

of the enemy at York, were fast ripening to a point. I have now to acquaint your excellency that I marched from Williamsburg, with the whole army, on the 28th, and approached within about two miles of the enemy at York. At which distance a show was made of some opposition on our left; but upon the count Rochambeau, who commands that part of the army, his moving a few pieces of field artillery under the directions of the baron de Viominil, and giving a few shots, the enemy retired. On the 29th the American troops moved forward, and took their ground in front of the enemy's works on their left, no opposition except a few scattering shots from a small work, by Moor's mill, on Wormley creek, and a battery on the left of Pigeon-quarter. A small fire all day from our rifle-men and the enemy's papers. Thirtieth, in the morning we discovered that the enemy had evacuated all their exterior line of works, and withdrawn to those near the body of the town. By this means we are in possession of very advantageous grounds, which command in a very near advance, almost the whole remaining line of their defence. All the expedition that our circumstances will admit is using to bring up our heavy artillery and stores, and to open our batteries. This work, I hope, will be executed in a few days, when our fire will begin with great vigour.

The investment of the enemy is now fully completed, and drawn very near their lines, except on the river above the town, where their communication is still open. To prevent this, and to complete the new blockade, a request is gone to the count de Grasse, desiring him to push, if he thinks it practicable, one or more ships above the town. This, if effected, will answer many very valuable purposes.

The position of the count de Grasse is judiciously taken, the main fleet keeping their station in Lynn-Haven bay, and detachments made to secure the rivers. The determination of the count is favourably disposed to comply with our wishes in every necessary co-operation.

I shall continue to keep congress advised of such occurrences as are worthy the communication. With the highest regard and esteem, I have the honour to be, your excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

His Excellency the president of congress.

Head-quarters, before York, Oct. 12, 1781.

S I R,

MY last dispatch to your excellency was of the 6th. I then informed you that we should open trenches on that night; we did so and established our first parallel within 600 yards of the enemy's works, with the loss of only one officer of the French artillery wounded, and 16 privates killed and wounded, the greatest part of which were of the French line.

The 7th and 8th we were employed in completing the 1st parallel, and in erecting batteries somewhat advanced of it.

The 9th at 3 o'clock in the afternoon the French battery on the left, of four 12 pounders, 6 mortars and howitzers, opened, and at 5 o'clock the American battery on the right, of six 18 and 24 pounders, 2 mortars and 2 howitzers, opened also. We were informed that our shells did considerable execution in the town, and we could perceive that our shot, which were directed against the enemy's embrasures, injured them much.

The 10th two French batteries, one of ten 18 and 24 pounders, and 6 mortars and howitzers, the other of four 18 pounders, opened; as did two more American batteries, one of four 18 pounders, the other of two mortars. The fire now became so excessively heavy, that the enemy withdrew their cannon from their embrasures, placed them behind the marlins, and scarcely fired a shot during the whole day. In the evening the Charon frigate, of 44 guns, was set on fire by a hot ball from the French battery on the left, and entirely consumed. Her guns and stores had been taken out. By the report of a deserter, our shells, which were thrown with the utmost degree of precision, did much mischief in the course of the day.

Yesterday morning two of the enemy's transports were fired by hot shot and burnt. This has occasioned them to warp their shipping as far over to the Gloucester shore as possible.

We last night advanced our second parallel within 300 yards of the enemy's works with little or no annoyance from them. Only one man was killed and 3 or 4 wounded. I shall think it strange indeed if lord Cornwallis makes no vigorous exertions in the course of this night or very soon after.

I cannot but acknowledge the infinite obligations I am under to his excellency the count de Rochambeau, the marquis St. Simon, commanding the troops from the West-Indies, the other general officers, and indeed the officers of every denomination in the French army, for the assistance which they afforded me. The experience of many of those gentlemen in the business before us, is of the utmost advantage in the present operation. And I am sensible it must give your excellency and con-

gress the highest pleasure to know that the greatest harmony prevails between the two armies. They seem actuated by one spirit, that of supporting the honour of the allied arms, and pushing their approaches with the utmost vigour. I have the honour to be, with perfect respect and esteem, your excellency's most obedient and very humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

His Excellency the president of congress.

Head-quarters before York, Oct. 16, 1781.

S I R,

I HAD the honour to inform your excellency in my last, of the 12th inst. that we had the evening before opened our second parallel; the 13th and 14th we were employed in completing it. The engineers having deemed the two redoubts on the left of the enemy's line sufficiently injured by our shot and shells, to make them practicable, it was determined to carry them by assault, on the evening of the 14th; the following disposition was accordingly made. The work on the enemy's extreme left to be attacked by the American light infantry, under the command of the marquis de la Fayette; the other by a detachment of the French grenadiers and chasseurs, commanded by major general the baron de Viominil. I have the pleasure to inform your excellency that we succeeded in both. Nothing could exceed the firmness and bravery of the troops. They advanced under the fire of the enemy without returning a shot, and effected the business with the bayonet only. The reports of his excellency the count de Rochambeau, the marquis de la Fayette, and lieutenant-colonel Hamilton, copies of which I enclose, enter more particularly into a detail of the mode in which the attacks, on the part of the French and American columns were conducted. We made prisoners, in both redoubts, 1 major, 2 captains, 3 subalterns and 67 privates.

