

XVI.

Page 330.—“The Americans, without so much as lifting their faces above the rampart, swung their firelocks by one arm over the wall, and discharged them directly upon their heads.”

Never was there made a more ridiculous assertion than this. Destitute alike, of truth and probability, it must be considered absurd even in England, by those who have paid any attention to the circumstances of the action. The great disproportion in the number of British *officers* killed and wounded, proves that good aim must have been taken at the assailants; a thing not easy to have been effected, without “lifting their faces above the rampart.” The rampart must, one would suppose, have been rather too broad to admit of a firelock being “swung over it,” and discharged on the heads of the enemy immediately under it; and the author, and those who put faith in his assertion, must possess an exalted opinion of American strength to suppose it easy to swing a firelock “with one arm” over a wall, and discharge it upon an enemy. This anonymous “officer,” who has attempted to fix a stig-