

“ Six men with guns and bayonets, with those unemployed in carrying off the prisoners, to precede those engaged in that business, followed by the captain (joined by the four men from the sentry) at a half gun-shot distance, who is to halt and give a front to the enemy, until the whole are embarked in the following order :—

“ First—The prisoners, with those preceding them.

“ Second—The guides and boatmen.

“ Third—The subalterns and fourteen.

“ Fourth—The rear.”

Such was the daring plan laid for the capture of the Prince, and which, even if not fully successful, might have placed his Royal Highness in a most perilous predicament. It appears, however, from a fragment of a letter addressed by General Washington to Col. Ogden, and apparently written almost immediately after the preceding one, that some inkling of the design had reached Sir Henry Clinton, then in New York, and Commander-in-Chief of the British forces. General Washington communicates in his letter the following paragraph from a secret despatch, dated March 23rd, which he had just received from some emissary in New York :—

“ Great seem to be their apprehensions here. About a fortnight ago a great number of flat-boats were discovered by a sentinel from the bank of the river (Hudson's) which are said to have been intended to fire the suburbs, and in the height of the conflagration to make a descent on the lower part of the City and wrest from our embraces His Excellency Sir H. Clinton, Prince William Henry, and several other illustrious personages, since which great precautions have been taken for the security of those gentlemen, by augmenting the guards, and to render their persons as little exposed as possible.”

In another letter, dated Newburgh, April 2nd, 1783,