

but the General was obstinate and, as he himself expressed it, determined to "take the bull by the horns."

The instructions of Putnam and others of the American leaders to their men were to reserve their fire until they could discern the whites of the eyes of the enemy and then to take careful aim—"Aim at the handsome coats, pick off the commanders," was the order and it was all too well observed.

Judge Thomas Jones in his Loyalist History of New York observes:—

"General Howe gained the victory; but alas, a dear bought victory it was. Not less than 1200 as brave Britons as ever entered the field were on that unfortunate day either killed or wounded, most of the latter badly. Nearly 200 officers on that dismal day either lost their lives, or were so desperately wounded as to render them unfit for service the remainder of the campaign. All this happened through the General's obstinacy. This was owing to his taking the bull by the horns, he had much better have taken him by the tail. Had Abercombrie's advice been followed, all would have been safe. It is remarkable, that after this action the General never once ventured an attack upon American intrenchments, he had fatally experienced the consequences of 'taking bulls by the horns;' the first was a rugged one, and he constantly, nay, almost timidly avoided encountering another."

Among the papers left by Judge Edward Winslow, which are now in possession of his grandson, Mr. Francis E. Winslow, of Chatham, there are some very judicious remarks on the mode of warfare during the Revolutionary contest. Nothing could better serve to illustrate the conservatism of John Bull as regards his war methods and the tremendous influence of past traditions in the British army.