

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday December 13, to Tuesday December 16, 1777.

Whitehall, December 15, 1777.

THIS Afternoon Captain Craig, of the 47th Regiment, arrived from Quebec with the following Duplicate of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Burgoyne, to Lord George Germain, the Original of which has not yet been received.

Albany, October 20, 1777.

MY LORD,
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 2,000 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 peremptory 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 Dovogot.

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 re-

connoitred, 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 Ravin 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 Phillips and Major General Reidesel kept the Great Road and 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 Piquets, 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 from whence the Piquets 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 in great Force out of their Intrenchments, with a View of turning the Line upon the Right; and being check'd 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 rigorous Attack on the British Line, and continued with great Obstinacy till after Sun-set. The Enemy being continually supplied with fresh Troops, the Strefs lay upon the 20th, 21st and 62d Regiments, most Parts 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 Brymen's Corps, were also of Service; but it was not thought adviseable to evacuate the Height where Brigadier-General Frazer was posted, otherwise than partially and occasionally.

Major-General Phillips, 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