The works which we have carried are of vast importance to us. From them we shall enfilade the enemy's whole line; and I am in hopes we shall be able to command the communication from York to Gloucester. I think the batteries of the second parallel will be in sufficient forwardness to begin to play in the course of this day.

The enemy, last night, made a sortie for the first time. They entered one of the French and one of the American batteries on the second parallel which were unfinished. They had only time to thrust the points of their bayonets into four pieces of the French and two of the American artillery, and break them off, but the spikes were easily extracted. They were repulsed the moment the supporting troops came up, leaving behind them 7 or 8 dead and 6 prisoners. The French had 4 officers and 12 privates killed and wounded, and we had one sergeant mortally wounded.

I enclose your excellency a return of the killed and wounded, of both armies, up to the present time. It is much smaller than might have been expected. I have the honour to be, with perfect respect, your excellency's most obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

His Excellency the president of congress.

Copy of the report of his excellency the count de Rochambeau.

ON the night between the 14th and 15th inst. the French was mounted by the regiment of Gatinois and Royal Deux Ponts, commanded by the baron de Viominil; to which were added four companies of French auxiliary grenadiers. We had resolved to attack, as soon as dark, the two redoubts on the left of the enemy, that were detached from their other works. The marquis de la Fayette undertook that on our right with the American troops. The baron de Viominil that on our left with the French. Four hundred grenadiers, commanded by the count William Deux Ponts and Mons. de l'Estrade, lieutenant-colonel of Gatinois, opened the attack; they were supported by the regiment of Gatinois. The marquis de la Fayette and the baron Viominil made to vigorous and strong a disposition of their troops, that they carried the two redoubts sword in hand, and killed, wounded, and took the greater part of those who defended them. The number of prisoners amounts to 73, one major and 5 other officers included.

The troops, both American and French, have shewn the most distinguished courage. The count William Deux Ponts was slightly wounded by a cannon ball; he is not in the least danger. The chevalier de la Meth, a lieutenant quarter-master-general, has been severely wounded in both knees by two different musket balls. Mons. de Sireuit, captain of the chasseurs of the regiment of Agenois and two other officers of the same regiment have been wounded. 'Tis the third time that Mons. de Sireuit, though very young, has been wounded, unluckily this time, the wound is very dangerous. We have had 100 men killed or wounded. The troops are full of the highest praises of the baron de Viominil, who likewise is exceedingly pleased with their courage and firmness.

I have ordered two days pay to be distributed to the four companies of grenadiers and chasseurs of the regiment of Gatinois and Royal Deux Ponts,

besides a more considerable reward to the 22 bearers and carpenters, who opened the way for the troops through the abattis and pallisades.

Camp before York, Oct. 16, 1781.

My dear general,

YOUR excellency having personally seen our dispositions, I shall only give an account of what passed in the execution.

Colonel Gimat's battalion led the van, and was followed by that of colonel Hamilton, who commanded the whole advanced corps; at the same time a party of eighty men, under colonel Laurens, turned the redoubt. I beg leave to refer your excellency to the report I have received from colonel Hamilton, whose well known talents and gallantry, were on this occasion, most conspicuous and serviceable; our obligations to him, to colonel Gimat, to colonel Laurens, and to each and all the officers and men, are above expression: not one gun was fired, and the ardour of the troops did not give time to the sappers to derange the abattis; and owing to the conduct of the commanders and bravery of the men, the redoubt was stormed with uncommon rapidity.

Colonel Barber's battalion, which was the first in the supporting column, being detached to the aid of the advance, arrived at the moment they were getting over the works, and executed their orders with the utmost alacrity. The colonel was slightly wounded. The remainder of the column, under generals Mullenberg and Hazen, advanced with admirable firmness and discipline. Colonel Vole's battalion displayed to the left, a part of the division successively dressing by him, whilst a kind of second line was forming columns in the rear. It adds greatly to the character of the troops, that under the fire of the enemy, they displayed with perfect silence and order.

Give me leave, particularly, to mention major Barber, division inspector, who distinguished himself and received a wound by a cannon ball.

In making the arrangements for the support of the works we had reduced, I was happy to find general Wayne and the Pennsylvanians so situated as to have given us, in case of need, the most effectual support. I have the honour to be, with the most perfect respect, your excellency's most humble servant,

LA FAYETTE.

