

panies destroyed their stores, and the numerous retainers of the army took flight, and spread alarm to the very gates of Charleston. By this time Sheridan with some of the routed companies had thrown himself into the house from which they could direct their fire with security. The whole British line was now flying before the American bayonet. The retreat lay directly through their encampment where the tents were all standing; here the American line got into irretrievable confusion.

When the American officers had made their way through the encampment, they found themselves abandoned by nearly all their soldiers, and the sole marks for the party who now poured their fire from the windows of the house, where more of the British fugitives had collected.

Majoribanks and Coffin, watchful of every advantage, now made simultaneous movements, the former from his thicket on the left, and the latter from the wood on the right of the American line. General Greene soon perceived the evil that threatened him, and not doubting that his infantry (whose disorderly conduct he was not yet made acquainted with) would imme-