

acting under their advice the disgrace of the *Caudine forks* was averted for a little longer.

The 8th of October was spent in continual skirmishing. The American General made an attempt to turn the right of the British army, and to avoid this an instant retreat became necessary. Accordingly, during the night Burgoyne abandoned his camp and hospital and with much loss of baggage and material retreated to Saratoga.

On the 10th he occupied a position along a series of heights parallel with the Hudson to the eastward of Peekskill Creek, on which his right rested. Gen. Gates encamped just west of the creek, parallel to it, his left overlapping the British right, while a large corps of riflemen were well in the rear of it and the centre.

A feeble attempt was now made to retreat to Fort Edward, and when it was found impossible to carry baggage and artillery it was proposed to attempt it by abandoning all material, to serve out seven days provisions to each soldier and endeavor to reach Ticonderago. But the enemy was already in possession of Fort Edward and he was completely surrounded. The batteaux which accompanied the army had been captured, and on the 13th October it became necessary to open negotiations with the American General. According to the following letter was sent by a flag of truce to the American lines:

"October 13th, 1777.

"Lieut.-General Burgoyne is desirous of sending a field officer with a message to Major-General Gates upon a matter of high moment to both armies. He requests to be informed at what hour General Gates will receive him to-morrow morning.

"Major-General Gates."

"Major-General Gates will receive a field officer from Lieut.-General Burgoyne at the advanced post of the army of the United States at ten o'clock to-morrow morning, from whence he will be conducted to headquarters.

"Camp at Saratoga,

"9 o'clock, p.m., 13th October.

Lieut.-General Burgoyne."

On the morning of the 14th Major Kingston, the Adjutant-General of Burgoyne's army, delivered the following note to Gen. Gates:

"October 14th, 1777.

"After having fought you twice Lieut.-General Burgoyne has waited some days in his present position determined to try a third conflict against any force you could bring against him. He is apprised of the superiority of your numbers and the disposition of your troops to impede his supplies and render his camp a scene of carnage on both sides. In this situation he is impelled by humanity and thinks himself justified by established principles and precedents of state and war to spare the lives of brave men upon honorable terms. Should Major-General Gates be inclined to treat upon that idea General Burgoyne would propose a cessation of arms during the time necessary to communicate the preliminary terms by which in any extremity he and his army mean to abide."

This letter with its false logic and worse tastes must have afforded subject for laughter to General Gates, who well knew Bur-

goyne's camp was not tenable, that even then it was suffering from the fire of his artillery which left no place unsearched, that the very tent in which this letter was written had been perforated by an eighteen pound shot while the council was sitting and that one week more and Burgoyne with his army must have surrendered at discretion. But he also knew that Clinton had opened the Hudson and might at any time reach Albany in five hours, when a hasty retreat to New England would alone save the American army. Accordingly like a prudent man he came prepared with the following practical proposals to all Burgoyne's magniloquent essays:

"Major General Gates in answer to Lieutenant General Burgoyne proposes:

1. General Burgoyne's army being exceedingly reduced by repeated defeats, by desertions, sickness, &c., their provisions exhausted, their military horses, tents and baggage taken or destroyed, their retreat cut off and their camp invested, they can only be allowed to surrender as prisoners of war.

Answer.—"Lieut.-General Burgoyne's army, however reduced, will never admit their retreat is cut off while they have arms in their hands.

2. The officers and soldiers may keep the baggage belonging to them, the Generals of the United States never allow individuals to be pillage.

3. The troops under His Excellency General Burgoyne will be conducted by the most convenient route to New England marching by easy marches and sufficiently provided for by the way.

Answer.—This article is answered by General Burgoyne's first proposal which is here annexed.

4. The officers will be admitted on parole, may wear their side arms and will be treated with the liberality customary in Europe so long as they by proper behaviour continue to deserve it, but those who are apprehended, having broke their parole, as some British officers have done,* must expect to be closely confined.

Answer.—There being no officer in this army under or capable of being under the disgrace of breaking parole this article needs no answer.

5. All public stores, artillery, arms, ammunition, carriages, horses, &c., must be delivered to commissaries appointed to receive them.

Answer.—All public stores may be delivered, arms excepted.

6. These terms being agreed to and sign

* Owing to the rascality of Congress refusing to ratify the convention by which St. Johns was surrendered to Schuyler in 1776, the brutal treatment experienced by officers and men, their detention contrary to stipulation, and the actual privations and insults they were subjected to made many of the younger officers abscond and endeavored to return to Canada from Pennsylvania, where they had been sent instead of to Connecticut where they had stipulated to go, and very few will blame them, especially as the breach of faith was on the side of their captors.

ed the troops under His Excellency General Burgoyne's command may be drawn up in their encampment, where they will be ordered to ground their arms and may therefrom be marched to the river side to be passed over on their way towards Bennington

"7. A cessation of arms to continue till sunset to receive General Burgoyne's answer.

"(Signed.) HORATIO GATES.

"Camp at Saratoga, Oct. 14th, 1777."

AN ANTIDOTE FOR THE NEW WEAPONS.

The Austrian review, *Archives of the Marine*, announces that an Italian called Muratori has offered to sell to the Emperor Napoleon the secret of a composition intended to neutralise the destructive effects of the new weapons, the principal component of which is a sort of felt mixed with various other substances, and thus transformed into a compact and adhesive mass. This felt after having been kneaded by a powerful machine, then made liquid, and finally cooled, will resist, it is said, even at a short distance, as has been proved by experiment, rifle and pistol balls, bayonet thrusts, and sabre strokes. A Chassepot rifle ball, at a distance of rather more than half the range of that weapon, cannot pierce a cuirass made of this material, which is said to be well adapted for covering the hulls of ships of war, as a substitute for the heavy and costly iron and steel at present employed. The felt plates besides possess the advantage that, unlike those made of metal, instead of being broken to pieces by a cannon ball, they yield to the impact, and the holes made by the shot close of themselves, as if the felt was so much India rubber. We are further told that the composition does not cost much more than the fourth part of the price of steel and iron. The holes closing up themselves would render Muratori's composition invaluable for naval architecture.

WINNERS AT THE BRUSSELS FIER.—The prizes will be distributed at the Temple of St. Augustin, Brussels, on Sunday the 24th, but the prizes won by the British Volunteers will be sent to the National Rifle Association. The amount subscribed by the Garde Civique of Brussels towards defraying the expense of the reception of the French Gardes Nationaux and our Volunteers amounted to more than 15,000 francs, of which sum over 600 francs were not expended, and this amount will be given as a prize at the next international shooting match. The complete prize lists from Liege and Spa have not yet been published. The amount subscribed by the Volunteers to the Liege *souvenir* intended to be presented to the Garde Civique of that city had reached 154 when the list was closed.

A WITTY SOLDIER.—A good joke has come to our knowledge recently. During the past fortnight or so the regiments in the Dover garrison have been present at field-days held behind the Castle. On the last occasion, as the men of the 4th King's Own Royal Regiment were slowly marching up Castle Hill, an officer heard one of the soldiers say to a comrade, "I say, Jim, blowed if I aint lost 4 lbs. of flesh climbing up this 'ere hill to the field-days." The answer was quick and laughable. "For Heaven's sake, Bill, keep that quiet, or you will be tried by Court-Martial for making away with Government property!"