

This last defeat of the enemy gave the finishing blow to the hopes they had formed of regaining possession of South Carolina, and inspired the friends of the British government with a determination to exert themselves in obviating all attempts on the part of the disaffected. To this purpose they seized, in conformity with the directions of Lord Cornwallis, on the arms of those who lay under suspicion of enmity, and kept a watchful eye on all their motions.

The loyal party in North Carolina were also directed on this occasion to take up arms and assemble immediately, in order to apprehend the most violent among their opponents, and to take possession of all their military stores and magazines, and at the same time to intercept all stragglers from the routed army. To encourage them in the execution of these orders, Lord Cornwallis proposed without loss of time, to advance with his whole army to their support.

This was the more necessary, as notwithstanding their late defeat, the American officers were exerting the utmost industry to repair their shattered army. As the remains of it were much superior in number to the British forces at Camden, and in the environs of that place, Lord Cornwallis was obliged to use the utmost circumspection in all his movements. The sick and wounded in his army were very numerous, and the reduction of strength he had suffered, though small in comparison to the greatness of the victory of which it had been the price, disabled him for a time from improving it in a manner adequate to its importance, and corresponding with the plan he had formed, and would have executed, had circumstances been favourable to his activity.