

" mitted to be made. The workmen, oblig'd to work in water and
 " soft mud, labour'd in vain. The work they perform'd in the
 " reflux of the tide, the influx wash'd 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 of-
 " fer'd to repair the dykes, inform'd him that it must be done pre-
 " viously to the erecting of the batteries, and request'd he would
 " undertake it. This he did with cheerfulness; and although the
 " breaches were as large again as when he first propos'd the repairs
 " the work was finish'd in six days—The batteries were immediately
 " erect'd without difficulty, and open'd on the 10th."

It has been before observed, that orders were given to the Chief
 Engineer, upon the King's troops entering Philadelphia, to con-
 struct redoubts, and to form the necessary lines of communica-
 tion, for the better security of that city; that on this work he
 was directed to employ the inhabitants, to be furnish'd, at my
 particular request, by *Mr. Galloway*, for the relief of the sol-
 diery; 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 conse-
 quence; and any offers to effect it, instead of being reject'd,
 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 arriv'd 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
 mov'd to Philadelphia with the main army on the 19th of Octo-
 ber; 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 consi-
 derable service for the few days they assist'd. But it cannot be
 conceiv'd that these men effect'd in *six days*, by their own labour,
 the stopping of breaches that had encreas'd to be *as large again*
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