Miss Peggy Camp, a niece of the merchant and an exceedingly handsome damsel.

As Mr. Camp, a choleric old gentleman, gets into a dispute with a lot of roughs, George rescues him and whips the bully of the wharf, to the evident admiration of Miss Camp. The affeaty is ended by the arrival of Lieutenant Herbert Camp. a nephew of the merchant and a detail of colonial soldiers. Washington himself is expected soon in New Yotk, and the dispatches George carries, relating to his plans, are therefore of great importance. The young man refuses to deliver them to Major Hyde, a cousin of Miss Camp, who is in charge of Putnam's headquariers, and insists on seeing the general himself. The latter takes a great liking to the young fellow and dismisses him with an injunction to hold himself in readness for important duty. readiness for important duty.

readiness for important duty.

After leaving General Putnam, George goes to the King's Arms, the chief hostelry of New York at that time, for dinser. To his table there comes a big, boorish fellow, who is evidently seeking a quarrel. Near them, at another table, are Mr. Camp, Mr. Dans and Lieutenant Herbert Camp, and it transpires that Mr. Camp is trying to take his nephew sway from the colonial cause. A threat of disinjeritance seems ineffectual in this, and the atrange buily, who has been covered in the conversation, gives no further trouble to any one.

from the colonial cause. A threat of disinferitance secule ineffectual in this, and the strange builty, who has been covered to any one.

When the meal is over and the Camp party has teft, George overhears the builty, named Slade, tell Major Hyde and Henderson, a fopplish dragoon, that there was no necessity to pick a quarrel with young Camp, as he seemed likely to be disinherited anylow because of his stubornness. The inference was that hiyde would get Camp's money without dealing violently with the lieutenant.

Next, George is summened by General Puinam, who assigns him to ferret out the spies in the colonial army, as many men have taken service under Washington merely to keep the British informed of what is going on. He is to go to the Wheat Sheaf Inn. where Mr. Dana wanted to meet him.

On the evening of the day following George goes to the Wheat Sheaf Inn, on the outskirts of the city, in the direction of Harlem heights. He learns that it is a rendezvous of colonials whose loyalty to Washington's striny is in grave doubt. Not long after arriving at the lim he meets Lieuterfant Herbert Camp, with whom he has quite a conversation. This leads him to believe that the lieuteriant has thought the better of losing an inheritance of sixty housand pounds and has resolved to cast his lot with the British. While they are talking, a spy, disguised as a peddier, enters and questions George as to what ship brought him to New York. They quickly reach an understanding, which, however, is rudely interrupted by the entrance of a file of colonial soliders.

Prentiss and Camp are bound by the colonials, while they are being interrogated there is a scuffle, and then, to their amazement, Peggy Camp is brought in. She refuses to string he windows and escapes. While they are being interrogated there is a scuffle, and then, to their amazement, Peggy Camp is brought in. She refuses to their amazement, Peggy Camp is brought in. She refuses to their and the reforts to prevent betraying the girl and her brother, the young New Englande

chief plotters is supposed to be the former volonial Heutenant. Herbert Camp.
Some time afterward George visits the Camps, where
Hyde is staying. When all are supposed to have retired for
the night, several suspicious things attract his attention, and
he overhease Peggy saying that she knows he is after information that will harm her brother, and that she will see that he
can do nothing. George then goes to his room, where he
knows fre is being "ahadowed" by means of an old portrait
with removable eyes. While he is pretending to doze, a pistol
harrel is inserted into one of the cychoics and a builet whizes
by his head. He says nothing next morning, and when he
returns to his duties he engages in the battle of Long Island,
in which Washington is finally driven from New York.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST SUNDAY)

CHAPTER XIX

Describes How George and His Friend Start Upon a Dangerous Mission



iE next two weeks were filled with memorable events; they saw the exe-cution of the daring young schoolmaster. Nathan Hale; they witnessed the thronging of the Brit-sh warships into the

Kips Bay, and also they saw the massing of Washington's battered army upon Hariem desperate ventures with fireships, sallying parties and raids, in which the brutal Hessians had a

chance to show their quality; Fort Washington was taken by Howe, and then began the terrible retreat across the Jer-seys. Cornwallis, relenticss as a bloodhound, hung upon the trail of the American army. At Newark his advance guard en-tered the town as the

