

attended with extreme difficulty and labor, had been carried on by General Phillips with much expedition and success. A road had been made over very rough ground to the top of the mount, and the enemy were at work in constructing a level for a battery and transporting their cannon. As soon as this battery should be ready to play, the American works would have been completely invested on all sides. The situation of General St. Clair was now very critical. He called a council of war to deliberate on measures to be taken. He informed them that their whole effective number was not sufficient to man one half of the works ; that as the whole must be constantly on duty, it would be impossible for them to endure the fatigue for any considerable length of time ; that General Schuyler, who was then at Fort Edward, had not sufficient forces to relieve them, and that, as the enemy's batteries were nearly ready to open upon them and the place would be completely invested in twenty-four hours—nothing could save the troops but an imme-