

To which must be added,	
Hostages retained—Captains (afterwards released by Carleton) . . .	4
Canadians found in the garrison and released	8
Prisoners afterwards bought from Indians and then at Montreal	8
Remaining with the Indians	2

497

Let this number be deducted from the extreme total of 509 and it will be seen that the total American loss could not have exceeded 12. In all probability Capt. Forster's statement that 5 or 6 were killed is correct. Sherburne had probably 114 men when he went into action, which would allow for 6 men falling out sick, 10 at St. Anne's and 10 at Vaudreuil, as guards. But if it really be the case, as stated by Sherburne and Bancroft, that an obstinate engagement was fought for one hour and forty minutes with an unseen foe, then 12 is a very insignificant loss, and no theory of murdering or roasting is necessary to account for it; and again if, as Sherburne states, he had detached so many men that he had only 100 when he was attacked, he must have fought all that time and surrendered with 8 men more than he had at the commencement.

This, then, was the "Massacre of the Cedars," which did duty for so many years

in inciting the American mind against the British Government, and which, with many other stores as mythical, has jaundiced the hearts of the American people towards England from earliest infancy. As a political stratagem the story was triumphantly successful. The Declaration of Independence had just been issued when the resolutions of Congress appeared concerning this affair. Many in the colonies, who were cleaving still to their allegiance, turned in horror from a Government which could tolerate such barbarities. Had there been in the colonies a free press, it would not have been possible to have started such a slander. But *Rivington's Gazette* had been stopped by the riotous action of an armed mob from Connecticut, which invaded the city of New York,* sacked his office, and melted his types down for bullets, and there was no other printer who dared to publish anything displeasing to the popular party. At this remote period, however, the publication of the original documents renders it possible to ascertain the real facts as they occurred, and Canadians, the more narrowly they enquire into the doings of their forefathers, will have the more reason to be proud of the early history of their country.

* Letter from the New York Congress, Dec. 12th, 1775, to Governor Trumbull, of Connecticut.

