

found his detachment attacked on all sides by enemies. Though his men were excessively fatigued, they defended themselves with great spirit and resolution. As many of the provincial militia had disbanded to pillage, the action was maintained at first with an equality of advantage, and there was even danger that Breyman would recover what Baum had lost.

He had already dislodged the Americans from two or three different hills on which they had posts, and he pressed them so vigorously that they began to exhibit symptoms of disorder. But the affair soon assumed a quite different aspect; colonel Warner arrived at the head of his regiment of the line, and falling upon the rear of the English and Germans, restored the battle with increase of vehemence. The militia that were dispersed in quest of plunder, on hearing the report of the cannon, immediately rallied. Victory, however, remained doubtful till the dusk of evening; on one side combated valor and discipline, on the other, number and fury.

At length the soldiers of Breyman, overpowered by numbers, having expended all their ammunition, and lost the two pieces of artillery they had been at such pains to bring with them, began to give ground, and afterwards to break. They abandoned the field of battle, and in the precipitation of their retreat, left in the power of the conqueror all their baggage, a thousand muskets and nearly as many sabers. The obscurity of night covered their retreat. The royalists lost, in these two engagements, seven hundred men, the greater part prisoners; the number of killed was probably about two hundred. The loss of the republicans was inconsiderable. The congress addressed their public thanks to colonel Stark and the militia who took part in the actions of this day. Stark was moreover promoted to the rank of brigadier-general.

In the country of the Mohawks the affairs of the English took, at first, the most favorable turn. Colonel St. Leger had encamped, the third of August, under Fort Stanwix. The force under his command, consisting of English, Germans, Canadians and American royalists, amounted to about eight hundred men. He was followed by a train of savages, with their wives and children, thirsting indeed for carnage and plunder, but feeble auxiliaries in besieging fortresses. Colonel Gansevoort, on being summoned by the English, answered that he should defend himself to the last. Apprised of this state of things, and knowing the importance of this fort to the United States, general Harkimer, a leading man in the county of Tryon, assembled the militia, and marched with all expedition to the relief of Gansevoort. He sent an express from his camp of Erick, six miles from the fort, to inform him, that he was about to advance and