

Otway's to Sillery. The enemy I found in possession of all the woods from Lorette to St. Foix, and just entering the plain : however, they declined attacking me in the advantageous position I had taken ; but, finding that their numbers were increasing, and endeavouring to get round me by the woods, the weather very bad, and having received intelligence, while I was out, of a report that two French ships were at the Traverse, I thought it proper to retreat to town, which was accomplished in a very regular manner, having withdrawn all my posts with the loss of only two men ; knocked off the trunions of two eighteen-pounders I could not bring off upon account of the badness of the roads. The enemy followed us with their irregulars, but could make no impression on our rear. Blew up a small magazine of provisions and ammunition in the church, which I could not remove for want of carriages. As my numbers were so small, I could not think of keeping post at Point Levi any longer : I ordered the officer commanding there to burn the block-houses, spike the guns, destroy the provisions, and come off with the first tide, which was effected.

28th.—As I considered the enemy, so near at hand, would never suffer us to fortify the heights of Abraham ; that even unmolested the chief engineer was of opinion it would take up ten days to execute the plan proposed ; that the garrison was so sickly it could hardly be supposed equal to the task of guarding both town and lines ; having also a strong confidence in troops who had hitherto been successful, I resolved to give the enemy battle before they could establish themselves : in consequence, having given my orders this morning at seven o'clock, I marched out with all the force I could muster in two columns, and, as soon as I arrived upon the heights, formed this little army in the manner following :—The right wing, consisting of Amherst's, Anstruther's, 2nd battalion Royal Americans, and Webb's, was commanded by Colonel Burton ; Kennedy's, Lascelles' Highlanders, and Brag's, formed the left, commanded by Col. Fraser ; Otway's and the 3rd battalion of Americans,