

after some pretty smart skirmishing obliged them to retreat, being far inferior in number, and without cannon. The loss on either side is not yet ascertained. Ours, though not exactly known, is not very considerable; theirs, we have reason to believe, was much greater, as some of our parties, composed of expert marksmen, had opportunities of giving them several close, well directed fires; more particularly in one instance, when a body of riflemen formed a kind of ambuscade. They advanced about two miles this side of Iron Hill, and then withdrew to that place, leaving a picket at Cooch's mill, about a mile in front.

"The design of their movement this morning seems to have been to disperse our light troops, who had been troublesome to them, and to gain possession of Iron Hill, to establish a post, most probably, for covering their retreat in case of accidents."

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CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'y.

"SIR, CHAD'S FORD, Sept. 11, 1777, 5 o'clock.
P. M.

"WHEN I had the honour of addressing you this morning, I mentioned that the enemy were advancing, and had begun a cannonade. I would now beg leave to inform you, that they have kept up a brisk fire from their artillery ever since. Their advanced party was attacked by our light troops under General Maxwell, who crossed the Brandywine for that purpose, and had posted his men on some high grounds on each side the road. The fire from our people was not of long duration, as the enemy pressed on in force, but was very severe. What loss the enemy sustained cannot be ascertained with precision, but from our situation and briskness of the attack, it is the general opinion, particularly of those who were engaged, that they had at least 300 men killed and wounded. Our damage is not exactly known, but from the best accounts we have been able to obtain, it does not exceed 50 in the whole. After this affair the enemy halted upon the heights, where they have remained ever since, except a detachment of them which filed off about 11 o'clock from their left, and which has since passed Brandywine, at Jones's ford, between 5 or 6 miles above Chad's; the amount of it is not known, accounts respecting it being various, some making it 2 or 3000 strong, and others more. Generals Sullivan, Stirling, and Stevens, with their divisions, are gone in pursuit, and to attack it, if they can with any prospect of success. There has been a scattering loose fire between our parties on each side the brook since the action in the morning, which just now became warm, when General Maxwell pushed over with his corps, and drove them from their ground, with the loss of thirty men left dead on the spot, among them a Captain of the 49th, and a number of entrenching tools, with which they were throwing up a batte y.

At half after four o'clock the enemy attacked General Sullivan at the ford and above this, and the action has been very violent ever since. It still continues. A very severe cannonade has begun here too, and I suppose we shall have a very hot evening. I hope it will be a happy one. I have the honour to be, in great haste, Sir, your most obedient servant,

ROBERT H. HARRISON.

The Hon. JOHN HANCOCK, Esquire.

SIR, Chester, Sept. 11, 1777, 12 o'clock at night.

I am sorry to inform you that in this day's engagement we have been obliged to leave the enemy masters of the field. Unfortunately the intelligence received of the enemy's advancing up the Brandywine, and crossing at a ford 6 miles above us, was uncertain and contradictory, notwithstanding all my pains to get the best. This prevented my making a disposition adequate to the force with which the enemy attacked us on our right; in consequence of which the troops first engaged were obliged to retire before they could be reinforced. In the midst of the attack on the right, that body of the enemy which remained on the other side of Chad's Ford, crossed it, and attacked the division there under the command of General Wayne and the light troops under General Maxwell; who, after a severe conflict, also retired. The militia, under the command of General Armstrong, being posted at a ford about two miles below Chad's, had no opportunity of engaging. But though we fought under many disadvantages, and were, from the causes above mentioned, obliged to retire; yet our loss of men is not, I am persuaded, very considerable; I believe much less than the enemy's. We have also lost seven or eight pieces of cannon, according to the best information I can at present obtain.—The baggage having been previously moved off is all secure, saving the mens blankets, which being at their backs, many of them doubtless were lost.

I have directed all the troops to assemble behind Chester, where they are now arranging for this night. Notwithstanding the misfortune of the day, I am happy to find the troops in good spirits; and I hope another time we shall compensate for the losses now sustained.

