

“ mitted to be made. The workmen, obliged to work in water and soft mud, laboured in vain. The work they performed in the reflux of the tide, the influx washed away. Thus a month was shamefully wasted, and no progress made towards taking the fort. At length, Lord Cornwallis sent for the gentleman who had offered to repair the dykes, informed him that it must be done previously to the erecting of the batteries, and requested he would undertake it. This he did with cheerfulness; and although the breaches were as large again as when he first proposed the repairs the work was finished in six days—The batteries were immediately erected without difficulty, and opened on the 10th.”

It has been before observed, that orders were given to the Chief Engineer, upon the King's troops entering Philadelphia, to construct redoubts, and to form the necessary lines of communication, for the better security of that city; that on this work he was directed to employ the inhabitants, to be furnished, at my particular request, by Mr. Galloway, for the relief of the soldiery; and that this assistance fell far short of that gentleman's assurances.

The necessity of repairing the dykes on Province and Blackeley's islands, before an effectual progress could be made in erecting batteries against Mud Island, was an object of still more consequence; and any offers to effect it, instead of being rejected, would have been gladly accepted. I am confident that none were made to me, and have the most explicit authority for saying, that such offers having been made never arrived to the knowledge of those immediately intrusted with the execution of the work. The conduct of it was under the direction of Earl Cornwallis, until I moved to Philadelphia with the main army on the 19th of October; and those, who have a just opinion of his lordship's zeal to promote his Majesty's service by every possible means, will hardly suppose him to have been inattentive in this essential point.

Eleven dyke-men were, I find, sent to the engineer on the 22d of October, and, I am very ready to grant, were of considerable service for the few days they assisted. But it cannot be conceived that these men effected in *six days*, by their own labour, the stopping of breaches that had encreased to be *as large again* under