

assistance
h of Octo-
ne Hudson
and Mont-
Governor
ames Clin-
ne Hudson
and sailed

THE SECOND BATTLE OF BEMIS HEIGHTS,

OCTOBER 7, 1777.

AFTER the 19th of September militia flocked to Gates's army from all quarters, and at the close of the month he had a formidable force. Gates moved his quarters from Bemis's to the left of the line. On the 1st of October Burgoyne put his army on short allowance. On the west, the wings of the two armies were within cannon shot. On the fourth, Burgoyne consulted Riedesel, Phillips and Fraser. Burgoyne proposed another attempt to turn the American left. Riedesel advised a retreat to Fort Edward. Frazer was willing to fight. On the 7th of October, shirking the responsibility of ordering a battle, Burgoyne ordered a reconnaissance in force. This resolution to fight, after the experience of the 19th September, and when hopelessly outnumbered is unaccountable, except on the theory that Burgoyne was too proud to retreat or had lost his grip as a cautious general, through indolence and excesses. Whatever happened he was certain of reproach if he did not succeed, so he fought.

INS AS IT

ared a mes-
He was seen
se of tartar
a dispatch
ear to reach
leet moved
late to save
apple tree.
a possession
hes Clinton.
Manor, but
October and

Burgoyne with 1,500 men, eight cannon and two howitzers, marched out on the morning of the 7th and formed on an eminence (indicated on the map) west of the British right wing. Five hundred rangers and savages were sent to make a circuit to the rear of the American left and produce a diversion. They drove in the American pickets and advanced toward the breastwork south of Fort Neilson, but were driven back by a sharp fire. Before Burgoyne had