British reached the banks of the Delaware only to see the campfires of the patriots burning on the opposite side. New Jersey now fell into a state of terror; the Hessians overian everything. Following the example of their leaders, they plundered left and right. None escaped them. Tories suffered as well as mairiots. escaped them. Tories suffered as well as patriots; houses "protected" by the sign manual of Cornwallis himself were stoked; women and children were turned out into the winter cold with scarce enough to cover them. In a splitt of retaliation, the American troops on the west of the Delaware also entered into the

on the west of the Delaware also entered into the game of pillage, for miles and miles they looted the homes of all suspected of being in sympathy with the British. This grew in extent until Washington posted most severe poralities for all engaged in plunder.

The knowledge of what was going on in New Jersey excited the most bitter hatred against the Hessians. To the Americans both in and out of the Tarmy, these German mercenaries were little better than savages, and those civilians upon the west bank lived in mortal dread of the day that they should cross the river. cross the river

cross the river

But through it all Washington and those nearest him remained eatin; they watched and waited, and all the time they strove to get their forces into shape to strike a blow that would be at once quick and deadly. The deals of the Hessians brought horror to all who heard of them, but to none did the measure seem so full as to George Frentiss. When some fresh enormity reached his ears, there always flashed upon the time of a stately manor house in the possession of these lawless rufflans; he saw also a white-faced girl and a helpless old man, and none to lift

resision of these lawless rufflans; he saw also a white-ffaced girl and a helpless old man, and none to lift-a hand in their defense. "Should con ever cross the Jerseys, lad," old Camp-had said, "don't tall to hunt us out. The Elms, we "call the place, and it's less than a dozen miles out of the town of Trenton".

A dozen miles! It must, then, he in the very heart of the section where all was piliaging and burning and henging.

or the section and hanging.

Brewster and Cooper began to notice the engerness with which George sought news from across the

"It is something more than common," said young

Cooper. "Every chance he gets he's riding along the shore; at night nothing seems so attractive to him as the firelights on the Jersey side. He watches them by the hour." "He says nothing, though," replied Nat Brewster,

"He says nothing, though, replied Nat Brewster, and I've gotten the impression that whatever it is that's on his mind, it's something he wants to keep-to himself. So I've never asked him any questions."

One afternoon, only a few days after the above words were spoken, Brewster, grave faced and quiet. door of the but which the three had

opened the door of the but which the three had perected for shelter.

"There's work to do." he stated, as he sat down before the fire.

"Is there ever anything cise?" asked the round-faced Ben Cooper. "It's chopping or digging for some, wor it's riding and running for others. No one need get rusty for lack of exercise here."

But George, watching his friend's face closely, saw that something important was under was

that something important was under way.
"What is it?" he asked. "Volunteers are demanded to cross the river and

learn the enemies' strength."

"You are one?" and George sprang up, knocking over the stool upon which he had been sitting, and causing the crazy little but to vibrate with his eager-Nat nodded. George dashed open the door and was

away. The winter blast swept in and the blaze roared up the rude chimney. Ben closed the door, his lips puckered in a whistle.
"There, now." said he. "What did I tell you? "There, now," said he. "What did I tell you? Something's over there," and he igiked his head in the direction of the river, "that's on his mind. The only wonder to me is that he hasn't crossed before-now,

orders or no orders."
In about half an hour George reappeared.
"I go with you." he said, his eyes alight and with
more spring in his step than they had seen for some



he took down his pistol and began putting it in order, growling undertone of angry words. "We start at once," he continued. "And as I happen know a place where we can cross without much danger of being seen, midnight should find us within the lines of the enemy."

"There is no need to hurry matters," answered Nat. quietly. "Great speed at a time like this is as like to bring disaster as anything else. Take time; more than bustle will be required to land us within the British lines-in safety."

George had great respect for Brewster's shrewd-

and resourcefulness, so holding his eagerness in , he sat down and began recharging the pistel ou've been thinking the magier over?" said he, to

Nat. The latter nodded, The latter nodged.

