

Arnold, Schuyler's chosen lieutenant, started to relieve Fort Stanwix on the 13th of August, but a portion of the same brigade, Learned's, from which his flying column had been formed by volunteering, had already been despatched by Schuyler in that direction. The mere news of his approach caused St. Leger to break up the siege, and abandoning artillery and supplies, retreat precipitately. Arnold's *start* was six days before the arrival of Gates.

Furthermore, let us not forget that St. Leger and Sir John Johnson had already experienced a stunning shock at the hands of Harkheimer, on the Oriskany, on the 6th of August, thirteen days before Gates even showed himself. Gates was at Stillwater, within two to four miles of the invaders of his adopted country, which entrusted its most important command to him, on the 19th of August. These dates are repeated for emphasis.

Gates found ready to his hand an army, cocks in their own barn-yard, of thrice the effective strength of the enemy. Nevertheless, exactly a month elapsed before there was any battle, and when it did occur the aggressive was on the part of the British. "It is admitted that Gates did not leave his camp during the contest; and the special adjutant referred to, (says Lossing in his "Field Book of the Revolution," ii., 44), asserted boldly, that intoxication was the chief cause." As this is one of the stereotyped charges against generals, it is not worth while to dwell upon it; but it appears to be conceded, that not only Burgoyne himself, but three of his Major-generals were prominently upon the battle ground, and under the most spiteful fire, whereas on the American side not one—not even a Brigadier, appeared there until near its close.

In the next battle, Stillwater, 7th October, Gates, with at least two if not three Americans to one Britisher, did not again show himself to the troops; neither did his second in command, Lincoln. The chief glory of this day belongs to Arnold, who had no legitimate right to be there, and a goodly share to Morgan. The former was the realizing spirit of the fighting, and Morgan did his duty most effectually. Both these were children of the original, bona fide, New Netherland domain.

It was in consequence of Morgan's particular personal orders that Fraser, Burgoyne's best lieutenant, was picked off and mortally wounded; and there is very little doubt that Fraser's fall was the principal cause of the American victory. What is more, as a farther proof of the tremendous effect of the precision