

scrap-iron, the blades of knives and scissors, and even chains five and six feet long. The Chevalier du Romain attempted to make a demonstration with his galleys in the direction of the river; but, encountering insurmountable difficulties, accomplished nothing.

Our loss was considerable. By the returns rendered, six hundred and eighty men had been put *hors de combat*; of whom sixty-four were officers. Among the latter twenty-two were either killed in action or died shortly thereafter.

Our troops, without exception, extolled the bravery of the American Regulars commanded by Pulaski. With astonishing gallantry they returned twice to the assault, planted their flags upon the parapet of the entrenchments, and rallied in good order after having lost their chief, wounded to the death. As for the militia, they fled in a cowardly manner in the woods even before the action commenced. During the cessation of hostilities which ensued, Colonel Meklen<sup>1</sup> absolutely wished to count our dead and wounded before extending to them any relief. The loss sustained by the English was very small. They had only fifteen men killed. This is not remarkable, when we consider the manner in which they were entrenched.

The General with his two wounds, that in the leg being very serious, would not suffer himself to be carried. He rode on horseback to the village of Thunderbolt<sup>2</sup> in company with Major General de Fontanges, who had received a gun-shot wound through the body. Here the General remained until his return to his ship on Monday the 18th of October, having given orders for the retreat which was accomplished the same evening, under the direction of M. de Dillon, in the long-boats and barges from the fleet, and without interruption by the enemy. Two days previously the Americans had retired, taking up their line of march for Charlestown.

When the fleet was informed of the repulse of our army in the assault of the 9th, in addition to all our distresses *le Magnifique* sprung a leak and we were unable to free her from water with all the ship's

<sup>1</sup> Maitland.

<sup>2</sup> Spelt *Thunderbolt* in the Journal.