

Glorious

Authentic Intelligence.

OCTOBER 21st, 1777.

Camp at Saratoga, October 12, 1777.

S I R,

I HAVE the satisfaction to acquaint your Excellency with the great success of the arms of the United States in this department. — On the 7th instant the enemy attacked our advanced pickets upon the left, which drew on an action, about the same hour of the day, and near the same spot of ground, where that of the 19th of September was fought, from 3 o'clock in the afternoon, until almost night, the conflict was very warm and bloody, when the enemy by a precipitate retreat determined the fate of the day, — leaving in our hands eight pieces of brass cannon, the tents and baggage of their flying army, a large quantity of field ammunition, a considerable number of wounded and prisoners, amongst whom are the following principal officers, Major Williams, who commanded the artillery, Major Ackland, who commanded the corps of grenadiers, Captain Money, Q. M. General, and Sir Francis Clarke, principal Aide de Camp to his Excellency General Burgoyne. The loss upon our side is no more than killed and wounded, amongst the latter is the gallant Major General Arnold, whose leg was fractured by a musket ball, as he was forcing the enemy's breast-work. — Too much praise cannot be given to the corps commanded by Col. Morgan, consisting of his rifle regiment, and the light infantry of the army under Major Dearborn; but it would be injustice to say that the whole body engaged did not equally deserve the honour and applause due to such exalted merit. — The night after the action the enemy took post in the strong entrenched camp upon their left. General Lincoln, whose division was opposite to the enemy, going in the afternoon to direct a cannonade to annoy their camp, received a musket ball in his leg, which shattered the bone, this has deprived me of the assistance of one of the best of officers as well as men; his loss at this time cannot be too much regretted; I am in hopes his leg may yet be saved. — The 9th, at midnight, the enemy quitted their intrenchments, and retired to Saratoga. Early in the morning of the ninth, I received the inclosed letter from General Burgoyne, acquainting me, that he left his whole hospital to my protection, in which are 300 wounded officers and soldiers — Brigadier General Frazer, who commanded the flying army of the enemy, was killed the 7th instant. At 1 o'clock of the morning, of the 10th, I received the inclosed letter from General Burgoyne, with Lady Harriot Ackland. — That morning as soon as the army could be properly put in motion, I marched in pursuit of the enemy, and arrived here in the evening, and found the enemy had taken post upon the opposite side of the Fish Kill, in an

entrenched camp, which they occupied upon their advancing down the country. — The enemy have burnt all the houses before them as they retreated, — The extensive buildings and mills, &c. belonging to Major General Schuyler, are also laid in ashes. This shameful behaviour occasioned my sending a drum, with the inclosed letter, to General Burgoyne. — I am happy to acquaint your Excellency that desertion has taken deep root in the royal army, particularly amongst the Germans, who come to us in thousands. — I am so much pressed on every side with business, that it is impossible for me to be more particular now; but I hope in a few days to have leisure, to acquaint your Excellency with every circumstance at present omitted.

I am, with great respect your

Excellency's most obedient

humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

His Excellency, John Hancock, Esq;

S I R,

Lady Harriot Ackland, a Lady of the first distinction, by family, rank and by personal virtues, is under such concern on account of Major Ackland, her husband, wounded and prisoner in your hands, that I cannot refuse her request, to commit her to your protection.

Whatever general impropriety there may be in persons acting in your situation and mine, to solicit favours; I cannot see the uncommon perseverance in every female grace, and exaltation of character of this Lady, and her very hard fortune, without testifying that your attention to her will lay me under obligations.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. BURGOYNE.

Octob. 9th, 1777.

Maj. General Gates.

October 8, 1777.

S I R,

The state of my hospital makes it more advisable to leave the wounded and sick officers, whom you will find in my late camp, than to transport them with the army. I recommend them to the protection which I feel I should shew to an enemy in the same case.

I am, Sir, your most humble servant,

J. BURGOYNE.

Saratoga, October 12, 1777.

S I R,

I had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter by Lady Ackland, the respect due to her Ladyship's rank, the tenderness due to her person and sex, were alone sufficient recommendations to