

Preface

batteries were opened, and the balls whizzed about our ears at an awful rate; never can I forget it. The firing was kept up fiercely for a good while, and at last Mrs. Johnston stopped in the middle of the street, and said: 'My boys, I was about to disgrace you; go and join your brothers'; which they did. Alex went to his brother William, who was quick-tempered and had great veneration for his mother. William thought the boy had run away without her leave, and accordingly received him, before he could explain, with a slap on the face for his disobedience. When the matter was explained, however, William kept the boy through the siege, and later he became a lieutenant in the New York Volunteers. John (who was the father of Judge Johnston of Trinidad) went to his brother Andrew, who was very good-natured and more patient in hearing his story, and remained with him and afterward became a merchant.

"During the siege Colonel Maitland made his way to us, and raised the spirits of the people very much, and on the 9th of October, 1779, at break of day, the enemy attacked the city with small arms. Previously the shells