

meeting-house, and a great number of other houses, wheat, &c. and hung up three women (two of them by the feet, at the head of his army) whom he imagined were spies. In short, his whole progress through that part of the country is marked with devastation and cruelty more like the savages of the wilderness, than that of Britons, *once* famed for honour and humanity, the characteristics of *brave* men. How long the horrors would let him remain in Brunswick, and with what precipitation he fled, the following letters will probably give our readers some idea.

*Extract of a letter from camp Middle Brook, June 22.*

"A letter wrote two days ago I find is not gone forward; I therein informed you of the precipitate retreat of the British army from Somerset to Brunswick. A great part of their force has passed the river, and are stationed between that and Amboy, and from every circumstance there is the strongest reason to believe have given up all thoughts of passing to the Delaware by land.

"Last evening General Maxwell marched with his brigade to attack, or rather harass them, and this morning we hear a very smart firing. A large party also went out before day, so that the retreat, if designed, will not be without considerable loss. What their design may be is as yet uncertain, whether to pull up the North river to New England, the southward, or to the Delaware; but this I am confident, that they have no chance of any considerable reinforcements, or making any capital stroke, unless by a sudden removal they may surprize some part of the continent. Our affairs certainly have a most favourable appearance—a noble army, well officered, and in fine spirits—the enemy disheartened by their late retreat."

*Mount Prospect, 11 o'clock.*

"Here we have been some hours viewing the retreat of the enemy. They have left Brunswick, and all the road from thence to Amboy is covered with smoke, which we have the best reason to believe are the houses they have set fire to as they go. Gen. Green was below the landing near Brunswick, on this side the river; 2000 of the enemy within half a mile. Gen. Varnum advancing along the Rariton, and Gen. Sullivan pushing direct to Brunswick. Gen. Maxwell is on our left, towards Woodbridge, to intercept them on their way. We can from this noble situation trace many of their routs.

"Anxious for the event, and eagerly watching for return of messengers, I defer adding more than that every thing appears favourable to us, and I dare say they have not committed such horrid waste on the inhabitants without paying severely for it; as they have but one way open to retire."

*Sunday, Brunswick, 3 o'clock.*

"We have been some hours in possession of this place. I came here with the General half an hour ago. Destruction shews itself all around. We have taken a few prisoners, and deserters are hourly coming in. The enemy retired very precipitately, and are pushing towards Amboy; our people followed them to Piscataway, and I hope General Maxwell will yet fall in with them."

*Extract of a letter from camp at Middle Brook (evening) June 22.*

"Our troops were within a mile or less of the bridge at Brunswick, when Gen. Howe with the party passed there from Brunswick. Gen. Wayne with his brigade pushed the enemy so close that they retired from redoubt to redoubt, without having time to form. All the troops who came up pushed forward with vigour, and had those on the west of Rariton been so lucky as to have come up at the same instant, the stroke must have been capital. The enemy seem to retire to Amboy in haste. They were pursued to Piscataway by Col. Morgan's riflemen (a fine corps) and the troops under General Green. The enemy must have suffered considerably. Our loss 3 or 4 killed, and as many wounded. They have burnt numbers of houses, and their whole possessions shew what they must have suffered last winter; indeed their waste exceeds all I could fancy, tho' often described to me. They have lost their reputation—their troops dispirited—their plans subverted—a new scene of action to commence—and of course one half of the campaign lost to them. Our troops in good health, fine spirits, and ready to pursue the blow."

*Another letter from the same place, June 23.*

"I wrote two letters yesterday by different expresses, giving an account of our being in possession of Brunswick, and the enemy retiring to Amboy, where we now hear their main body have reached, and their advanced guard about 4 miles between Woodbridge and Bonam town. Gen. Maxwell was near them, also Gen. Parsons with his brigade, and Lord Sterling with his division, is between them and our camp here. Near 6000 of our troops remain in Brunswick. The enemy have thrown their bridge (designed for the Delaware) across the Sound from Amboy to Staten Island, by which it is clear they design to retreat, if closely pushed. The weather last night and this morning has been so wet that nothing could be done, otherwise I believe we should have moved nearer towards them. Their retreat has been attended with such a destruction of property, that marks their despair of possessing this country."

