

beaten; we were in possession of their camp, tents, artillery, &c. but they rallying to make a last effort, and our right and left columns in that instant approaching each other in their victorious progress, were, by each, mistaken for a fresh reinforcement coming up to the enemy, and instantly began to retreat, without allowing a possibility of being stopped. This was occasioned by a thick fog, and such a state of air as kept down the smoke of cannon, &c. so as to prevent the distinguishing of objects above 50 yards. Thus the enemy, though beaten, kept the field, and accident deprived us of a brilliant victory that was absolutely in our possession. Our troops however retired in order, tho' with too much precipitation, and brought off their wounded, cannon, and every thing else. Our loss in this affair is about 700 killed, wounded, and missing; that of the enemy very considerable no doubt, as they were pushed before our army 2 miles; but this is rendered more certain by an account brought from Philadelphia by a person who can be relied on, that left the city since the battle. He says that the enemy lost Gen. Agnew, Colonels Abercrombie, Walcott, Byrd of Virginia, and Gen. De Heister's son killed, Gen. Kniphausen wounded in the hand, and that between 2 and 300 waggons load of wounded were brought into the city before he left it; this is confirmed by many Quakers who were at the yearly meeting, and who add, that Howe had actually sent 2000 Hessians over Schuylkill, probably to secure a retreat. He refused to let any of the inhabitants of Philadelphia see the field of battle. On our part, General Nash is dead of his wounds, Col. Hendricks and Lieut. Col. Parker from Virginia, wounded, but not mortally; two of Gen. Sullivan's Aids mortally wounded, Colonel Stone of Maryland wounded, not mortally. We have not yet a particular list of the killed and wounded from the General. Last evening came an account to town that Capt. Barry had attacked the frigate Delaware (lately taken from us at Philadelphia) with the brig Andrew Doria of 14 guns and 2 gallies, and had re-taken the frigate. It is fine news if it proves true. Our army is in excellent spirits, satisfied they can beat the enemy, and keen for another opportunity of trying; they will probably be indulged in a few days, as our Virginia reinforcements of 17 or 1800 have got up since the engagement."

*Extract of a letter from York town, Pennsylvania, dated October 8, 1777.*

"Our loss is pretty well fixed to 700 killed, wounded, and missing; that of the enemy not certainly known, but surely very great, as you may judge by the following intelligence, brought this evening by General Green's aid de camp, and which he says may be relied upon: General Agnew, Colonels Walcott, Abercrombie, and Thomas Byrd, from Virginia, with General De Heister's son, killed; General Kniphausen wounded in the hand; and between 2 and 300 waggons, loaded with wounded, sent in to Philadelphia. That General Howe had sent about 2000 Hessians over Schuylkill (denoting a retreat) and that he had refused to let any of the inhabitants of Philadelphia go to see the field of battle.

"General Schuyler writes us, the 29th of September, that if superior numbers, health, and spirits, can give success, our army in the northern department will have it this campaign.

"For my part I do not despair of success in this quarter also. Another such battle as the last will totally unfit General Howe for pursuing farther hostilities this campaign, and again possess us of Philadelphia."

This moment an express arrived, with a letter from Captain William Pierce, dated Skippack camp, 12 o'clock P. M. the day on which the above bloody battle was fought. It contains sundry particulars, but the Printer has only time to relate the following, viz. Our glorious General, after an animating speech to his army, directed them to hold themselves in readiness to march at 6 o'clock, with two days provision, ordered large fires to be made in the camp, and the tents to stand till 9 at night, when they were to be struck, and put into the baggage waggons. The army marched all night, arrived at Chestnut Hill about day break, and immediately fell upon the enemies picket-guard, with such fury and firmness, that they were instantly routed, with great slaughter. The whole army then pushed towards Germantown, but were met by the main body of the British army, consisting of about 10,000 men, when a hot and dreadful engagement ensued. After an incessant fire of cannon and musketry for upwards of an hour, the enemy gave way in all quarters, and our men drove them, with fixed bayonets, for near two miles, when they formed again. Our men, with steadiness and intrepidity, broke them a second time, and they retreated in great disorder to Germantown, with our whole army in close pursuit of them, till they got about half way the town, when they took to the houses, and opened upon our men two or three field pieces, with grape shot, which played with such violence that General Sullivan's division gave way, and we, in turn, were beat back better than two miles. Both armies, being greatly fatigued, shewed a willingness to discontinue the fight, and ours were ordered to march to Skippack creek, where they are now encamped. The enemy