The Marquis La Fayette was wounded in the leg, and General Woodford in the hand. Divers other officers were wound-

ed, and some slain, but the numbers of either cannot now be ascertained. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

P. S. It has not been in my power to send you earlier intelligence; the present being the first leisure moment I have had since the action.

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CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'y.

A N N A P O L I S, Sept. 18, 1777.

Extract of a letter from Chester, dated Sept. 12, 1777, 11 o'clock, A. M.

I HAVE just time to drop a few inaccurate particulars of the bloody transactions of yesterday: Our army was posted on the heights of Brandywine, about 12 miles above Wilmington, at, and contiguous to Chad's Ford; the enemy lay nearly opposite to them, though at the distance of several miles on the other side of the creek. About sunrise a small body of the enemy appeared opposite Chad's Ford, and began a heavy cannonade upon our lines, which was returned with equal vigour; they at the same time, being posted upon the hills around, made several efforts, as if to attack us with small arms. General Maxwell's light troops fell in with them upon the meanders of the Brandywine, and a very hot firing ensued, and each party were alternately drove back. In this skirmish we lost but few men, and the enemy suffered very considerably, not less, I am assured, than 500, for our troops were advantageously posted, and kept up a constant and well directed fire almost the whole day. Their efforts to force the pass at Chad's Ford were evidently calculated only to amuse, for in the interim they had filed off up the creek in a large body, and crossed the forks of Brandywine, and marched very rapidly down upon our right, where General Sullivan's and Lord Stirling's divisions were posted. Gen. Sullivan's division being entitled to the right by seniority, filed off to their ground, but before they had time to form regularly the enemy approached upon them, and immediately a hot and incessant discharge of small arms began, which continued most obstinately for nearly one hour without cessation, when our troops gave way: However, reinforced about half after five o'clock the attack began again, and lasted nearly one hour longer, when orders were given to retreat, which was done. The enemy at the same time passed at Chad's Ford, where they suffered much. We have not lost many."

Extract of a letter from Philadelphia, dated Sept. 13, 1777, 9 o'clock.

"No doubt, before this reaches you, you will hear various accounts of the late action, but you may depend the enemy paid dear for the ground they got. I saw General Maxwell at Chester; he informed me that he, with 500 men, crossed early in the morning over the Brandywine and laid in ambush for the enemy, in which he succeeded, and left 400 of them dead in the field; before he recrossed the Brandywine. The engagement began early in the morning, and continued till late in the evening; he says the enemy lost at least 2000 men; we have lost (killed, wounded, and taken) not above 5 or 600. General Cornwallis commanded the column which carried our lines; here our people made them fall like blackbirds; General Sullivan's division was fired on before they could form. The morning after the engagement many of our troops came up, and are now joining the army. General Washington this moment left this place, and is gone to German-Town, where, and on the falls of the Schuylkill, all the army is to be encamped. Three thousand militia from the Jerseys, 1500 regulars with General Putnam, several of the Lancaster militia, and three classes of the militia from this city, are now on their march. Tomorrow, it is expected, will be the great day; how the event will be God only knows; however much blood will be shed before Howe gets this place, if ever. Howe was all day yesterday burying his dead, and taking care of his wounded. Our officers and men are in high spirits. Not one Maryland officer was killed; Capt. Joseph Ford; was wounded in the arm."

B O S T O N, September 4.

ARRIVED at a safe port to the southward, a prize, the Capt. of which informs, that two days before he was taken, he spoke with a 36 gun frigate, who informed him that the American Privateers were very thick on the coast, but he was in hopes to thin them soon, that he had taken the Portsmouth, Capt. Hart, commander: She mounted 20 guns, 8 six pounders and 12 fours. That the Captain was wounded, and the first lieutenant of 60 rines killed, and a number of others. That he had taken two other pirates, a schooner and a brig--and that he had sent them all to Britain, to receive the reward of American pirates, according to the late act.

We hear that a 20 gun ship, belonging to Brown and Company, of Providence, was the beginning of last week drove ashore by the enemy near Swanzy and burnt.

By the London papers, of the latter end of June, it appears