

stamp-act down to the present time, hath involved this country in contention and bloodshed. And that, as in other cases so in this, although circumstances may force them at times to recede from their unjustifiable claims, there can be no doubt but they will as heretofore, upon the first favourable occasion, again display that lust of domination, which hath rent in twain the mighty empire of Britain.

Upon the whole matter, the committee beg leave to report it as their opinion, that as the Americans united in this arduous contest upon principles of common interest, for the defence of common rights and privileges, which union hath been cemented by common calamities and by mutual good offices and affection, so the great cause for which they contend, and in which all mankind are interested, must derive its success from the continuance of that union. Wherefore any man or body of men, who should presume to make any separate or partial convention or agreement with commissioners under the crown of Great-Britain, or any of them, ought to be considered and treated as open and avowed enemies of these united states.

And further your committee beg leave to report it as their opinion, that these united states cannot, with propriety, hold any conference or treaty with any commissioners on the part of Great-Britain, unless they shall, as a preliminary thereto, either withdraw their fleets and armies, or else, in positive and express terms acknowledge the independence of the said states.

And inasmuch as it appears to be the design of the enemies of these states to lull them into a fatal security—to the end that they may act with a becoming weight and importance, it is the opinion of your committee, that the several states be called upon to use the most strenuous exertions to have their respective quotas of continental troops in the field as soon as possible, and that all the militia of the said states be held in readiness to act as occasion may require.

The report being read, and debated by paragraphs,

Resolved unanimously, That Congress approve and confirm the said report.

Published by order of Congress.

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec.

*From the LONDON GAZETTE, December 16.
Whitehall, December 15, 1777.*

THIS afternoon Capt. Craig, of the 47th regiment, arrived from Quebec with the following duplicate of a letter from Lieutenant-General Burgoyne, to Lord George Germaine, the original of which has not yet been received.

MY LORD, *Albany, October 20, 1777.*

NO possibility of communication with your lordship having existed since the beginning of September, at which time my last dispatches were sent away, I have to report to your lordship the proceedings of the army under my command from that period: A series of hard toil, incessant effort, stubborn action, till disabled in the collateral branches of the army by the total defection of the indians; the desertion or the timidity of the Canadians and Provincials, some individuals excepted; disappointed in the last hope of any timely co-operation from other armies; the regular troops reduced by losses from the best parts, to 3,500 fighting men, not 2000 of which were British; only three days provisions, upon short allowance, in store; invested by an army of sixteen thousand men, and no apparent means of retreat remaining; I called into council all the generals, field-officers, and captains, commanding corps, and by their unanimous concurrence and advice, I was induced to open a treaty with Major General Gates.

Your lordship will see by the papers transmitted herewith, the disagreeable prospect which attended the first overtures, and when the terms concluded are compared, I trust that the spirit of the councils I have mentioned, which, under such circumstances, dictated instead of submitting, will not be refused a share of credit.

Before I enter upon the detail of these events, I think it a duty of justice, my lord, to take upon myself the measure of having passed the Hudson's river, in order to force a passage to Albany. I did not think myself authorized to call any men into council, when the preremptory tenor of my orders, and the season of the year, admitted no alternative.

Provisions for about thirty days having been brought forward, the other necessary stores prepared, and the bridge of boats completed, the army passed the Hudson's river on the 13th and 14th of September, and encamped on the heights and in the plain of Saratoga, the enemy being then in the neighbourhood of Still-Water.

15th. The whole army made a movement forward, and encamped in a good position in a place called Dovogat.

16th. It being found that there were several bridges to repair, that work was begun under cover of strong detachments, and the same opportunity was taken to reconnoitre the country.

17th. The army renewed their march, repaired other bridges,

and encamped upon advantageous ground, about four miles from the enemy.

18th. The enemy appeared in considerable force to obstruct the further repair of bridges, and with a view, as it was conceived, to draw on an action where artillery could not be employed, a small loss was sustained in skirmishing, but the work of the bridges was effected.

19th. The passages of a great ravin, and other roads towards the enemy, having been reconnoitred, the army advanced in the following order:

Brigadier General Frazer's corps, sustained by lieutenant colonel Breyman's corps, made a circuit, in order to pass the ravine commodiously, without quitting the heights, and afterwards to cover the march of the line to the right; these corps moved in three columns, and had the Indians, Canadians, and Provincials upon their fronts and flanks. The British line, led by me in person, passed the ravin in a direct line South, and formed in order of battle as fast as they gained the summit, where they waited to give time to Frazer's corps to make the circuit, and to enable the left wing and artillery, which, under the command of Major-General Philips and Major-General Reidesel, kept the great road and the meadows near the river, in two columns, and had bridges to repair, to be equally ready to proceed. The 47th regiment guarded the batteaux.

The signal guns, which had been previously settled to give notice of all the columns being ready to advance, having been fired between 1 and 2 o'clock, the march continued; the scouts and flankers of the column of the British line were soon fired upon from small parties, but with no effect; after about an hour's march the pickets, which made the advanced guard of that column, were attacked in force, and obliged to give ground, but they soon rallied, and were sustained.

On the first opening of the wood, I formed the troops; a few cannon shot dislodged the enemy at a house whence the picquets had been attacked, and Brigadier-General Frazer's corps had arrived with such precision in point of time, as to be found on a very advantageous height on the right of the British.

In the mean time the enemy, not acquainted with the combination of the march, had moved with great force out of their entrenchments, with a view of turning the line upon the right;—and being checked by the position of Brigadier-General Frazer, countermarched in order to direct their great effort to the left of the British.

From the nature of the country, movements of this nature, however near, may be effected without a possibility of their being discovered.

About three o'clock the action began by a very vigorous attack on the British line, and continued with great obstinacy till after sun-set, the enemy being continually supplied with fresh troops. The stress lay upon the 20th, 21st, and 62d regiments, most part of which were engaged near four hours without intermission; the 9th had been ordered early in the day to form in reserve. The grenadiers and 24th regiment were some part of the time brought into action, as were part of the light infantry; and all these corps charged with their usual spirit.

The riflemen, and other parts of Breyman's corps, were also of service, but it was not thought advisable to evacuate the height where Brigadier General Frazer was posted, otherwise than partially and occasionally.

Major-General Philips, upon first hearing the firing, found his way through a difficult part of the wood to the scene of action, and brought up with him Major Williams and four pieces of artillery, and from that moment I stood indebted to that gallant and judicious second for incessant and most material services; particularly for restoring the action in a point which was critically pressed by a great superiority of fire, and to which he led up the 20th regiment at the utmost personal hazard.

Major-General Reidesel exerted himself to bring up a part of the left wing, and arrived in time to charge the enemy with regularity and bravery.

Just as the light closed, the enemy gave ground on all sides, and left us completely masters of the field of battle, with the loss of about 500 men on their side, and, as supposed, thrice that number wounded.

The darkness preventing a pursuit, the prisoners were few.

The behaviour of the officers and men in general was exemplary. Brigadier General Frazer took his position in the beginning of the day with great judgment, and sustained the action with constant presence of mind and vigour. Brigadier-General Hamilton was the whole time engaged, and acquitted himself with great honour, activity, and good conduct. The artillery in general was distinguished, and the brigade under Capt. Jones, who was killed in the action, was conspicuously so.

The army lay upon their arms the night of the 19th, and the next day took a position nearly within cannon-shot of the enemy, fortifying their right, and extending their left so as to cover the meadows through which the great river runs, and where the bat-