"We have no password," said he slowly, "and even
if we had I doubt if it would be of much service with
the Hessiana. They seem to disregard everything but
their own desires. Like as not we'd each have a
musket ball or bayonet planted in our bodies if we nusket ball or bayonet planted in our bodies encountered them in any other way than one

George looked up from the pistol.

"Do you know of anything that would be pleasant to them?"

"I think so," said Nat. "You see, the countryside all about Trenton is being drawn upon for provisions for the troops"

the troops."

A set look came into young Prentiss' mouth; his eyes whard in the firelight.
"Go on," he said.
"If we can cross the river tonight and make our way some distance into the interior, perhaps we can meet with the teams that bring in the forage. Every American to be found is impressed to help in this work. All we need do is to show ourselves, and as the

bringers of food we'll pass muster."

"That is a good plan enough," said George. "I accept it as it stands."

"You would accept any plan that promised to land you across the Delaware," was Ben Cooper's thought as he listened and watched. "And you'd not question any of them."

any of them."

And so it transpired that as the early December
evening fell two loutish-looking fellows made their
way toward the Delaware at a point some distance
beyond the American lines. The wind that swept up

from the deep, dark river was key and damp; for all their greatcoats and muffling neckerchiefs, they shivered and swung their arms for warmth.

Once upon the bank, they paused. George, unable to see more than a few feet about him, tried to sense

his position.

"There should be a tree somewhere near here," he told Brewster, "and under the bank there is an old ferry that must have floated down before the ice began to form."

"Perhaps it has floated further," suggested Nat.

"No; you see, I thought it might be useful and I made it fast." le it fast."
They moved carefully along the bank; at length tree, gaunt and dead looking in the splitting cold, id be dimly seen. And frozen fast in a little runlet.

they found the boat, It required more than an hour's hard work to It required more than an hour's hard work to free it from the ice; then, with the heavy sweep, they smashed the formation that extended out from the bank, and were affost. The point was some dozen miles above Trenton, and the ice floes were thick and running freely with the tide. But they boildly ventured out into the darkness, the sweeps pulling stoutly, and now and then used to pole off that floating ice which impeded their progress. The outpost fires of the enemy, which gleamed like red sparks from the eastern shore, served as a guide to them. from the eastern shore, served as a guide to them; without these they would have been tost among the floes. For well on to two hours they strained and tugged, and at length the heavy bow of the ferry crushed through the thin ice on the Jersey side, and they scrambled ashore.

The tide had carried them well down toward the Hersley cutyouts.

The tide had carried them well down toward the Hessian outposts, and turning their backs upon these, they trudged their way along a snowy road that rain northeast. As the night went on it grew colder and colder; more snow began to fall; they could feel its wet softness upon their faces. From far off in the distance a bell struck the hour mournfully. "Midnight." said Nat.

"And getting colder every moment," answered George.

The white of the snow pressed in upon them from the way grew more and irther darkness, and the way grew more and difficult. Suddenly Brewster felt his friend

clutch his arm.
"Nat." said George. Look there." faint point of light appeared from off to the

right.

"It's moving," spoke Nat.

"More than likely a lanthorn," said young Prentiss.

They paused and watched the glimmer of light;
little by little it drew nearer. The bearer of the
lanthorn apparently had great trouble in making his
way along, for his pace was very slow.

"He's plowing through the drifts," said George,
"It must be open fields in the direction from which
he's combag." But at last the stranger struck the road and his pace increased; in a very little time they could hear

time. Their arms hung upon the wall, and instantly his feet crunching the snow; then they caught the

"So there's two of them," whispered Nat. No, he's talking to himself. Nearer came the light bearer; and they could now

distinguish what he said. "That I should live to see the day," he mumbled. "That I should live to see an English king send such

a horde of rascally dogs down upon his people. Dogs, did I say? They'd shame the name of dogs; a decent cur would not own them." cur would not own them."

Grumbling and stampling in the snow, he passed them unnoticed; a stout figure in a heavy cloak and with a broad woolen scarf bound over his hat, adown his ears and knotted under his chin. A little distance away they saw the light halt; then came the rattling of a lock and chain, and the door of a low barnike structure creaked open. The man sat his lamp down within, stamped the snow from his feet and then closed the door. At once George began making his way toward the building, but Nat took him by the arm.

