

ance of these troops batteaux should be built at Fort George and began upon as soon as advice is received that the army is got into Canada. But if the army should be obliged to retreat, this expense may be thought needless—not at all, for if they retreat by Champlain they may want boats, if by Ontario the boats may be easily conveyed into Hudsons River and from thence into the Mohawk River to carry on provisions for the troops to go to Niagara, should an expedition be determined on ; but whether it is or not it would be imprudent not to prepare in such a manner as that troops might be sent to Canada, if it should be found necessary.

“ Congress will perceive that great exertions are necessary for such an enterprise, and that the officer who commands it, let him be who he will, will require assistance ; and altho' I firmly resolve to quit the army as soon as the examination into my conduct shall be made,* and not again venture on the boisterous ocean of public life, in which I have been so miserably buffeted by storms, yet as a private gentleman and without fee or reward I will give every aid in my power to procure every necessary and make use of every exertion for the success of the enterprize, if Congress should think fit to order the attempt to be made.

PHILIP SCHUYLER.

— History makes men wise ; and in proportion as their minds are influenced by a natural love of their country, so must they feel a desire to become familiar with the most authentic account of its origin, its progress towards civilization, and the circumstances leading to its present importance in the scale of nations.—*Lord Bacon.*

* General Schuyler had been superseded in command of the Northern army, by General Gates, after the evacuation early in July preceeding, which disastrous event was charged to the want of skill and vigilance on the part of the former. He incessantly urged an inquiry, but it was postponed until the Autum of 1778, when he was honorably acquitted.