

them all the artillery, provisions, ammunition, baggage, military chest, together with the general's cabinet, containing his instructions and other papers of consequence. So great was the consternation of the soldiers, that it was impossible to stop their career, flying with the utmost precipitation three miles from the field of action; where only one hundred began to make a more orderly retreat. What was the strength of the enemy was never certainly learned. According to Indian accounts, they exceeded not 400, chiefly Indians: and whether any were slain is doubted, for few were seen by our men, being covered by stumps and fallen trees. Great indeed was the destruction on our side. Numbers of officers sacrificed their lives through singular bravery. Extremely unfortunate was the whole staff. The general, after having five horses shot under him, received a wound in his lungs through his right arm, of which he died in four days. His secretary, eldest son of major general Shirley, a gentleman of great accomplishments, by a shot through the head, was killed on the spot. Sir Peter Halket, colonel of the 44th regiment, was slain, and several other gallant officers perished in the field. Our whole loss was about 700 killed and wounded. Col. Dunbar, commanded the rear party, several miles short of the place of action, and when the routed troops joined his men, the terror diffused itself thro' the whole army. In this scene of dreadful confusion, neither the commander nor any of his officers were listen'd to nor regarded; the men, fearful of an unpursuing enemy, had wasted all their ammunition, and so much of their provision, for accelerating their flight, that Mr. Dunbar was obliged to send for 30 horse loads of the latter before he reached fort Cumberland, where he arrived in a few days with the shatter'd remains of the army.

Besides the expedition of general Braddock to fort du Quesne, there were three other principal objects of the American campaign, all concerted by general Shirley, on whom the command of the troops had devolved by the death of general Braddock. The first was under the direction of himself, and was nothing less than the reduction of fort Niagara, which commands the great country of the Six nations; but he met with so many