

acter of the country from the scouts which had been sent out by him from the island, when he had been there in command. About one o'clock the force crossed the Mohawk at Johnstown, but his progress was difficult owing to the heavy rains. Passing through the settlement of Johnstown, he took to the woods, and made his way to the trail leading from the German flats. Here he obtained some cattle, but his chief dependence was upon horse-flesh. He had not long entered the woods when he heard that the congress troops were in his rear. As he felt that he could not outmarch them, he determined to await and meet them in the field, and he formed his men for action without any advantage of ground. Colonel Willett was in command of the congress force of some strength. As Willett advanced his troops to the attack, Ross, perceiving they were wavering and inclined to be unsteady, immediately charged the whole line. Willett's force, with but little resistance, gave way. The men made no stand, but they kept up a running fight until they reached the skirt of the wood; on gaining the open, they broke and fled, remaining in full view for a mile. It was now the time that Ross bewailed the absence of a body of active Indians to pursue the retreating force. No sooner was this attack driven off, than Ross's attention was directed to a large force of his assailants that had been formed upon his left, with a field piece, from which a brisk fire was being kept up. On being attacked these troops gave way, leaving behind a 3-pdr. gun, with a quantity of ammunition. Ross's difficulties were not yet finished, for another body of troops appeared and renewed the engagement. Their attack was continued until nine o'clock, when they retired. Ross had been engaged with three-fold the number of his force, and had thoroughly beaten back his assailants.

Continuing his march, on the 29th, he struck the Niagara trail. It was not the line he desired to reach; the Indians had sought out this route, in view of their own future movements, regardless of the safety of the force when arrived there. Ross was but a few days' march from the German flats, and,