

Editorial notice regarding the L. C. S. C. R. R. and its operations.

THE HIDDEN CONTINENTAL.

The eventful year of 1778 was drawing to a close, when Col. Campbell of the British army landed near Savannah, and fell furiously on the Americans under Gen. Howe.

Of course, the then capital of Georgia fell into the hands of the enemy, who abused his triumph and consigned his name to an unenviable fame.

There was a strong tory element in Savannah which had been kept in check by the presence of the Continentals; but when the British marched into the city, it rose and asserted its strength.

The Holy family that dwelt in Savannah at the time of its capture and sack consisted of three persons—the mother and two children.

Miriam Holly, the oldest child, was a beautiful girl of nineteen, while her brother was five years her junior.

Thus the house escaped pillage and Miriam hastened to thank the soldier for his kindness.

Col. Campbell was struck by the girl's grace and remarkable loveliness, and detained her at his headquarters until he had learned her family history by many adroit questions.

"There goes the handsomest woman in Georgia!" cried Campbell, as the girl left the house.

His companion, who happened to be his chief of staff, looked after Miriam and remarked:

"I quite agree with you, colonel. These American rebels are all beautiful."

Campbell was silent for a moment. "We will not occupy this building after to-morrow," he said suddenly.

"I am going to take up my abode beneath the same roof that shelters Miriam Holly."

"Love at first sight, colonel," said the chief of staff, with a merry twinkle in his eyes.

"Lady Bonn be hanged!" cried Campbell. "A soldier loves when and whom he pleases, and besides, major, one is not obliged to marry these American girls because he loves them."

The conversation was interrupted by the arrival of an orderly, and was not resumed.

On the following day Col. Campbell made Miriam Holly's home his headquarters.

The girl grew deadly pale when she learned of the sudden change, and said in a whisper to her mother:

"This is a terrible event. He is not fit to depart yet, nor will he be for a week to come."

The room was tenanted. On a low cot lay a man in his twenties. His dark hair contrasted vividly with the deathly pallor of his face, and the suit of faded continental uniform, with a sword, that hung against the wall over the bed, told that he was an American soldier.

The invalid's face lit up with a smile when the fair girl came forward and took his fevered hand. Then she told him about Col. Campbell's change of quarters, and he listened without a question.

"Well?" he said at last, "what are we going to do?"

"We are going to remain here till we get strong enough to leave the city," answered Miriam with a smile, and even while she spoke a faint noise below told her that the British colonel was moving into his new quarters.

The Continental was a captain in Howe's little army. He had served the colonies with a zeal surpassed by none who rallied round the cause of freedom, but disease had seized upon him in Florida, and he returned with the troops to Georgia, to find an asylum in Miriam Holly's home, and to be nursed by her through the long hours of his fever.

The attending physician was a man who knew how to keep a secret, and as his sympathies were with the patriot cause, he gave Miriam many valuable hints that looked to the hidden soldier's health and future safety.

Colonel Campbell, bent on the conquest of the fair girl's heart, tried to make himself agreeable to the inmates of the mansion, Miriam took good care not to show him that his absence would be more desirable than his company, and the widow treated him with a courtesy that kept him aloof from suspicion for several days.

It was believed by the Tories of Savannah that a number of Continentals remained secreted in the city. Indeed, several had been discovered since its capture, and at the time of the commandant's change of quarters, an active search for such persons was going on.

"Is this house haunted, Miss Miriam asked the colonel one morning at the breakfast table.

"The girl started at the abrupt question, and wondered if she turned pale.

"Haunted?" she echoed, with an effort. "The ghosts must be rats. Have you been visited by sheeted beings?"

"No, but after I had retired last night I heard a noise like the sound of distant voices. It seemed to me directly overhead, and I called my chief of staff. Who sleeps over my apartment, if you will permit so bold a question?"

"My brother," answered Miriam quickly. "I was with him until a late hour last night."

"And the night before?"

"Yes."

"Then I heard the sound of your voices no doubt," said Campbell glancing at the chief-of-staff, whose eyes, during the conversation, had been fastened on the girl's face.

Major Guilford had noticed every change of countenance, and when the twain had retired from the breakfast table, he grasped the superior's arm.

"What do you say now, colonel?" he cried in triumph.

"I don't know what to say. I—"

"I watched her like a hawk and I tell you that the girl is dissimulating. There is a rebel soldier in this house!"

Colonel Campbell looked at his major but did not speak.

"I never did believe that she was a Tory," continued Guilford. "She is one of the rankest rebels in Savannah. Why, colonel, so long as the Continental remains beneath this roof, you cannot succeed with her. He stands between you and Miriam Holly, so you see the line of policy is clearly before you."

that pattered on the panes of her window, when the darkness of the chosen night fell over the city like a pall. The thunder rolled about the houses, and now and then flashes of lightning revealed glimpses of the carnival of rain.

In the hidden room stood Captain Tempest, the shadow of his former self but strong in the desire for liberty. He waited for Miriam who came at last and showed him rain drops on her hair.

"The elements are assisting us," she said, joyfully. "The doctor is waiting like a hero, under the elm, and he has the password."

"Good! Are they asleep?"

"They retired two hours ago," said Miriam; "I am satisfied the coast is clear."

Then the soldier picked up his sword with a pride that caused his eyes to flash, and Miriam was smiling upon him, when a voice made both start and hold their breath.

A step on the secret stair! The twain exchanged startled glances and the girl turned to the door, which opened suddenly, and revealed the face of Col. Campbell. Over his shoulders flashed the chief-of-staff's triumphant eyes.

This unexpected event threw the lovers off their guard, and as the British officers leaped into the room with swords half drawn, the highest in rank exclaimed:

"A rebel nest! So, so! Surrender at once or I will rob the rebel troops of one sneaking officer!"

His last words were addressed to the Continental captain, whose answer was kept back by Miriam Holly's action.

Shrinking from the British officers she reached the bed whereupon a pistol lay, and a moment later she held it tightly gripped in her hand.

"Gentlemen, it may be the king's cause that will lose in this game," she said, addressing Col. Campbell.

"You will sheathe your swords and obey me!"

Campbell and his chief-of-staff exchanged glances.

At Miriam's command they stepped from behind the door, and she looked at her lover.

"You know the way," she said. "These soldiers will not pursue in such a storm. I will be responsible for their safety, for they wouldn't have a bullet in their uniform for the world. Go, Marvin, and let every blow that you deliver be a blow for freedom."

He said "good-by," as he stepped to the door; he bade the discomfited officers good-night in a sarcastic tone that made them wince, and then passed down the stairs.

The officers' forced confinement was irksome to them, and the minutes passed slowly away. By-and-by Miriam Holly laid the pistol on the bed, and told the story of her lover's sickness. Campbell and his chief-of-staff listened with delight to her voice, forgetting that they were prisoners no longer.

When they at last went down the narrow stairs, Miriam's eyes followed them, and her good night, so full of triumph, made Campbell grate his teeth.

"She's been to me!" he said to his brother-officer.

"I've lost the prize. We'll go back to the old quarters to-morrow."

It was as good as his word, and few persons ever knew why the colonel so hastily quit the Holly mansion, and returned to his first quarters.

Capt. Tempest escaped and returned to Savannah at the head of a regiment, when the British flag was lowered to a delivered nation.

Then he claimed a bride, and everybody was made acquainted with the story of the Hidden Continental.

PUBLIC REPORT OF A POLICEMAN.

I have not enjoyed good health for several years past, yet have not allowed it to interfere with my labor. Every one belonging to the laboring class knows the inconvenience of being obliged to labor when the body is from debility unable to perform its daily task.

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