

little stockaded forts, which are erected for that purpose ; those who have been hardy enough to remain in their houses have been butchered without exception ; such is the situation of this communication for the space of seventy miles ; the rest (if we except lake Oneida, twenty-eight miles in length) is one continued defile, in any single part of which a body of men, tho' prepared for action, is liable to be cut off by an enemy not equal even to the third part of their own numbers ; what then must be the fate of those numerous loaded boats, which for the support of these forts must necessarily be continually passing thro' this defile (if a narrow river whose banks are either high scarped rocks, or covered with thick woods, may be called a defile ?) what I say must be the fate of these

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boats,