

here entered into consultation, respecting a second attack. Why the enemy was not pursued, when their retreat became general, no tolerable reason has ever yet been assigned; and Mr. Johnson, in his letter, seems to evade it. Nothing however could be more fortunate than the gallant behaviour of a party consisting of about 200 led by captain M'Ginnes, who had been detached from fort Edward, to the assistance of the main body. They fell upon the French in the evening, put an end to their consultations, and gave them a total overthrow. M'Ginnes died of the wounds he received in this encounter, having signalized himself by a spirit and conduct that would have done honour to a more experienced officer. The Indians, during the whole of the engagement, some of the Mohawks only excepted, retired from the camp, waiting the event of the conflict at a convenient distance. Nor indeed was their assistance expected, by those who knew that they had declared before their march, they intended not to engage, but to be witnesses of the gallantry of our troops. And had Dieskau won the day, equally ready had they been, to scalp their brethren the British, as they afterwards appeared to exercise their brutal dexterity on the French. As to the numbers, the British were at least double the number of the French under baron Dieskau, for he declared that he had that morning but 200 grenadiers, 800 Canadians, and 700 Indians of different nations under his command from whence we are apt to think, that if colonel Williams, with the detachment under his command, in the morning, had briskly attacked the enemy, instead of flying from them, and had taken care to make his attack when they were in some spot where they could not outflank or surround him, he might have obtained a victory; but his detachment was presently almost quite surrounded, being attacked both in front and upon both flanks, and being thus overpowered by numbers, they were obliged to retreat in great disorder, or rather to fly towards the camp, with great loss; and their loss would have been much greater, had not a detachment of 300 men been sent out from the camp, under lieutenant-colonel Cole, who not only put a stop to the enemy's pursuit, but covered the retreat of his friends. Nevertheless, their