

tacked by the Americans one after another, and defeated with great slaughter.

St Leger, in the mean time, gained a considerable victory over a party of Americans who were marching to the relief of fort Stanwix. The Indians, however, sustained so great a loss in the engagement, that from that moment, they became quite sullen and untractable. They murdered the unhappy prisoners in cold blood, and St Leger used his utmost endeavours to intimidate the garrison into a surrender, by magnifying his own power, and the hopeless situation the Americans were in. The governor, however, could not be intimidated; and in the mean time, the Indians having received intelligence, that Arnold was advancing with a considerable body of troops to the relief of Fort Stanwix, forced the Colonel to abandon the siege; most of them at the same time abandoning the army, and plundering the soldiers and officers of whatever they could carry off.

The bad success at Bennington was only a prelude to greater misfortunes to General Burgoyne and his once victorious army. General Gates took the command of the American army. They had a great opinion of his abilities, and their spirits being now raised by the successes they had met with, they no longer stood on the defensive, but attacked the King's army very fiercely. They even attempted to recover the fort of Ticonderago, and thus they would have cut off all possibility of retreat from the unhappy General. This expedition indeed, was unsuccessful, but it abundantly shewed the Americans were not the contemptible enemies they had all along been thought; and the situation of General Burgoyne became every day more hopeless.

In the mean time, fresh bodies of militia poured in from all quarters to the assistance of General Gates. The numbers of his troops increased so much, and their attacks were so vigorous, that the destruction of the whole army seemed unavoidable. In one of these was killed the brave Brigadier General