"What are you going to do?"
"I want to make sure of something."
"I want to make sure of something."
"Carefully they crept toward the building, but before they reached it there came a low knocking.
"Who's there?" came the voice of the man who had borne the lanthorn. "Who comes knocking at this hour?"
"Open the door. It is I?"
"At once the door, requested; a second and slighter

"Open the door, it is I?"

At once the door reopened; a second and slighter form filted in, and again it closed.

"Stay here," whispered George to his friend. "I shall only be gone a short time. Keep a lookout."

"Very well," replied Brewster.

George stole away toward the building, it proved to be a log structure, chinked with clay; its one window had been broken, apparently, for some boards were roughly natied across the opening and the seams between stuffed with rags. It required but a moment for him to work an opening in one of the scams large enough to enable him to obtain a view of the interior.

terior.

There was a low, rudely raftered ceiling, through which protruded wisps of rye straw; the room was filled with smoke; there was no chimney to carry it off, and the fire, which burned in the center, threw it directly into the room. The first thing that George heard was a prolonged fit of coughing; he could dimly make out two forms through the blue haze, but not enough to be sure. However, in a manner, his suspicions proved to be correct.

"To think," said the voice of the man with the lanthorn, "that I should ever be brought to this."

lanthorn, "that I should ever be brought to this. Strangled in a hovel not fit for beasts. But I'll be even them or my name is not Camp."
"It was he, then," breathed the watcher softly.
There came the flapping of a broad hat within and smoke began to thin. There came the flapping of a broad hat within and the smoke began to thin. "Is this the only building left on the place?" asked

a second voice.
"The only one. Every other is burned to the The rascals!" said the second voice. 'Rascals! They are the most murderous villains anged! They stop at nothing. I held the 'protectof Lord Cornwallis before their eyes—there was

tion of Lord Cornwallis before their eyes—there was his signature and seal as plain as day—but I may as well have shown it to a drove of mad bulls."
"Is there no way of punishing them?"
"None. Their own commanders alone have authority over them; and they are as bad as the rank and file."
There was a pause; that hat flapped again for a moment and the smoke eddled and whirled.
"It's fortunate," exclaimed Merchant Camp, amidst another fit of coughing, "that you got your sister Peggy away, at least."
"Herbert again!" breathed the one outside, for the first time realizing to whom the second voice belonged.

"Herbert again!" breathed the one outside, for the first time realizing to whom the second voice belonged. "It wouldn't have done to have left her hereabouts with the country overrun by those wretches of Hessians." "You placed her with the Hawksworths?" "Yes. And she is perfectly safe there, for Hawksworth has some British army friends quartered with them—a colonel and a lieutenant general." "Good," said Mr. Camp, vastly pleased. "She's safe enough, then. But, I'll say now that I trembled for her vesterday."

reroay.

"The would have been best if you both had remained the York." in New York."

"I fancied that I left there to escape persecution," said the old Tory, bitterly. "But I must say that the rebels were as mild as children when compared with these who should be our friends."

"They tried to be just, at all events," said Herbert

Camp.

Yes, yes, I see that now, though I didn't then. But I see many things now, as a matter of fact, that I didn't see then. I once thought Mr. Washington a great villain; but now I consider him a brave and honest and able gentleman—one who has clung to his beliefs in the face of defeat; and one who will continue to so cling until the last."

have often heard you express admiration for tenacity of purpose and for the man who had the courage of his convictions:" said Herbert. "And yet you were willing enough to have me change my coat."
"My boy." and there was a curious little break in the old man's voice. "the day that you threw down the sword you had taken up for the colonies was one of the bitterest in my life."

spoke no words.

