Sydney George Fisher, in what is probably the best History of the American Revolution, brings out the fact, too often ignored in our school-books, that during the last few years of the war, Great Britain was opposed by half the world. After December, 1780, she was fighting five nations in arms: the Americans, the French, the Spaniards, the Dutch and the Hindu Muhammadans. Besides these, Russia, Sweden and Denmark, as "The Armed Neutrality," were ready to declare war at any moment, to resist the "right of search"; while Prussia and Austria joined them in 1781; Portugal and Turkey in 1782; and Naples in 1783.

But while Fisher insists upon the important rôle of India, he omits the battles. The one to be presently described is kept quiet by English school history-makers and unknown to American ones. When the English in 1778, moved upon the French settlements in India, the battles there fought were just as much a part of the American Revolution as those of Monmouth and Yorktown. Like the French and Indian struggle, the Revolution was a world-war. Not only did the Delaware and the Thames resound with the din of arms, but the Essequibo, the Guadalquivir, the Rhine, the Seine, and the Ganges.

A very good example of the provincial treatment of this great world-war is that of Professor James A. Woodburn's edition of Lecky's chapters on the American Revolution. (N. Y. 1898.) In Lecky's fourteenth chapter no less than twenty-six pages are omitted by Professor Woodburn. These pages relate the follow-
ing events, all immediately connected with the Revolutionary War:

The battle of Cape St. Vincent between the English and the Spaniards (America's allies) January, 1780.
The victory of Guadaloupe, 1780.
The Armed Neutrality of Russia, Sweden and Denmark, 1780.
The Dutch war with Great Britain, 1780-1783.
The Siege of Gibraltar, 1779-82.
The capture of Pensacola by the Spaniards, May, 1781.
The capture of St. Eustatius from the Dutch by the English, 1781.
The victory of Conjevaram by the French and the Hindu Muhammadans over the English, 1780.
Forty English ships captured near the Azores by France and Spain and taken to Cadiz, summer, 1780.
Fourteen English ships captured off Newfoundland by American privateers.
The battle of Porto Novo, gained by the English, 1781.

Consequently when the Indiana professor takes up the narrative at the words, "The exhaustion of the war was now felt very severely by all the belligerents in Europe," they convey but little meaning, for the narrative of the exhaustion has been suppressed.

We have said that the battle to be described has been kept quiet in English school-histories, and so it has, but an historian like James Mill describes it in detail, while in lesser works, an obscure allusion occasionally escapes. Thus, James Rennell, in 1788, talks about Haidar Ali's "success in cutting to pieces Colonel Baillie's detachment." So also, in the same year, William Gordon: "Some of their troops (i.e. The East India Company's) were afterward attacked and defeated." (History IV. 79.) Even the voluminous Lord Mahon merely says: "On the 10th of September
the troops of Baillie were overwhelmed and cut to pieces."

But none of these writers care about the life of Colonel Baillie. The Dictionary of National Biography gives the meagerest details, and indicates that the facts were collected with difficulty. William Baillie's birthdate is unknown. His name is purposely suppressed in lists of Anglo-Indian officers, but manuscript records declare that he entered the army of the old East-India Company in 1759 as infantry lieutenant at Madras, and in 1775 had reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was in command at Pondicherry when the French works there were destroyed in 1779, while, in 1780, we find him leading a detachment of about 150 Europeans and 200 Sepoys. In July of that year the Muhammadan king of Maisur, Haidar Ali, who sided with the French, marched against Madras with 100,000 men. Colonel Baillie defeated a division of the Muhammadans under the famous prince Tipu Sahib. This was near the village of Perambakam, and Sir Hector Munro, who was fourteen miles off with the main English army, sent a small reinforcement to Baillie. These troops were Highlanders and Sepoys under Colonel Fletcher. Fearing to leave his stores, Munro had not sent enough, and when the battle was joined near Conjevaram,¹ on September 10, 1780, these two detachments were confronted by Haidar's whole army. During the fight, two tumbrils (or caissons) blew up, and there was a general stampede of native camp-followers.

This threw the Anglo-Indian ranks into confusion, and the Sepoys could not be rallied. Then Colonel Baillie on foot posted a British square of five hundred

¹ Conjevaram is the ancient Kāficpuram, the name being nearly identical. The former is in our barbarous spelling, the latter scientific. Puram is cognate with the Greek polis, a city. Kāficpuram was a famous literary center some two millenniums ago, and commentaries on the Buddhist Scriptures were composed there.
and fifty, upon a rising sand-bank, and fought with
desperate valor. Again and again did the Muham-
madan cavalry charge the little square, while in the
intervals between the charges, masses of infantry at-
tacked. An eye-witness says, that Colonel Baillie
raised a white handkerchief and surrendered, calling
upon his men to do the same. They did so, but the
enemy returned to the charge. Out of five hundred and
fifty, two hundred and twenty-five were killed on the
spot, and three hundred and twenty-five were captured.
All would have been massacred, says Mill, but for the
intervention of the French officers of the Muham-
madans. Of the captured, two-thirds were wounded.
The officers fared no better, only sixteen out of eighty-
six escaping without wounds or death. The prisoners
were carried to Seringapatam, where Baillie, badly
wounded, died in 1782.
This civilized Muhammadan monarch ordered
French surgeons to attend the wounded, and behaved
with great politeness. He bore the victory without
elation, as if quite used to the fact. Four days later
he sent poor Baillie a thousand rupees for the prisoners
and clothes to cover their nakedness. Such are the
statements of a British eye-witness.
The defeat was retrieved by Sir Eyre Coote in the
battle of Porto Novo, July 1, 1781, another forgotten
battle of the American Revolution.
Some of these facts I have rescued from very small
print in London Notes and Queries for 1861. Others
may be found in the Dictionary of National Biography
and in Volume IV. of James Mill's History of British
India, in beautiful type (Ed. 4: London, 1840).
Early in the same year as the battle of Conjevaram,
a clergyman named Walker addressed a public meeting
in the north of England, attacking the expenses of the
war. At the other end of the island, in the ancient city
of Exeter, a similar meeting was held, and the contem-
porary pamphlets describing both are in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania collection.

The Mansfield meeting is the more interesting of the two, for examples of "graft" are given. Thus, an inspector-general of the forces in the West Indies draws three pounds a day and never leaves Great Britain, while a superintendent-general of the hospital of the Grand Army does the same. The political parson exclaims: "The piety of the superintendent-general recollects that Heaven is the best comforter of the sick. To Heaven therefore he leaves the care, he quits not the English shore."

In like manner does Sir George Otto Trevelyian record the case of an envoy-extraordinary to the court of Savoy who "left a secretary at Turin, while he enjoyed his friends and his bottle in London." The disclosure of facts like these did much to disgust the English with the fivefold war; and it is to be hoped that our future historians will give due place to these interesting by-paths of the American Revolution.

1. Speech of Rev. Mr. Walker at Mansfield, N.p., 1780. (Printed by the Society for Constitutional Information.)
*George III. and Charles Fox.* (London, 1912, I. 217.)