contented themselves with their last advantage, and retired their old quarters at Germantown. They must have had 1000 killed dead on the field, and at least 1500 wounded. A Captain and 25 men fell into our hands. Our loss does not exceed 300 killed, and 500 wounded. We brought off two field pieces and two waggons loaded with baggage. General Nash is mortally wounded with a cannon ball. Col. Hendricks is wounded below the left eye, but likely to recover; he behaved with such heroism, that he was the admiration of the field. Lieut. Col. Parker, of the second Virginia regiment, a brave officer, got wounded in the leg, and it is said the bone is broke. Col. Matthew Smith, our deputy adjutant general, got his leg broke by a grape shot. Cornet Baylor, of the light horse, had one half of his foot shot away. Major Jameson had his horse killed under him, but he himself was unhurt. Capt. Dickinson was slightly wounded in the knee. Capt. Thomas Edmonds was so badly wounded that he died in a few hours. Capt. Eustace, of the first Virginia regiment, was killed dead on the spot. Two Maryland Colonels, of the name of Store, were wounded, and many other officers, that I cannot recollect at present. The heroism and gallantry of the second Virginia regiment I cannot help particularly mentioning; they would do honour to any country in the world. It is universally believed they behaved the best of any troops in the field. Indeed the whole continental army is composed of a set of brave men; and if the different states would exert themselves to raise their different quotas, General Washington would put an end to the contest immediately. The artillery I cannot overtake; it was served, in every instance, to admiration. Col. Joshua Parker behaved like a hero. Brigade Major Scott does honour to his country, and in the action shewed himself to be one of the first military characters in our army. Capt. Moser, of the first Virginia regiment, I must not forget; he is truly a brave man. The Carolina troops fought like heroes. The Delaware frigate fell into the enemy's hands; it is said by the treachery of the crew; but the river is still ours, and I am convinced Philadelphia will be again so in a few weeks.

Mr. PURDIE,

As many of your readers must be much at a loss how to reconcile the accounts in the last week's papers, of General Washington's situation, with the accounts received, and I believe published, a week or two before, I think it not admiss to attempt to explain this difficulty. General Washington, after the battle of Brandywine, considering, that should he risk another battle so near Philadelphia, and be defeated, the enemy might not only possess themselves of the city, but of the invaluable military stores and provisions lodged there, retired with his army till he had secured his stores, and received some reinforcements. He then, without loss of time, returned, and marched out to the enemy, determined to give them battle, making an admirable disposition for the attack, which however was prevented, when the two armies were on the very point of engaging, by an excessive heavy rain, which poured down incessantly for twelve hours. Our army was so much weakened, and their ammunition and arms so damaged by being exposed to such a rain, in the open fields, being without tents, which had been removed previous to the intended attack, that it was absolutely necessary to retire once more for refreshment, and indeed principally to clean their arms and get a fresh supply of cartridges. In this interval General Howe, whose men were better supplied with the conveniences for securing their ammunition than our army, advanced towards Schuylkill. General Washington then crossed it, putting himself in a proper position to dispute the passage with the British army, which came up opposite to our army, and remained nearly so several days, except that in that time they practised many manœuvres to procure a passage. At length, filing off to our right, as if intending to pass above us, or to push after our stores to Reading, at midnight, by a countermarch, they fell down below us, and crossed on our left, and had, before they were discovered, so far gotten the start of us, that it was not possible to overtake them, if they meant to take possession of the city. Our General then followed them towards the city, which however he knew they could not keep, as it was almost impossible they should receive any assistance from the fleet, which was opposed by the frigates, sloops, floating batteries, gallies, and fire ships; nor could they expect any reinforcements through the Jerseys, as General Putnam was ready to oppose any such with 7 or 8000 men. Our immortal General saw that the situation of the enemy was now worse than ever. If defeated, they could have no retreat; they were now below the fordable parts of the Schuylkill, and might be cut off from the supplies of provisions. On the other hand, the whole country was open to him for supplies on a retreat. In this situation were things when he was represented as following the British army towards Philadelphia. It must be confessed that General Howe shewed great generalship in the feint he made, by which he gained the passage of the river; but it must also be insisted upon, that General Washington's disposition to prevent it was as good, as could have been devised, for he was not only pre-