

yet Lieutenant-Colonel Tarleton conducted his March so well, and got so near to General Morgan, who was retreating before him, as to make it dangerous for him to pass Broad River; and came up with him at Eight o'Clock A. M. on the 17th Instant. Every Thing now bore the most promising Aspect; the Enemy were drawn up in an open Wood, and, having been lately joined by some Militia, were more numerous; but the different Quality of the Corps under Lieutenant-Colonel Tarleton's Command, and his great Superiority in Cavalry, left him no Room to Doubt of the most brilliant Success. The Attack was begun by the First Line of Infantry, consisting of the 7th Regiment, the Infantry of the Legion, and Corps of Light Infantry annexed to it; a Troop of Cavalry was placed on each Flank; the 1st Battalion of the 7th, and the Remainder of the Cavalry, formed the Reserve. The Enemy's Line soon gave Way, and their Militia quitted the Field; but our Troops having been thrown into some Disorder by the Pursuit, General Morgan's Corps faced about, and gave them a heavy Fire: This unexpected Event occasioned the utmost Confusion in the First Line.

The Two Three-pounders were taken, and I fear the Colours of the 7th Regiment shared the same Fate. In Justice to the Detachment of Royal Artillery I must here observe, that no Terrors could induce them to abandon their Guns, and they were all either killed or wounded in the Defence of them. Lieutenant-Colonel Tarleton assembled Fifty of his Cavalry, and, being animated by the Bravery of the Officer who had so often led them to Victory, charged and repulsed Colonel Washington's Horse, retook the Baggage of the Corps, and cut to Pieces the Detachment of the Enemy that had taken Possession of it, and; after destroying what they could not conveniently bring off, retired with the Remainder unmolested to Hamilton's Ford, near the Mouth of Bullock's Creek.

The Loss of our Cavalry is inconsiderable, but I fear about 400 of the Infantry are either killed, wounded or taken. I will transmit the particular Account of the Loss as soon as it can be ascertained.

I shall direct Lieutenant-Colonel Balfour to transmit a Copy of this Letter, by the first Opportunity, to the Secretary of State.

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Balfour to Lord George Germain, dated Charles-Town, February 18, 1781.

By the Letter in which I had the Honour to address your Lordship on the 16th of January last, you will have been informed of the Situation of Affairs here to that Period, and by Lord Cornwallis's Dispatch, dated the 18th of the same Month, of Lieutenant-Colonel Tarleton's unfortunate Action on the preceding Day: I am now to give your Lordship such further Informations as have been received since, either immediately from Earl Cornwallis, Lord Rawdon, or Major Craig, or by Intelligence through the Country.

Notwithstanding the unexpected and untoward Event of the 17th ultimo, Lord Cornwallis still continued his forward Movements, and pressed hard on General Morgan; without being able to come up with him, who, with his Prisoners, pushed for the

Catawba, and by crossing that River high, up there is Cause to believe accomplished his Junction with General Green's Army. It was not till the 1st Instant that Lord Cornwallis could pass it; this he then did at a private Ford, Four Miles below Bratty's, though strongly opposed by a Body of Militia, who were routed, and General Davidson, who commanded them, killed. On this Occasion, his Lordship observes, "The Guards behaved gallantly, crossing the River under a heavy Fire, without returning a Shot until they were over and formed."

On the same Day Colonel Tarleton had the good Fortune to defeat another Corps of the Enemy's Militia, that had assembled under Colonel Pickings, killing and taking many, and entirely dispersing the rest.

In relating these Circumstances to your Lordship, it is no small Satisfaction to add, that on both Occasions the Loss sustained by the King's Troops is inconsiderable; and that, except Colonel Hall of the Guards, who is killed, no Officer was hurt.

After gaining these Advantages Lord Cornwallis proceeded to Salisbury, of which Town he possessed himself on the 4th Instant.

Hitherto General Green had remained in his Position on the Eastern Banks of the Pedec; and by thus hanging on the Frontiers of the Province, and having with him a Force in Cavalry, was enabled to make Inroads into the Heart of it, which were greatly distressing to the Inhabitants, and obliged me to detach, to cover the Communications between this and Camden, prevent the Enemy's taking Post on this Side the Santee, and hinder Insults in our Vicinities; but on the News of Lord Cornwallis's late Successes, he called in his Out-Parties, and by a precipitate Movement reached the Moravian Settlements in North Carolina, where, by the last Accounts, he has taken a Station to cover the Passage of the Yadkin.

From this View of the Situation of both Armies we may expect soon to hear of some Event of Moment, and which I hope will give Occasion to congratulate your Lordship.

By my last Letter your Lordship was informed of an Expedition being then to sail under Major Craig, of the 82d Regiment, the Force employed on that Service, and the Objects of it, I have now the Honour to communicate to your Lordship; his having taken Possession of Wilmington without Opposition, on the 29th ultimo: But finding that a Body of the Enemy had posted themselves at Heron's Bridge, about Twelve Miles from that Town, to cover as well this Pass as the Shipping in the River, and to shew a Force for the Militia to form on, Major Craig, by an immediate and well timed Exertion, surprised the Rebels in this very strong Position, and, by dislodging them from it, has cleared that Part of the Country, gained, in Co-operation with His Majesty's Ships, of War, Possession of their Vessels, and taken on Board them and in their Camp several Military Stores, the Want of which may be much felt, should they attempt again to raise any Force in these Parts.

Major Craig further informs me, that he is exerting every Means to put the very essential Post of Wilmington into a State of Defence, and eventually to communicate with the Army under Lord Cornwallis.

Extract