

But being assured by your excellency's letters, that every possible means would be tried by the navy and army to relieve us, I could not think myself at liberty to enter on either of those desperate attempts. Therefore, after remaining two days in a strong position in front of this place, in hopes of being attacked, observing that the enemy had taken measures which could not fail of turning my left flank in a short time, and receiving on the second evening your letter of the 24th of September, informing that the relief would sail about the 5th of October, I withdrew within the works on the 29th of September, hoping, by the labour and firmness of the soldiers, to protract the defence until you could arrive. Every thing was to be expected from the spirit of the troops, but every disadvantage attended their labour, as the works were to be continued under the enemy's fire, and our stock of entrenching tools, which did not exceed four hundred when we began to work in the latter end of August, was now much diminished.

The enemy broke ground on the 30th, and constructed on that night, and the two following days and nights, two redoubts, which, with some works that had belonged to our outward position, occupied a gorge between two creeks or ravines, which came from the river on each side of the town. On the night of the 6th of October, they made their first parallel, extending from its right on the river to a deep ravine on the left, nearly opposite to the centre of this place, and embracing our whole left, at the distance of six hundred yards. Having perfected this parallel, their batteries opened on the evening of the 9th against our left, and other batteries fired at the same time against a redoubt advanced over the creek upon our left, and defended by about one hundred and twenty men of the 23d regiment, and marines, who maintained that post with uncommon gallantry. The fire continued incessant from heavy cannon, and from mortars and howitzers, throwing shells from eight to sixteen inches, until our guns on the left were silenced, our works much damaged, and our loss of men considerable. On the night of the 11th, they began their second parallel about three hundred yards nearer to us. The troops being much weakened by sickness, as well as by the fire of the besiegers, and observing that the enemy had not only secured their flanks, but proceeded in every respect with regularity and caution, I could not venture to large forties as to hope from them any considerable effect. But otherwise I did every thing in my power to interrupt their work, by opening new embrasures for guns, and keeping a constant fire with all the howitzers and small mortars that we could man.

On the evening of the 14th, they assaulted and carried two redoubts, that had been advanced about three hundred yards for the purpose of delaying their approaches, and covering our left flank, and during the night included them in their second parallel, on which they continued to work with the utmost exertion. Being perfectly sensible that our works could not stand many hours after opening of the batteries of that parallel, we not only continued a constant fire with all our mortars, and every gun that could be brought to bear upon it, but a little before day-break, in the morning of the 16th, I ordered a sortie of about 350 men, under the direction of lieutenant-colonel Abercrombie, to attack two batteries which appeared to be in the greatest forwardness, and spike the guns; a detachment of the guards, with the 18th company of grenadiers, under the command of lieutenant-colonel Lake, attacked the one; and one of light infantry, under the command of major Armstrong, attacked the other. They both succeeded, by forcing the redoubts that covered them, spiking 21 guns, and killing or wounding about 100 of the French troops, who had the guard of that part of the trenches, and with little loss on our side. This action, though extremely honourable to the officers and soldiers who executed it, proved of little public advantage, for the cannon having been spiked in a hurry, were soon rendered fit for service again, and before dark the whole parallel and batteries appeared to be nearly complete.

At this time we knew that there was no part of the whole front attacked in which we could throw a single gun, and our shells were nearly expended. I had therefore only to chuse between preparing to surrender next day, or endeavouring to get off with the greatest part of the troops. I determined to attempt the latter, reflecting that though it should prove unsuccessful in its object, it might at least delay the enemy in the prosecution of farther enterprises. Sixteen large boats were prepared, and upon other pretexts were ordered to be in readiness to receive troops precisely at 10 o'clock. With these I hoped to pass the infantry during the night, abandoning our baggage, and leaving a detachment to capitulate for the town's people and the sick and wounded, on which subject a letter was ready to be delivered to general Washington. After making my arrangements with the utmost

secrecy, the light infantry, greatest part of the guards, and the 23d regiment, embarked at the hour appointed. Most of them landed at Gloucester; but at the critical moment, the weather, from being moderate and calm, changed to a most violent storm of wind and rain, and drove all the boats, some of which had troops on board, down the river.

It was soon evident that the intended passage was impracticable. And the absence of the boats rendered it equally impossible to bring back the troops that had passed, which I had ordered about two o'clock in the morning.

In this situation, with my little force divided, the enemy's batteries opened at day-break. The passage between this place and Gloucester was much exposed, but the boats having now returned, they were ordered to bring back the troops that had passed during the night, and they joined us in the forenoon without much loss. Our works in the mean time were going to ruin, and not having been able to strengthen them by abatis, nor in any other manner than by a slight fraizing, which the enemy's artillery were demolishing wherever they fired, my opinion entirely coincided with that of the engineer and the principal officers of the army, that they were in many places very assailable in the forenoon, and that by a continuance of the same fire for a few hours longer, they would be in such a state as to render it desperate with our numbers to maintain them. We at that time could not fire a single gun; only one eight inch, and little more than 100 cohorts remained; a diversion by the French ships of war, that lay at the mouth of York river, was to be expected; our numbers had been diminished by the enemy's fire, but particularly by sickness, and the strength and spirits of those in the works were much exhausted by the fatigue of constant watching and unremitting duty.

