

whom ; whether from misconduct or misfortune ; let the unprejudiced public judge, if from the former they have a right to expect the inadequate atonement of the destructive head, which has sacrificed so many protecting hands ; if from the latter, he may claim their pity and forgiveness : at all events, however, the *fate of war* was indubitably decided by the sacrifice of those troops ; the consequences which might easily be foreseen, from the total loss of a whole army, immediately followed ; our posts at Ticonderoga, &c. were exposed to imminent danger, and the victorious enemy, besides the diminution of our force, and possession of our arms and artillery, acquired the countenance of a powerful ally, and the assistance of a formidable fleet.

The Military History affords numberless examples of the escape of troops surrounded by superior numbers. The army under General Gates, composed of Militia