

under my command from that period ;—a series of hard toil, incessant effort, stubborn action, till disabled in the collateral branches of the army by the total defection of the Indians ; the desertion or timidity of the Canadians and Provincials, some individuals excepted ; disappointed in the last hope of any timely co-operation from other armies ; the regular troops reduced by losses from the best parts to 3500 fighting men, not 2000 of which were British ; only three days provisions, upon short allowance, in store ; invested by an army of sixteen thousand men, and no apparent means of retreat remaining, I called into Council all the Generals, Field Officers, and Captains, commanding corps, and by their unanimous concurrence and advice, I was induced to open a treaty with Major-general Gates.

Your Lordship will see by the papers transmitted herewith the disagreeable prospect which attended the first overtures, and when the terms concluded are compared, I trust that the spirit of the Councils I have mentioned, which, under such circumstances, dictated