"When I threatened to strike you from my will," continued the old Tory, "I did it through motives of pride. I wanted to show my friends how strong the family character was; I desired to convince them as to its ruggedness and firmness and truth. I said to you in the presence of all: Give up your principles or give up my money. I expected to see you throw the insult back into my teeth—uncle and all as I was. But you shamed me; your caused my pride to fall in ruins about me. You traded your honor for money "Uncle!" George heard a scraping of feet which told him that Herbert Camp had sprung up; and there was a ring in his voice that thrilled. "Do you mean to say that you'd have been better pleased had I held to the Ameri-

"I do. Strange as it may seem, I do say it. You would have shown that you were honest and steadfast, even though I thought you wrong. As it is—"

He did not complete the sentence and for a space nothing more was said. Then Herbert spoke once more, "Suppose," said he, "suppose that I should tell you that I had not been false to my principles?"

"What!" Suppose I should tell you that I still cherish the

se of the colonies as I do my own life?"
"Do you mean this?" And the old man's voice rang

So then," and there was bitter anger in the tones, u pretended? You tried to humbug me? You were ing to sloop to a mean deception in order that you hit retain my good will?" "So then." Uncle!"

"Uncle!"
"That," sternly, "is perhaps worse than the other thing of which I thought you guilty. Out of your own mouth you have proved yourself a designing—"
But here the young man stopped him.
"Wait." said he; "uncle, wait! Before you say anything more listen to me for a moment. It is true that I have deceived you."
"Hah!"

But not for the mean reason that you suspect. True But not for the mean reason that you suspect. True, it pleased me to be named your heir; true, also, that I was disappointed when you made your uitimatum. I will not try to hide it. And I seemed to fall into your desires, as I have said; but not because I hoped to gain

your fortune by it. No. there was another reason

"What other reason could you have?"
"Give me a moment and I will try to make all plain to you. It had come to my ears that a plot was on foother same that eventually resulted in the hanging of Hickey, one of General Washington's guard. When you made your proposal it instantly occurred to me that if I seemed to fall in with your views, I might be able to learn what was going forward."
"Ab!"

"A renegade, you know, is always the most eager to proceed against his former friends, and I hoped that this fact would gain me credit among my country's foes. Believe me, uncle, it hurt me to deceive you. I longed to Believe me, uncle, it hurt me to deceive you. I longed to tell you plainly that I was only acting a part; in the face of gaining—as I thought—only your anger, I wanted to tell you. But I dared not. I knew that you, a king's man, would warn those concerned.

"And then there was Peggy!" There was a moan in the young man's voice; and George Prentiss, recalling his sullen face and heavy, brooding brows, was surprised. "You know, uncle, what we glways thought of each other, You know that we were inseparable from childhood. And you also know what an ardent friend to geloutel the

also know what an ardent friend to colonial liberty Here George just smothered an astonished outery.

Peggy Camp a patriot! A patriot! And her a Tory! Why, if that were the case— And he had though

her a Tory! Why, if that were the case—!

But he had no time for thought. Herbert was still speaking, and he could not lose a word.

"And when she heard of my supposed change of front she did not say a word, but the way she looked at me I shall never forget. Contempt was the weakest thing in it—scorn was there, and pity also. For a moment I felt that I could not stand it. I felt that I must tell her the truth. But I did not. An unguarded word from her to my enemies, a look, even, might ruin my chances for success." "Success?" There was a note of interrogation in

"Success?" There was a note of interrogation in Merchant Camp's voice. "And were you successful?"
"No." The regret in the young man's voice was undoubted. "Misfortune dogged me constantly. At first I was reported as a traitor to General Putnam and was quietly arrested. But I convinced him of my innocence, explained to him my plan and was liberated that I might carry it out."
"And what was this plan?"
"It was to gain the good will of Governor Trucon in

"And what was this plan?"
"It was to gain the good will of Governor Tryon, in the first place; but this I could never do—the way to him was blocked by the very persons whom I suspected."
"And who were they?"
At this moment George felt a hand laid upon his arm; he turned, the heavy pistol leaping from his belt, but Nat Brewster's voice whispered in his ear:
"Some one's coming this way."
Cautiously they drew back from the hut, and when they had reached a safe distance, they paused, knee deep in the snow, and listened.

the snow, and listened.

Whips were snapping, horses were floundering through the drifts, men's voices were crying out sharply, "A provision train," said Nat, "A provision train, bound for Trenton, as sure as you live!"

