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DOROTHY LEE

(Continued from last week)

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Do you love this cause sufficiently to be willing to have your name struck

from the roll of the army that you may engage in secret service? (You will hazard your life if you so decide to do.) And your pay, while you serve, will be forty dollars a month."

"The man thought over this question for some minutes, all the time looking straight into Washington's eyes. At last he said, slowly and distinctly:

"Yes, I am willing. I am glad to serve my country in the way you think best."

"The man returned, and Washington handed to him a sealed letter, saying: 'Have you ever been to Harlem Heights?' The man said 'yes' and described the place.

"The General then gave him a certain countersign, bade him converse with none by the way and said that if he should notice any person who observed him particularly not to go on until the said person was out of his sight. That when he had climbed the Heights he must look carefully around, and suffer no one to come close enough to take him. If everything appeared quiet he must walk toward the west until he came upon a certain stone about four feet in diameter (and round), on which he should find a twig of a tree. He must raise this round stone sufficiently to put his hand under it, when he would discover a hollow, 'and if,' said the General, 'there is a letter in it, bring it to me, but leave this letter in its place.'

"In due time the man returned. He found the rock and the sealed superscriptionless letter, which he took, and then according to orders deposited the one he had brought. This carrying and bringing of letters was repeated for some weeks; at length, one night the man observed for the first time a person traveling in the same direction as himself, and evidently watchfully keeping him in sight; he therefore took a circuitous route, but when he reached the Heights he felt sure that he saw two persons descending the hill on the opposite side among the savans; he went as far as he dared toward them, but could see them no more.

"Instead of approving of the man's inquisitiveness, the General was most severe to him, and said, 'attend strictly to your business as you are instructed, sir, and never do the like again.'

"When the man next appeared he looked so perplexed and honestly distressed (he being a good, faithful fellow) that even the Commander relented sufficiently to bid him 'take a seat and get his breath.'

"I can't set," said the poor fellow, mopping his brow, "nor am I comfortable neither, until I git it over with you, Gineral. I don't want many more turns like this. I was dead skeert not to obey you, Gineral. I took all my spryness to do it!!"

"He said nothing occurred until he had

reached the Heights, and that then he saw three persons dodge behind the savans. He laid himself flat down on the ground and was preparing to creep along to the edge of the hill, when three other men rushed upon him from an opposite direction.

"I riz," he said, "and you bet no feller in one of them Greek games our Schoolmaster says that they used to perform over to Athens (a number of thousand years ago) made his heels fly faster than I did mine."

"The General told him 'to retire, and that he need not report for duty again until he was bidden, but,' added the General, 'when in the company of your comrades express no interest for or against the cause; enter into no dispute about the war or the army; but keep your ears open.'

"In about a week the General bade one of his staff to seek out the man and bring him as privately to his quarters as possible. This was done and the following occurred:

"Have you ever been down to what is called Black Sam Fraunces' tavern?"

"Yes," said the man, "I know it well."

"Very well," said the General. "Now listen attentively to what I have to say. You are to go to this tavern, open the door, and make your way to what is known as the long room. If upon your entrance into this room there be more than one person present, sit you down and be silent; when all have gone out save one, rise up and walk across the apartment thrice; after you have passed him the second time he will take a letter out of his pocket and present it to you, and as he is doing this, take the letter I now give you from your pocket and present it to him."

"I charge you not to speak a word to him, on peril of your life."

"This new secret mission continued for a week or more.

"One night the man came back, his face was all a-flush, and forgetting his manners, he blurted out, 'General, the British are coming!'

"Are they?" said the General, with never a quiver of interest in his voice, "and who told you so, my lad?"

"The kindness in his tone touched the brave fellow, and he wiped his eyes with the back of his hand before he made answer. 'I couldn't stop his speakin' to me, General, unless I fit him, and you never told me to lay hands on him if he opened his mouth; it was only my mouth you was particular about!'

"Go on, my lad, with your story."

"He whispered to me, 'Tell General Washington the British are coming,' and then he handed me this letter."

"The General took it and read it, and when he

had finished it he said (as he took the fellow's hand within his own), 'you have served your time of more than peril and may now go back and be reinstated in your company, and when the war is ended and many years of peace and plenty have been your portion may you gather your children's children about your knee and tell them that when America's night was darkest you were one of the lights that led a forlorn hope to safe hiding.'

"You see, my child, war is not all fought out on battlefields, and that whatever it was that the General had heard in the letter from his mysterious correspondent, he made ready to evacuate the city. He called his staff together and told us what he deemed necessary, and no more; he said that the whole force of the British army were sailing toward the American shore. He spoke of my old Commander, Burgoyne, as 'a cool and brave leader, as fine a soldier as ever drew a sword.'

"He said Burgoyne was on his way from the North to meet us, that Howe and his brother William were coming, too, and then it seemed to us all, save the Commander-in-Chief, that the bungling little rebellion was about to be wiped out.

"So secure did this news make the Tories still remaining in New York (for it was soon common talk of the town) that they grew rash and flaunted their opinions, but the General would have none of it. He shipped Tryon and Mathews up to that modern Athens in Connecticut, and dangled Hickey on a convenient Amsterdam bough.

"And in the midst of all this, what should come to us but the news that the Philadelphia Congress, with a brave disregard of what might happen to their heads for doing it; when settling up time with Mother England came, had proclaimed the birth of a Republic, called the United States of America. This news reached us on the 9th of July and Washington made it his business to have the Declaration of Independence read to every company in his entire Army.

"There came a day when those standing on the housetops (with the aid of a good spy glass) could see a forest of masts to seaward, and then it was that Washington ordered retreat.

"Again I say, none can prove that during all this time of which I have written I did not do my duty; be sure if I had failed in jot or tittle to the cause I should not be here to tell the tale! To the man, Washington, I might not always be courteous, and it was as man to man that we settled that between us; but toward the Commander of the American army there was but one attitude permissible and I never presumed, you may be sure.

"If Washington had listened to the advice offered by Green and myself, which was to burn the city to ashes, it would have given the English an uncomfortable camping ground and there would have been a shelterless winter for the invading army. But no, he would have none of it. 'Gentlemen,