Under all these circumstances, I thought it would have been wanton and inhuman to the last degree to sacrifice the lives of this small body of gallant soldiers, who have ever behaved with so much fidelity and courage, by exposing them to an assault, which, from the numbers and precautions of the enemy, could not fail to succeed. I therefore proposed to capitulate. And I have the honour to enclose to your excellency the copy of the correspondence between general Washington and me on that subject, and the terms of capitulation agreed upon. I sincerely lament that better could not be obtained. But I have neglected nothing to alleviate the misfortunes and distress of both officers and soldiers. The men are well clothed, and provided with necessaries; and I trust will be regularly supplied by the means of the officers that are permitted to remain with them. The treatment in general, that we have received from the enemy since our surrender, has been perfectly good and proper. But the kindness and attention that has been shewn to us by the French officers in particular, their delicate sensibility of our situation; their generous and pressing offers of money, both public and private, to any amount, has really gone beyond what I can possibly describe. And will, I hope, make an impression on the breast of every British officer, whenever the fortune of war should put any of them into our power.

Although the event has been so unfortunate, the patience of the soldiers in bearing the greatest fatigues, and their firmness and intrepidity under a persevering fire of shot and shells, that I believe has not often been exceeded, deserved the highest commendation and praise. A successful defence however, in our situation, was perhaps impossible, for the place could only be reckoned an intrenched camp, subject in most places to enfilade, and the ground in general so disadvantageous, that nothing but the necessity of fortifying it as a post to protect the navy, could have induced any person to erect works upon it. Our force diminished daily by sickness and other losses, and was reduced when we offered to capitulate, and on this side, to little more than 3200 rank and file, fit for duty, including officers servants and artificers; and at Gloucester, about 600, including cavalry. The enemy's army consisted of upwards of 8000 French, nearly as many continentals, and 5000 militia. They brought an immense train of heavy artillery, most amply furnished with ammunition, and perfectly well innanned.

The constant and universal cheerfulness and spirit of the officers in all hardship and danger, deserve my warmest acknowledgments. And I have been particularly indebted to brigadier-general O'Hara, and lieutenant-colonel Abercrombie, the former commanding on the right, and the latter on the left, for their attention and exertion on every occasion. The detachment of the 23d regiment and marines in the redoubt on the right, commanded by capt. Abtborp; and the subsequent detachments, commanded by lieutenant-colonel Johnston, deserve particular attention. Capt. Rochfort, who commanded the artillery, and indeed every officer and

soldier of that distinguished corps, and lieutenant Sunderland the commanding engineer, have merited in every respect my highest approbation. And I cannot sufficiently acknowledge my obligations to capt. Symonds, who commanded his majesty's ships, and to the other officers and seamen of the navy, for their zealous and active co-operation.

I transmit returns of our killed and wounded. The loss of the seamen and town's people was likewise considerable.

I trust that your excellency will please to hasten the return of the Bonetta, after landing her passengers, in compliance with the articles of capitulation.

Lieut. col. Abercrombie will have the honour to deliver this dispatch, and is well qualified to explain to your excellency every particular relative to our past and present situation.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, Sir, your most obedient, and most humble servant,
(Signed) CORNWALLIS.

By the UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS assembled, October 29, 1781.

Resolved, That the thanks of the United States in congress assembled, be presented to major-general Greene, for his wife, decisive and magnanimous conduct in the action of the 8th of September last, near the Euauw springs in South Carolina; in which, with a force inferior in number to that of the enemy, he obtained a most signal victory.

That the thanks of the United States in congress assembled, be presented to the officers and men of the Maryland and Virginia brigades, and the Delaware battalion of continental troops, for the unparalleled bravery and heroism by them displayed, in advancing to the enemy through an incessant fire, and charging them with an impetuosity and ardour that could not be resisted.

That the thanks of the United States in congress assembled, be presented to the officers and men of the legionary corps and artillery, for their intrepid and gallant exertions during the action.

That the thanks of the United States in congress assembled, be presented to the brigade of North-Carolina, for their resolution and perseverance in attacking the enemy, and sustaining a superior fire.

That the thanks of the United States in congress assembled, be presented to the officers and men of the state corps of South-Carolina, for the zeal, activity and firmness by them exhibited throughout the engagement.

That the thanks of the United States in congress assembled, be presented to the officers and men of the militia, who formed the front line in the order of battle, and sustained their post with honour, propriety, and a resolution worthy of men determined to be free.

Resolved, That a British standard be presented to major-general Greene, as an honourable testimony of his merit, and a golden medal emblematical of the battle and victory aforesaid.

That major-general Greene be desired to present the thanks of congress, to captains Pierce and Pendleton, major Hyrne and captain Shubrick, his aids de camp, in testimony of their particular activity and good conduct during the whole of the action.

That a sword be presented to captain Pierce, who bore the general's dispatches giving an account of the victory, and that the board of war take order herein.

Resolved, That the thanks of the United States in congress assembled, be presented to brigadier-general Marion of the South-Carolina militia, for his wife, gallant and decided conduct, in defending the liberties of his country, and particularly for his prudent and intrepid attack on a body of the British troops, on the 30th day of August last, and for the distinguished part he took in the battle of the 8th of September.

Extract from the minutes,
CHARLES THOMSON, sec.

Z. Or thoughts on a plan for a new paper money, and for recovering a currency to our old emissions, in our next.

December 11, 1781.

ALL persons indebted to the estate of Thomas Rutland, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased, are desired to make immediate payment. And all those having claims against the said estate, are requested to make them known, to
w^s JOSEPH HOWARD, jun. executor.

Calvert county, December 10, 1781.

ALL persons indebted to the estate of Charles Grahame, late of Calvert county, deceased, are desired to come and discharge the same to the subscriber. And those who have claims against the said estate, are requested to bring them in to be adjusted and settled.

ASINETH GRAHAME, administratrix.

SUPPLY

By the UNITED STATES

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