*Extract of a letter from General Washington to Congress.*

*Head Quarters, Middle Brook, June 22, 11 o'clock P. M.*

"I have the honour and pleasure to inform you that the enemy evacuated Brunswick this morning, and retired to Amboy, burning many houses as they went along, some of them, from the appearance of the flames, were considerable buildings."

"From several pieces of information, and from a variety of circumstances, it was evident that a movement was in agitation, and it was the general opinion that it was intended this morning. I therefore detached three brigades, under the command of Major General Green, to fall upon their rear, and kept the main body of the army paraded upon the heights, to support them if there should be occasion. A party of Col. Morgan's regiment of light infantry attacked and drove the Hessian pickets about sunrise; and upon the appearance of Gen. Wayne's brigade, and Morgan's regiment (who got first to the ground opposite Brunswick, the enemy immediately crossed the bridge to the east side of the river, and threw themselves into redoubts which they had before constructed. Our troops advanced briskly upon them, upon which they quitted the redoubts, without making any opposition, and retired by the Amboy road. As all our troops, from the difference of their stations in camp, did not come up when the enemy began to move off, it was impossible to check them, as their numbers were far greater than we had any reason to expect, being, as we were informed afterwards, between 4 and 5000 men. Our people pursued them as far as Piscataway; but finding it impossible to overtake them, and fearing they might be led on too far from the main body, they returned to Brunswick. By information of the inhabitants Gen. Howe, Lord Cornwallis, and Gen. Grant, were in the town when the alarm was first given, but they quitted it very soon after."

"In the pursuit, Col. Morgan's riflemen exchanged several sharp fires with the enemy, which it is imagined did considerable execution. I am in hopes that they afterwards fell in with Gen. Maxwell, who was detached last night with a strong party to lie between Brunswick and Amboy, in order to interrupt all convoys or parties that might be passing; but I have yet heard nothing from him."

"Gen. Green desires me to make mention of the conduct and bravery of Gen. Wayne and Col. Morgan, and of the officers and men, upon this occasion; as they constantly advanced upon an enemy far superior to them in numbers, and were secured behind strong redoubts."

"Gen. Sullivan advanced from Rocky Hill to Brunswick with his division; but as he did not receive his order of march till very late at night, he did not arrive till the enemy had been gone some time. I have the honour to be, &c."

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CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary

*Extract of a letter from Albany, June 11.*

"Several Frenchmen came in here yesterday from Canada who confirm the burning of the stores, and that a party of the Brunswickers had deserted; but a party of English troops pursued and came up with them, when an engagement ensued, in which several on both sides were killed; the rest of the Brunswickers were carried back. Also that about 40 Tories, who went from these parts last winter, had attempted to leave Canada again, and return home, being convinced of their mistake, had been pursued and overtaken near a place called the Split Rock in the lake, and carried back."

CHARLESTOWN, (S. C.) June 5.

On Saturday the Brigantine of war Comet, Capt. Allen, returned from a cruise, in which he took one prize, mentioned in our last to have arrived. On Sunday the 25th of last month after a very hard gale of wind, early in the morning he descried two sail, one a large ship right astern in shore, the other a sloop on the weather quarter; the ship appeared to be at anchor, lying to; the sloop bore down on the Comet, and came within half a league of her, then returned towards the ship. Captain Allen having got every thing ready to engage, stood after them. At twelve o'clock the sloop and ship were observed to speak the Comet being then about three leagues to windward. By observation taken then, Capt. Allen found he was 20 leagues to the southward of St. Augustine bar. Wind at S. E. The ship and sloop bore away before the wind with a crowded sail; the Comet gave chase; upon the enemy's perceiving it, both ship and sloop hove too. At half past two the Comet came up within musket shot of them, when the ship was discovered to be armed; she carried 16 guns, and the sloop, supposed to be Captain Moubray's, 14. Capt. Allen immediately run under the ship's stern, as if intending to go on her lee side, gave her three broadsides, and then ran in for the land. The sloop thereupon tacked, and the ship veered immediately, and both gave chase. Capt. Allen, finding the sloop weathered and got ahead of him, and the ship coming up astern, wore ship, and with all the sail he could set stood along shore, with the wind large. The ship