

has not been explained, we can only conjecture that it was prevented by one or both of two causes known to have existed on that day. Colonel Lee was generally absent from it during the action, bestowing his attention upon the progress of his Infantry, and Captain Coffin was in that quarter attending on the retreat of the British left. Coffin's force was probably superior to that of Lee in Cavalry ; whether so superior as to justify the latter in not attempting the charge, could only have been decided by the attempt itself.

At this stage of the battle, Majoribanks still stood firm in the thickets that covered him. General Greene soon saw that he must be dislodged, or the Maryland flank would soon be exposed to his fire, and the conflict renewed in that quarter. Therefore orders were dispatched to Washington, to pass the American left, and charge the enemy's right. The order was promptly obeyed, and galloping through the wood, Washington was soon in action. Had he taken Kirkwood's infantry behind his men, all would have gone well. Colonel Hampton at the same time received orders to co-operate with Colonel Washington, and the rapid move-