

nappy prisoners, whom they inhumanly butchered in cold blood. Submission to European officers became insupportable to them, and they refused to obey. It was now perceived, that their presence was more prejudicial, and even more dangerous, than useful to the British army.

Meanwhile, colonel Willet had conducted his sally with great spirit and ability. He entered the enemy's camp at the first onset, killed a great number of his men, and drove the rest into the woods or into the river. But his sole object being to make a diversion in favor of Harkimer, as soon as he had accomplished it, he returned into the fort, carrying with him in triumph the spoil and besieging utensils that he had taken from the enemy. The English were desirous of intercepting his retreat, and had prepared an ambuscade for the purpose; but his vigilance eluded the danger; he kept the assailants at a distance by a violent fire of musketry, and of artillery with grape-shot. He led back his whole corps without loss, and raised a trophy composed of the conquered arms and baggage under the American standard, which waved upon the walls of the fortress. He afterwards undertook, in company with another officer, named Stockwell, a much more perilous expedition. They passed by night through the English camp, and in contempt of the danger and cruelty of the savages, made their way for fifty miles through pathless woods and unexplored morasses, in order to raise the country and bring relief to the fort; an action so magnanimous it is impossible to commend too much.

Colonel St. Leger left no means untried to profit of his victory, by intimidating the garrison. He sent verbal and written messages, stating their hopeless situation, the utter destruction of their friends, the impossibility of their obtaining relief, as general Burgoyne, after destroying every thing in his way, was now at Albany, receiving the submission of all the adjoining countries. After prodigiously magnifying his own force, as well as that of Burgoyne, he promised the Americans, that in case of an immediate surrender, they should be treated according to the practice of civilized nations; at the same time he declared, that if, through an incorrigible obstinacy, they should continue a hopeless and fruitless defense, not only the soldiers would fall victims to the fury of the savages, but that, however against his will, every man, woman, and child, in the Mohawk country, would be massacred and scalped without mercy.

Colonel Gansevort replied with great firmness, that he had been intrusted with the charge of that garrison by the United States of America; that he should defend the trust committed to his care at every hazard, and to the utmost extremity; and that he neither

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