

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

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.

Continued from our last.

IT was judged proper to send a detachment of artificers, under a strong escort, to repair the bridges and open a road to fort Edward. The 47th regiment, Captain Fraser's marksmen and Mackay's provincials, were ordered for that service; but the enemy appearing on the heights of the Fishkill in great force, and making a disposition to pass and give us battle, the 47th regiment and Fraser's marksmen were recalled; the provincials left to cover the workmen at the first bridge, ran away upon a very slight attack of a small party of the enemy, and left the artificers to escape as they could, without a possibility of their performing any work.

During these different movements, the batteaux with provisions were frequently fired upon from the opposite side of the river; some of them were lost, and several men were killed and wounded in those which remained.

11th. Attacks upon the batteaux were continued; several were taken and retaken; but their situation being much nearer to the main force of the enemy than to ours, it was found impossible to secure the provisions any otherwise than by landing there and carrying them upon the hill: This was effected under fire, and with great difficulty.

The possible means of further retreat were now considered in councils of war composed of the general officers, minutes of which will be transmitted to your lordship.

The only one that seemed at all practicable was by a night march to gain fort Edward, with the troops carrying their provisions upon their backs; the impossibility of repairing bridges, putting a conveyance of artillery and carriages out of the question; and it was proposed to force the ford above it.

Before this attempt could be made, scouts returned with intelligence that the enemy were entrenched opposite those fords, and possessed a camp in force on the high ground between fort Edward and fort George, with cannon; they had also parties down the whole shore to watch our motions; and posts so near to us upon our own side of the water as must prevent the army moving a single mile undisturbed.

The bulk of the enemy's army was hourly joined by new corps of militia and volunteers, and their numbers together amounted to 16,000 men.

Their position, which extended three parts in four of a circle round us, was, from the nature of the ground, inattackable in all parts.

In this situation the army took the best position possible, and fortified; waiting till the 13th at night in the anxious hope of succours from our friends, or the next desirable expectation, an attack from our enemy.

During this time the men lay continually upon their arms, and were cannonaded in every part; even rifle shot and grape shot came into all parts of the lines, though without any considerable effect.

At this period an exact account of the provisions was taken, and the circumstances stated in the opening of this letter became complete.

The council of war was extended to all the field officers and captains commanding corps of the army, and the convention inclosed herewith ensued; a transaction which I am sure was unavoidable, and which I trust in that situation will be esteemed honourable.

After the execution of the treaty, General Gates drew together the force that had surrounded my position, and I had the consolation

to have as many witnesses as I have men under my command, of its amounting to the numbers mentioned above.

During the events stated above, an attempt was made against Ticonderoga by an army assembled under Major Gen. Lincoln, who found means to march with a considerable corps from Hubbardton undiscovered, while another column of his force passed the mountains between Skeneborough and lake George; and on the morning of the 18th of September, a sudden and general attack was made upon the carrying place of lake George, Sugarhill, Ticonderoga and Mount Independence. The sea officer commanding the armed sloop stationed to defend the carrying place, as also some of the officers commanding at the posts at the Sugarhill, and at the Portage were surprised, and a considerable part of four companies of the 53d regiment were made prisoners: a block house commanded by lieutenant Lord of the 53d regiment was the only post on that side that had time to make use of their arms, and they made a brave defence till cannon taken from the surprised vessel was brought against them.

After stating and lamenting so fatal a want of vigilance, I have to inform your lordship of the satisfactory events which followed.

The enemy having twice summoned Brigadier General Powell, and received such answers as became a gallant officer entrusted with so important a post; and having tried during the course of four days several attacks, and being repulsed in all, retreated without having done any considerable damage.

Brigadier General Powell, from whose report to me I extract this relation, gives great commendations to the regiment of prince Frederick and the other troops stationed at Mount Independence. The Brigadier also mentions with great applause the behaviour of Captain Taylor of the 21st regiment, who was accidentally there on his road to the army from the hospital, and lieutenant Beecroft of the 24th regiment, who, with the artificers in arms, defended an important battery.

On the 24th of September the enemy enabled by the capture of the gun boats and batteaux which they had made after the surprise of the sloop, to embark upon lake George, attacked Diamond island in two divisions.

Captain Aubrey with two companies of the 47th regiment had been posted at that island from the time the army passed the Hudson's river, as a better situation for the security of the stores at the South end of lake George, than fort George; which is on the continent, and not tenable against artillery and numbers. The enemy were repulsed by Capt. Aubrey with great loss, and pursued by the gun boats under his command to the east shore, where two of their principal vessels were retaken, together with all the cannon; they had just time to set fire to the other batteaux, and retreated over the mountains.

I beg leave to refer your lordship for further particulars to my aide de camp lord Peterham; and I humbly take occasion to recommend to his majesty's notice that nobleman, as one endowed with qualities to do important services to his country in every station to which his birth may lead. In this late campaign in particular his behaviour has been such as to intitle him to the fullest applause; and I am confident his merit will be thought a sufficient ground for preferment, though deprived of the éclat and fort of claim which generally attend the delivery of fortunate dispatches.

I have only to add, my lord, a general report of the killed and wounded. I do not give it as correct; the hurry of the time, and the separation of the corps, having rendered it impossible to make it so. The British officers have bled profusely and most honourably; all who have fallen were valuable, but the extensive merits which marked the public and private character of Brigadier General Fraser will long remain upon the memory of this army, and make his loss a subject of particular regret. Those who remain unwounded have been equally forward; and the general officers, from the mode of fighting, have been more exposed than in other services. Among the rest I have had my escapes. It depends upon the sentence his majesty shall pass upon my con-