

Howe, and landed at the point under cover of the Battery upon Cop's Hill, and some ships that had been ordered round for that purpose; 14,000 of as brave men as ever fought a battle marched up the hill, but being encumbered with the rail fences which they were obliged to get over, their accoutrements preventing them creeping through, they were much exposed to the fire from the breast work, which made a great slaughter among them. However, with a bravery, which if ever equalled was never surpassed, they stormed the works, which were five or six feet high, and soon mounting them made a sacrifice of most that were within. There was beyond this a way covered with barberry hedge which again made a great slaughter of the troops, but this was soon scoured and the rebels retreated towards Cambridge in thousands with great precipitation. They had been coming on in great swarms all day, so that it is supposed there were at least seven or eight thousand upon the hill when attacked. As the troops were fired upon from some houses in Charlestown, it was immediately set on fire and the whole town laid in ashes.

Thus this bloody day was closed and tho' a dear bought, yet a very necessary victory obtained, for there can be no doubt but in two days longer this town would have been in flames, as another work had been begun at the same time upon Dorchester hill, which was quitted as soon as the firing began. Among the slain was the brave and good Major Pitcairn, for whose death an hecatomb of rebels would be a very inadequate sacrifice. Major Williams of the 52nd regiment, has since died of his wounds and an aid de Camp of General Howe. A great number of other officers were killed and wounded, the names of whom I don't readily recollect. About 150 soldiers were slain on the spot