

**HISTORY OF SULLIVAN'S  
CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE  
IROQUOIS: BEING A FULL  
ACCOUNT OF THAT EPOCH OF  
THE REVOLUTION**

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History of Sullivan's Campaign Against the Iroquois: Being a Full Account of That Epoch of the Revolution by A. Tiffany Norton

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**A. TIFFANY NORTON**

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MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN.

HISTORY

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OF

SULLIVAN'S CAMPAIGN

AGAINST THE IROQUOIS;

BEING A FULL ACCOUNT OF THAT

EPOCH OF THE REVOLUTION.

—BY—

A. TIFFANY NORTON.

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## CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
CHAPTER I.	
The Iroquois Confederacy, - - - - -	8
CHAPTER II.	
Outbreak of the Revolution—Indian Hostilities, - -	33
CHAPTER III.	
Retaliatory Measures Proposed, - - - - -	61
CHAPTER IV.	
Preparations for the Campaign, - - - - -	81
CHAPTER V.	
General Clinton's Division, - - - - -	96
CHAPTER VI.	
March from Tioga—Newtown Battle, - - - - -	110
CHAPTER VII.	
March from Newtown to Kanadesaga, - - - - -	126
CHAPTER VIII.	
March from Kanadesaga to Kanaghsaws, - - - - -	139



CHAPTER IX.	
Massacre of Boyd's Scouting Party, - - - -	150
CHAPTER X.	
March to Chinese Castle, - - - -	163
CHAPTER XI.	
The Return March, - - - -	169
CHAPTER XII.	
Unjust Criticism of Sullivan, - - - -	186
APPENDIX, - - - -	192

## PREFACE.

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THE expedition of General John Sullivan against the hostile Indian tribes of the north was one of the most important military movements of the Revolutionary war. Undertaken during one of the darkest periods which the struggling Colonies saw, it furnishes an example of devotion, heroism and noble self-sacrifice that has seldom been equalled in the annals of history. The daring and intrepid march has been not inaptly compared to the famous expedition of Cortez to the ancient halls of the Montezumas, or that later brilliant military achievement, Sherman's march to the sea. In many respects it was a remarkable undertaking, and the boldness of its conception was only equalled by the bravery and determination with which its hardship and danger were met and its objects accomplished.

Notwithstanding the magnitude of the undertaking, however, and the beneficent results, immediate and remote, which are to be attributed to it, no portion of the history of the Revolution has received less attention from historians than this expedition. This fact having been emphasized by the approaching centennial anniversary of the campaign, the author of this little volume was prompted to supply these missing pages in our country's history. Engaged for some years in historical research, there had come into his hands a collection of materials relating to this campaign of considerable value, and he was both unwilling that the public should lose the benefit of the knowledge in his possession, and convinced that there was need of a work of this character. Hence, although conscious from the outset that the work could be better performed by others abler and wiser than

he, the writer made the attempt to give a complete and accurate yet entertaining history of Sullivan's campaign, with such results as now appear to the reader. Believing that the custom which makes so many prefaces simply vehicles for the conveyance of apologies is well honored in the breach, the author will offer no other excuse than this for adding to the world's already large store of books.

From the start the work has been conscientiously performed, without bias or prejudice, with the exercise of great caution against drawing hasty conclusions, and with patient toil and research, that the history might have the one merit, even if it possessed no other, of a strict fidelity to truth. In the belief that it will be found to possess this qualification, without which it would be valueless, this volume is now presented to a discriminating but generous public.

While omitting nothing that would add interest to the narrative, whatever was of doubtful authenticity has been either rigidly excluded or its mythical character so plainly shown that the reader will be in no danger of mistaking it for undisputed fact. In thus drawing the line between truth and error, it has been found necessary to sweep away many misty traditions and beautiful but delusive legends. Hence the reader who scans these pages for accounts of buried cannons, exciting tales of the driving of the Indians from some dizzy precipice, or other doubtful local traditions, will be sorely disappointed. Others, who have possessed for years a superficial knowledge of the expedition, derived from sturdy pioneers of honest heart but treacherous memory, will in all probability dispute some of the statements made in this work. Anticipating such criticism, the author would seek to disarm it in advance by giving the sources of his information and the grounds for his statements. During Sullivan's campaign in the Indian country, over thirty different army officers, at least, kept journals, wherein was daily recorded the line of march, the character of the country traversed, the number of miles marched, every important event, and many minor details. These journals are still in existence, while others