His Excellency general Washington.

S I R,

I HAVE the honour to render you an account of the corps under my command, in your attack of last night upon the redoubt on the left of the enemy's lines.

Agreeable to your orders we advanced in two columns with unloaded arms, the right composed of lieutenant-colonel Gimat's battalion and my own, commanded by major Fish. The left of a detachment commanded by lieutenant-colonel Laurens, destined to take the enemy in reverse, and intercept their retreat. The column on the right was preceded by a van guard of twenty men, led by lieutenant Mansfield; and a detachment of sappers and miners, commanded by captain Gilliland for the purpose of removing obstructions.

The redoubt was commanded by major Campbell, with a detachment of British and German troops, and was completely in a state of defence. The rapidity and immediate success of the assault, are the best comment on the behaviour of the troops.

Lieutenant-colonel Laurens distinguished himself by an exact and vigorous execution of his part of the plan, by entering the enemy's work, with his corps, among the foremost, and making prisoner the commanding officer of the redoubt. Lieutenant-colonel Gimat's battalion, which formed the van of the right attack, and which fell under immediate observation, encouraged by the decisive and animated example of their leader, advanced with an ardour and resolution superior to every obstacle. They were seconded by major Fish with his battalion under his command, who, when the front of the column reached the abattis, unlocking his corps to the left, as he had been directed, advanced with such celerity, as to arrive in time to participate in the assault.

Lieutenant Mansfield deserves particular commendation, for the coolness, firmness and punctuality, with which he conducted the van guard. Captain Olney, who commanded the first platoon of Gimat's battalion, is entitled to peculiar praise. He led his platoon into the work with empty intrepidity, and received two bayonet wounds. Captain Gilliland with the detachment of sappers and miners, acquitted themselves in a manner that did them great honour.

I do but justice to the several corps, when I take the pleasure to assure you, there was not an officer or soldier whose behaviour, if it could be particularized, would not have a claim to the warmest approbation. As it would have been attended with delay and loss to wait for the removal of the abattis and pallisades, the ardour of the troops indulged in passing over them.

There was a happy coincidence of movement

the redoubt was in the hands of the British on every part.

The acknowledgment of a permit me to have the honour to be, with perfect respect and esteem, your excellency's most obedient and very humble servant,

A. HAMILTON.
The Marquis de la Fayette
Camp before York

RETURN of the killed and wounded of the troops since the beginning of the campaign.

From the 6th to the 7th of the first parallel. Main attack up the river at the left of the artillery wound.

From the 7th to the 8th of the 1st parallel.

From the 8th to the 9th of the 1st parallel. Main attack, 1 killed, 23 wounded.

From the 9th to the 10th of the 1st parallel. Main attack, 4 wounded.

From the 10th to the 11th of the 1st parallel. Main attack, 1 killed, 1 wounded.

From the 11th to the 12th of the 1st parallel. Main attack, 4 wounded.

From the 12th to the 13th of the 1st parallel. Main attack, 1 killed, 23 wounded.

From the 13th to the 14th of the 1st parallel. Main attack, 1 killed, 23 wounded.

From the 14th to the 15th of the 1st parallel. Main attack, 1 killed, 23 wounded.

Total, 50 killed, 127 wounded, 2 of them since the 10th of October following.

Return of the killed and wounded of the army, from the 28th of the day of the investiture of the enemy's redoubts, to the 10th of October following, inclusive.

From the investiture of the 1st parallel on the evening of the 28th of October, inclusive. Continentals, killed, 1 colonel, 1 lieutenant, 1 captain, 1 rank and file.

From the opening of the 1st parallel on the evening of the 29th of October, inclusive. Continentals, killed, 3 rank and file. Militia, killed, 1 rank and file.

From the opening of the 2nd parallel on the evening of the 30th of October, inclusive. Continentals, killed, 3 rank and file. Militia, killed, 7 rank and file.

At the storm on the evening of the 31st of October, inclusive. Continentals, killed, 1 colonel, 2 lieutenants, 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 28 rank and file.

Total. Continentals, killed, 16 rank and file; lieutenant colonels, 1 major, 1 lieutenant, 1 captain, 1 rank and file. Militia, killed, 4 rank and file.

Killed at the opening of the 1st parallel on the evening of the 28th of October, inclusive. White, of colonel Vole's regiment, 1 killed, 23 wounded at ditto, captain Hazen's regiment.

Officers wounded at the opening of the 1st parallel on the evening of the 28th of October, inclusive. Colonel Gimat's battalion, 1 lieutenant, 1 captain, 1 rank and file. Lieutenant Kirkpatrick, 1 rank and file. Lieutenant Mansfield, 1 rank and file.

Colonel Scammell
EDW