

a council of their chiefs, hoping, that by the influence which colonel Johnson, and the superintendents Claus and Butler had over them, they might still be induced to make a stand. He was disappointed. A part of the savages decamped while the council was sitting, and the remainder threatened peremptorily to abandon him if he did not immediately retreat. The English were forced to comply with their demands. They raised the siege the twenty-second of August, and retreated, or rather fled, towards Lake Oneida. Their tents, artillery, and stores, fell into the hands of the enemy; who, issuing from the fort, assailed their rear guard, and treated it very roughly. But the British troops were exposed to greater danger from the fury of their savage allies, than even from the pursuit of the republicans. During the retreat, they robbed the officers of their baggage, and the army in general of their provisions. Not content with this, they first stripped of their arms, and afterwards murdered with their own bayonets, all those who, from an inability to keep up, fear, or any other cause, were separated from the main body. It would be in vain to attempt a description of the confusion, the terror, and all the miseries which attended this discomfiture of the royal troops. They arrived, however, at length, upon the lake, when they found some repose. St. Leger returned to Montreal, and afterwards passed to Ticonderoga on his way to join Burgoyne. Arnold arrived at the fort in the evening of the twenty-fourth, two days after the siege had been raised; he and his soldiers were welcomed by the garrison with the acknowledgments of deliverance, and the exultation of victory.

END OF VOLUME I.