

me of his intention to attack Fort Montgomery in about ten days from the date of his letter, which was the 10th of September. This was the only messenger of many that I apprehend were dispatched by Sir William Howe and him, that had reached my camp since the beginning of August. He was sent back the same night to inform Sir Harry of my situation, and of the necessity of a diversion to oblige General Gates to detach from his army; and my intention to wait favourable events in that position, if possible, to the 12th of October.

In the course of the two following days, two officers in disguise, and other confidential persons, were dispatched by different routes with verbal messages to the same effect; and I continued fortifying my camp, and watching the enemy, whose numbers increased every day.

3d October. I thought it adviseable to diminish the soldier's ration, in order to lengthen out the provisions, to which measure the army submitted with the utmost cheerfulness. The difficulties of a retreat to Canada were
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