CHAPTER XX

Tells How Nat Recrossed the River and How George Remained Behind

ND it proved that Nat was right. A half-dozen clumsy-looking sleighs, drawn by farm horses, came lumbering slowly along the road; in the light of the lanthorns that swung upon the side of each the two young men saw that the vehicles. were piled high with sacks of flour, barrels of salted mest, bacon, hams and slaughtered hogs and sheep.

The drivers clump-clumped along doggedly by the side of their horses; at the front and rear of the train

rode a party of horsemen. "There is the opportunity you spoke of across the river, just as though it had been made to your order." said George lowly. "But how are we going to take advantage of it?"

"Let us follow on behind. They may stop somewhere, and we can happen along-two honest and rather thick-witted fellows that we are-and who knows but that something might turn up?" Allowing the sleighs and the horsemen to proceed

a certain distance they fell in behind and trudged in their tracks. George's mind was full of what he had just heard; but try as he might, he could not reconcile them with the facts as he knew them, "One thing alone convicts him and shows me conclusively that his tale was merely an invention,"

reasoned the young New Englander, "and that is the letter of the British governor Tryon to the Tory mayor of New York. In that Tryon recommended this very young man to the mayor as one to be trustedone who had served him before and would again. And yet he has just told his uncle that he attributed the non-success of his 'plan' to the fact that he could

hever gain Tryon's confidence."

Here he was aware that Nat had halted, and so drew up beside him.

"They have stopped," said Brewster. "Now is out chance. Remember, now, you are a thick-headed lout willing to work and willing to take kicks and cuffer your pay."

willing to work and willing to take kicks and cuffer your pay."

Adopting a gait in character, they shambled on and into the light of the sleigh lanthorns. The train had arrived before a roadside inn of a low type. The drivers were struggling to draw their sleighs up to the side of this, but the drifts were deep and the horses sullenly refused to exert themselves.

The officer in command of the guard flew into a rage and, brandishing his riding whip, shouted:

"Pigs! Have you no brains? You must first a way make. Come, now! Shall I stand for you here in the cold?"

rage and, brandishing his riding whip, shouted:

"Pigs! Have you no brains? You must first a way make. Come, now! Shall I stand for you here in the cold?"

The drivers, who were apparently farmers of consequence, impressed by the Hessians, muttered among themselves rebelliously. And it was here that the two rough figures came up from the rear, seized shovels from the sleighs and fell to on the drifts.

"Ach! das iss gut!" approved the German officer.
"Here men are who can work."

In a very short time the sleighs were through the drifts and the soldiers were thronging the inn, drinking hot drinks, smoking wooden pipes and talking in their thick native dialect. In about an hour they were ready to start once more upon the cold road to Trenton. But as they filed out and mounted, the two supposed country bumpkins bent low over the blaze upon the hearth and seemed content to remain where they were. The leader of the Hessians expied them, however, and his heavy lash snapped about their ears.

"Out with you" he cried. "Shall we Hesse men into the cold go and you two pigs stay by the fire?"

"But," protested Nat in a dull sort of way, "we are going to stop here for the night."

"Dunder und blitz!" exclaimed the officer, "shall I tell you again! Out with you, and be quick! Such as you may needed be before we are far gone on our journey."

So out the two darted, dodging the lash, and took

you may needed be before we are far gone on our journey."

So out the two darted, dodging the lash, and took up places beside the sleighs, still making a pretense of protesting, and then away they went toward Trenton. The snow fell thickly and steadily, the road grew more and more difficult; at length, at daybreak, they sighted the town, and an hour later they were unloading the stores.

This once finished, the two young men had little difficulty in slipping away; and then began their work of observing the enemies' position, numbers and general frame of mind. Some days passed, days of hardship and hard usage. With their rough dress, their unkempt heads of hair and grimy faces and hands, they were the butts of the brutal mercenaries that filled the town. They were forced to do all sorts of menial and laborious work; but as this permitted them to gain entrance at points where information was to be had, they fell in with the demands of the Hessians readily enough. Little by little they gathered and treasured the kernels of the facts that would be of use to Washington; one by one their keen glances placed out the week points of the enemy. of use to Washington; one by one their keen glance

picked out the weak points of the enemy.

