MUNSELL'S HISTORICAL SERIES. NO. 18. LETTERS OF BRUNSWICK AND HESSIAN OFFICERS DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649630851

Munsell's Historical Series. No. 18. Letters of Brunswick and Hessian Officers During the American Revolution by William L. Stone & August Hund

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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WILLIAM L. STONE & AUGUST HUND

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SCHLÖZER.

LETTERS

OF

BRUNSWICK AND HESSIAN OFFICERS

DURING THE

AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

TRANSLATED BY

WILLIAM L. STONE,

Author of "The Life and Times of Sir William Johnson, Bart.," "Memoirs of General and Madame Riedesel," "History of New York City," "Life and Writings of Col. William L. Stone," "Sir John Johnson's Orderly Book," etc., etc.

(ASSISTED BY AUGUST HUND.)

"Far from me and from my friends be such frigid philosophy as may conduct us indifferent and unmoved over any ground which has been dignified by wisdom, bravery, or virtue. That man is little to be envied whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plain of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona."
—*Dr. Johnson, in his "Tour of the Hebrides."*

ALBANY, N. Y.:

JOEL MUNSELL'S SONS, PUBLISHERS.

1891.

TO THE MEMORY

OF THE LATE

PARKER HANDY,

THE EMINENT BANKER,

OF

NEW YORK CITY,

WHOSE PATRIOTIC SERVICES, DURING THE LATE CIVIL WAR, STRENGTHENED THE CREDIT OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND THUS CONTRIBUTED TO PRESERVE THE REPUBLIC WHICH THE BLOOD OF OUR FOREFATHERS HAD ESTABLISHED,

This Volume

IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED

BY

THE TRANSLATOR.

PREFACE.

In 1776, Professor August Ludwig Schlözer, of the University of Göttingen, established a monthly magazine called "Schlözer's Letter Exchange," having for one of its objects the publication of private letters written by officers to their relatives and friends in Germany, from those portions of the world then engaged in war. This publication was continued through the year 1782, and consequently contains many letters of the most interesting character from Hessian and Brunswick military men who were serving on the British side during the Revolutionary War; and also one from Baron Steuben on his first arrival in America, giving a detailed account of his reception by the authorities at Portsmouth, N. H., and later by Washington, the military formation of the American troops, and his successful efforts in disciplining the Continental army. These letters are from Staunton, Va. (whither a portion of the "Convention Troops" were sent), Philadelphia, Savannah, New-Port, Cambridge, Boston, New York, Brookland (Brooklyn), different parts of New England, and Canada. They

contain much new and valuable information regarding the habits and customs of the inhabitants of the places whence they were written; minute descriptions of different personages, such as Gates, Hancock, Carleton, St. Luc, and others; and also the best account extant of the march of the "Convention Troops" from Saratoga through New-England to Cambridge. The letter from New-England contains a graphic description of the costumes and general appearance of the Continentals and militia,—to which the attention of the reader is especially called,—and a narrative of the Battles of Saratoga by an eye-witness, which is by far the best we have yet had; also, a very realistic account of the trial of Major Henley and the part taken in it by Burgoyne—the only one written from a German standpoint.

This work was first brought to my notice by Mr. Edward J. Lowell, the author of the "Hessians in the American Revolution." "I do not think," writes Mr. Lowell, "of any printed collection concerning the Revolution which so well deserves to be translated. The correspondent with Burgoyne's army was an observant and lively writer." Through the kindness of Fräulein Agnes Sack, of Brunswick, Germany, I procured a set of the first edition of this rare publication, and now present to the reader, in an English dress, those letters which relate to our Revolution.

As I said in my Preface to *Pausch's Journal*, there are two ways of translating. One is to paraphrase the original; the other is to give the text literally. The first method admits of an elegant rendering by which the different shades of an author's meaning are often sacrificed to beauty