

with a considerable force, to attack the works on the right bank of the river, moved with his whole force, exceeding twelve thousand men, in two divisions, under major generals Gibbs and Kean, and a reserve under general Lambert. The first of these officers was to make the principal attack; the two columns were supplied with scaling ladders, and fascines. Thus prepared, the Americans patiently waited the attack, which would decide the fate of New-Orleans, and perhaps of Louisiana. The British deliberately advanced in solid columns, over an even plain, in front of the American entrenchments, the men carrying, besides their muskets, fascines, and some of them ladders. A dead silence prevailed, until they approached within reach of the batteries, which commenced an incessant, and destructive cannonade: they, notwithstanding, continued to advance in tolerable order, closing up their ranks, as fast as they were opened by the fire of the Americans. When they came within reach, however, of the musquetry and rifles, they joined with the artillery, and produced such dreadful havoc, that they were instantly thrown into confusion. Never was there so tremendous a fire, as that kept up from the American lines; it was a continued stream; those behind loading for the men in front, enabled them to fire with scarcely an intermission. The British columns were literally swept away; hundreds fell at every discharge. The British officers were now making an effort to rally their men, and in this attempt their commander, a gallant officer, general Pakenham, was killed. The two generals Gibbs and Kean, succeeded in pushing forward their columns a second time; but the second approach was more fatal than first; the continued rolling fire of the Americans, resembled peels of thunder; it was such as no troops could withstand; the advancing columns broke, and no effort to rally them could avail: a few platoons only, advanced to the edge of the ditch, to meet a more certain destruction. An unavailing attempt was made to bring them up a third time by their officers, whose gallantry on this occasion, deserved a better fate, in a better cause. Generals Gibbs and Kean were carried away, se-