To the British and the Hessians the American army was a dispirited and broken crew of ragamuffins. They knew how to run and dodge, that was mumns. They knew now to run and dodge, that was all. At Trenton, all across the Jerseys and at New York careless confidence was supreme. Howe was quartered at Manhattan for the winter; his troops were negligently stretched from Brunswick to the Delaware. Three regiments of Hessians under Colonel Rahl occupied Trenton and the towns nearby, and the general conduct of these filled the two spies with satisfaction.

That iron discipline that has ever marked the German army, and which had been the particular characteristic of the Hessians since lauding in America, had now relaxed. They held Washington in contempt. When one of the veteran officers suggested the erection of earthworks, Colonel Rahl laughed uproar-"Earthworks for those rats across the river! Ach!

"Earthworks for those rats across the river! Ach! you are joking." was what he said. "In a little time there will be fee where there now is water; then we will cross over and at them with the bayonet."

This attitude of their commander had been taken up by the men; they gave little thought to the enemy; being comfortable and having more than enough food was of vastly greater interest.

Cornwallis had secured leave and was at New York about to take ship for England; Grant, who was in charge of the noble earl's division, thought almost as meanly of the colonists as did Rahl.

All these things became known to the two eager-

All these things became known to the two eagereyed young men and more. They had been in the town perhaps a week, when one afternoon Brewster said:
"There is nothing more of value to be learned. Suppose we try to get across the river tonight."

phose we try to get across the river tonight.

They stood at a point just above Trenton where
y had the stream in view, but were well out of sight of the guards.
"There are no boats to be had," said young Prentiss, "I tested the ice last night, almost opposite this point," said Nat, "It was strong enough to bear man's weight then; and it's been freezing hard ever

Perhaps it would not bear two even now," suggested George.
"I had thought of that. We had better go one at a time. Then should an accident happen one, the other would still have a chance to get the information to camp in safety. moment George was silent; then with a hand For a moment George was said; upon his friend's shoulder, he said; "Do you mind venturing first? I have excellent reasons for asking this of you."

"As well first as last." As well first as last." f you get across without harm, as I hope you I mean to remain here for a little longer," spoke orge.
"Remain!" There was astonishment in the other's ce. "But why? We have learned all we can hope

voice. "But way, to learn."
to learn."
"The matter is a private one," returned George.
"Some time I will explain all, but not now."
Nothing more was said by Nat; of course, he was his friend's resolution; but as George's voice.

Nothing more was said by Nat, of course, he was puzzled by his friend's resolution; but as George's manner said as plainly as words that he did not care to be questioned, he was the last one in the world to endeavor to learn more.

And that night they again sought the same spot; the sky was high and starry, but there was no moon; the river looked like a great snow-covered field of learn more.

"Just light enough for me to see and not enough for them to see me." said Nat.
"I don't think you are going to have much trouble in making the passage." said his friend. "The ice tooks firm enough to support a troop of dragoons."
"Well, here's for ft; and I trust that you are right."
They clasped hands tightly.
"Don't forget the signal that's to tell me that you are safely across—a fire upon the hilltop just above there"

are safely across—a fire upon the pilltop just above there "I'll light it as soon as I arrive."

"I'll light it as soon as I arrive."

"And I'll watch here for it until midnight. If I don't see it by that time I'll be sure that something has happened you and will make the attempt myself."

"Goodby." said Nat.

"Goodby." A dark form fitted down to the river's edge and stepped fearlessly upon the ice; then it headed for the Penńsylvania shore and was soon lost to view. The night was cold and still; George could hear the crunching of his friend's shoes in the frozen snow for some time after he had lost sight of him. But after a little, even that ceased; he heard a clock strike and then 10 from a tower in the town; then followed what seemed ages of waiting. The watcher trembled with the cold; his feet ware numbed; his hands were useless. Just as 11 boomed out, mournfully and far off, there was a faint flare from a knoll across the river; there was a faint flare from a knoll across the river; then it mounted to a ruddy blaze and George gave a

sigh of relief.

"He's safe," said he. "Safe! And now I can turn
my hand to what I have to do of my own."

(CONTINUED NEXT SUNDAY)