

would be a novel experiment in military operations, quite too rash and dangerous, one would think, to be attempted. Indeed, the idea that a body of intelligent persons about to make a perilous attack upon a fortified post, should have deliberately consented and "definitely arranged" that two men should exercise an equal authority over them, the one be allowed to direct one thing, and the other with equal right to forbid it and direct another, seems too absurd to be credited of sane men. Certainly, no one can be expected to believe it but upon the production of the fullest proof from sources altogether beyond suspicion. There is no such proof.

The only authorities to sustain this story of a divided command are the statements of Arnold himself, and an anonymous and suspicious newspaper article. These statements, as we shall see, are inconsistent with each other, and being contradicted by all other evidence, are not entitled to any credit whatever.

Arnold had been ambitious of the honor of capturing the fortress, and was sorely disappointed in finding that another expedition was in advance of him. Possessed of unbounded assurance, he made claims of authority under his commission, which it in no sense warranted, and to which he could have no equitable pretensions, in the hope that his arrogant assumptions would induce the men already embodied to accept him as their commander. Foiled in this, the next day after the capture he wrote a long letter to the Massachusetts Committee of Safety, from whom he had received his commission, railing bitterly against Allen and his associates in the expedition, and claiming great merit for himself, with the hope, no doubt, of inducing the committee to favor his pretensions, and place him in the command of the post. Envious of the honor acquired by Allen, and anxious to share at least a portion of it, he falsely wrote to the committee that "on and before taking possession" of the fort he "had agreed with Col. Allen to issue future orders jointly," but that "Allen, finding he had the ascendancy over his people," had violated the agreement, and refused