

thought himself accountable for, nor should he at all concern himself about any consequences that attended the discharge of his duty. He had very judiciously conjectured, that if the force of the British commander had been sufficient, he would have made a more simple summons, or would have attacked the fort immediately, without wasting his time in drawing up so extraordinary a bravado. The British commander, finding that neither ambushes nor threats could effect his purpose, turned all his thoughts upon a regular siege. But he was not long in perceiving that the fort was stronger, and much better defended, than it had been reported. He also found by experience, that his artillery was not sufficient in weight to make much impression at a certain distance. The only remedy was, to bring his approaches so near that they must take effect; which he set about with the greatest diligence. But the savages, from the dissatisfaction they felt at their late losses, and from the disappointment of their hopes of plunder, became every day more sullen and ungovernable. The English commander was in continual apprehension that they would pillage his camp, and abandon the British standard. In this disagreeable situation, he was informed that general Arnold was rapidly approaching, at the head of a strong detachment, to relieve the fort. It appears that general Schuyler, upon intelligence that the fort which had taken his name, was besieged, had dispatched Arnold to its succor, with a brigade of regular troops commanded by general Larned, which was afterwards re-inforced by a thousand light infantry detached by general Gates. Arnold had advanced with his usual celerity up the Mohawk river, but before he had got half way, having learnt that Gansevort was hard pushed by the enemy, and knowing all the importance of expedition, he quitted the main body, and with a light armed detachment of only nine hundred men, set forward by forced marches towards the fortress. The Indians, who were incessantly upon the look out, were soon informed of his approach, either by their own scouts, or by the spies that were dispatched by Arnold himself, who prodigiously exaggerated his strength. At the name of Arnold, and in their present temper, they were seized with terror and dismay. Other scouts arrived immediately after with a report, which probably grew out of the affair of Bennington, that Burgoyne's army was entirely cut to pieces. They would now stay no longer, and assembled tumultuously, intending to abandon the camp. Colonel St. Leger endeavored to dissipate their terrors and detain them, by promising to lead them himself, to bring all his best troops into action, and by carrying their leaders out to mark a field of battle, and the flattery of consulting them upon the intended plan of operation. Finally, the British commander called