

had to surmount, in a country rugged, pathless, and unknown, across the Allegheny mountains, through unfrequented woods and dangerous defiles. From the little meadows the army proceeded in two divisions. At the head of the first, consisting of 1400 men, was the general himself, with the greatest part of the ammunition and artillery. The second, with the provisions, stores, and heavy baggage, was led by colonel Dunbar. Never was man more confident of success than this unfortunate officer. Being advised at the great meadows, that the enemy expected a reinforcement of 500 regular troops, he pushed on by forced marches with so much dispatch, that he fatigued the soldiers, weakened his horses, and left his second division near 40 miles in the rear. The enemy being not more than 200 strong at their fort on the Ohio, gave no obstruction to the march of our forces, till the 9th of July; when about noon our troops passed the Monongahela, and were then within seven miles of fort du Quesne. Unapprehensive of the approach of an enemy, at once was the alarm given, by a quick and heavy fire upon the vanguard, under lieutenant colonel Gage. Immediately the main body, in good order and high spirits, advanced to sustain them. Orders were then given to halt, and form into battalia. At this juncture the van falling back upon them, in great confusion, a general panic seized the whole body of the soldiers; and all attempts to rally them proved utterly ineffectual. The general and all the officers exerted their utmost activity to recover them from the universal surprise and disorder: but equally deaf were they to intreaties and commands. During this scene of confusion they expended their ammunition in the wildest and most unmeaning fire. Some discharging their pieces on our own parties, who were advanced from the main body for the recovery of the cannon. After three hours spent in this melancholy situation, enduring a terrible slaughter, from (it may be said) an *invisible* foe, orders were given to sound a retreat, that the men might be brought to cover the waggons. These they surrounded but a short space of time; for the enemy's fire being again warmly renewed from the front and left flank, the whole army took to immediate flight; leaving behind them

them all the military containing his So great was impossible most precise where only retreat. certainly exceeded were slain being covered was the day sacrificed ly unfortunate having five his lungs four days Shirley, a through Halket, several other whole lost Dunbar, of the place ed his memory. In command regarded wasted all vision, forced obliged to reached for with the Beside Quesne, America on whom the death direction duction country