

given. Upon its face it is mere rumour or wilful invention.

The narrative of Bancroft follows the report of Congress in artfully confounding the two events—the capitulation of the Cedars and the capture of Sherburne's party at Quinchien. He says, "28 were killed in battle or murdered in cold blood, in violation of the express terms of surrender." How could there be "terms of surrender" on a battlefield even if the truth of the charge of murder were conceded? If it be true, as he states, that the battle lasted an hour, and the Americans were in the open, 28 is not a large number to be killed in fair fight. Some fighting there certainly was, for there was a wounded officer at Oka, and a Seneca chief was killed, but there was not nearly so much fighting as Major Sherburne desired to make out. He got credit in Philadelphia for much bravery, but such was not the opinion in the Northern army.† As for Butterfield and Bedell, they were cashiered.

Major Butterfield, on his examination, stated that the British officers did what they could to redeem the prisoners. He states that one of his party was murdered the eighth day after they were taken, but can give no name. Captains Estabrook and Wilkins state generally that three or four were murdered, but they cannot tell their names or even the companies they belonged to. It is remarkable that no names were elicited of these murdered men. The whole evidence is vague in the extreme.

Major Sherburne wrote a full account of the proceedings of his detachment, under date New York, June 18. It is evidently upon his authority that Bancroft gives the number at "28 killed in action or murdered in cold blood." He states that he left Montreal with 140 men, but that some were left as guards on the road; "*others were taken sick by the hardships they underwent in crossing the lake,*" so that his detachment was not more than 100 strong when it was attacked. What hardships he might have encountered in fine weather at the end of May in crossing in batteaux from St. Anne's to Vaudreuil, it is hard to say. But if he had, as he says, 100 men, and lost 28, it is very surprising that Capt. Forster accounted for 108 living prisoners of his detachment. The ladies and children who amuse themselves in summer rowing in skiffs on the lake may possibly

† Col. Greaon to Major-Gen. Heath. Ticonderoga, July 31.

know of hardships, but the other point is one of simple arithmetic, and admits of no solution. Capt. Forster gives the number of Sherburne's force as 120, and he is probably nearer the truth, for it is certain that Sherburne had 140 men when he left Montreal. He would require to leave at least 10 men at St. Anne's and 10 at Vaudreuil to take care of his boats and communications. These would have escaped. One or two might have been taken sick on the road, or he might have left more than 20 to guard his boats. He could not have had more than 120 men in the action, and may have had a few less. When he states that he had barely 100 men he is relating his own gallant deeds and his long resistance of one hour and forty minutes. He says that the enemy (under cover) lost 22 killed and wounded, and he lost only 28 *in the open*—killed, wounded and murdered. It may be that some others among the British, Canadians or Indians were killed, but if so, no mention is made elsewhere of them, excepting of the Seneca Chief. If the Indians had lost so heavily Capt. Forster would probably have reported it to account for their turbulence. As it is, he states their loss as this one Chief killed and three Indians wounded.

It is impossible in the face of the clear and precise narrative of the British officers, confirmed by the testimony of the American hostages, to believe the exculpatory and contradictory statements of men who behaved so badly as the officers in command of the American troops. Some points are, however, certain. It is admitted by all that Butterfield had 390 men. Sherburne could not have had more than 120 men, probably he had a few less. The total number of American soldiers of both parties could not have exceeded 510. Of these one was killed at the Cedars on the 18th of May, as previously related.

In the statements drawn up at Montreal, in September, where all the circumstances were known and fresh in everyone's memory, the total number of persons taken is given as 497. These are accounted for in the following manner:—

Indorsed upon the Cartel of Exchange :

Majors . . . . .	2
Captains . . . . .	9
Subalterns . . . . .	21
Privates . . . . .	443