

with the branches outwards, these were stripped of leaves and carefully pointed. As the whole of the front was thickly covered with trees, Montcalm had it cleared for a distance of over two hundred yards from the intrenchments, so that no cover for the advancing enemy might exist. Leaving 300 men in charge of the Fort the French General marched the remainder of the troops to the intrenchments where they were posted three deep; then throwing off his coat he ordered his men not to fire a shot till he should give the word and calmly awaited the advance of the British.

The English General had spent the 7th in reconnoitering the works, this duty was intrusted to his Chief Engineer Officer Mr. Clark and Colonel Stark. From the conflicting testimony given by all parties engaged, it would appear that no very near approach was attempted and that their exact nature or construction was not suspected; in fact a couple of pieces of the artillery which were allowed to lie uselessly on the rafts at the upper landing would have compelled their evacuation, and they were totally defenceless on the flanks. So well assured was Montcalm of this fact that he had prepared boats on Lake Champlain and taken measures to cover his embarkation in the event of artillery being brought into action or his flanks being turned. Clark reported the works to be slight and of no account, but American writers say that Stark thought differently and advised Abercrombie of their strength and that artillery would be necessary; from this it would appear that he knew little more about them than the Engineer Officer. As the flanks could be turned without artillery if there had been a single officer possessed of the slightest judgment or experience in the English army. For illustrating details the works of American writers on this war are valuable, but anything connected with the so called heroes of the Revolution is magnified beyond all conception and their narrations are entirely untrustworthy. This man Stark, afterwards known as the "hero of Bennington," serving his first campaign is declared capable of giving advice to General Abercrombie on a subject of which both were equally ignorant, by the Author of the Life of Sir W. Johnson (W. L. Stone, New York,) who calls him "the cool Stark," which characteristic he eminently displayed on this occasion, if it ever occurred. Abercrombie's force advanced at 1 o'clock, on the afternoon of the 8 July, in four columns, without artillery, led by Grenadier companies, who were ordered to carry the abatis and intrenchment at the point of the bayonet without firing; they were permitted to get within the abatis without opposition, an operation which destroyed their formation while a terrific fire of musketry was opened on them which laid down whole ranks. The company officers rallied their men and in more than one instance reached the breastworks to be shot down in platoons; six times did the troops return to the charge between 1 and 5 o'clock, to be as often driven back, leaving the front of the abatis covered with the dead and dying. A last effort was made at 6 o'clock to restore the fortunes of the day, the columns again advanced to be again driven back with useless slaughter. During the whole of this action Abercrombie remained at the Saw Mills, two miles from the scene of action, nor does he appear to have had any representative on the field or any recognised leader of the troops; at the last repulse instructions were asked from him, but he was not to be found having retired to the upper landing to place himself out of danger. The British troops fell back as far as the Saw Mills, having lost in killed, wounded and

missing 1,967 men: the loss of the French was 357 in killed, wounded and missing Abercrombie sent an urgent order for the troops to fall back to the landing; which so disheartened them that a panic seized on them in the most unwarrantable manner. Owing to the precautions taken by Colonel Bradstreet the troops were re-embarked without loss—though a large quantity of material and provisions was abandoned—and Abercrombie did not feel safe till he had put Lake George between himself and Montcalm although his troops numbered over 13,000 men. Meantime the latter General employed the night in strengthening his works, getting guns into position and taking other precautions to secure his troops, never doubting he would be attacked in the morning, but when several hours had elapsed and no enemy appearing he sent out a detachment who discovered the flight of the English by the baggage and implements abandoned on the way. Thus ended the expedition to Ticonderoga. Abercrombie intrenched himself at Fort William Henry, ordered the artillery and ammunition to Albany, and made disposition to fall back upon New York, but the arrival of General Amherst with 4,500 men, which he had brought by land from Boston, restored his confidence in some degree. The latter General sailed from Louisburg on 30th August, having undoubted intelligence of Abercrombie's defeat, he did not wait for orders but sailed at once for Boston, where he landed on 15th Sept. As it was advisable that a junction of his troops with those of General Abercrombie should be made with as little delay as possible, and as the navigation of the Hudson River above New York to Albany was tedious and uncertain by sailing vessels, he determined to march at once through the wilderness between Boston and Albany in a nearly direct line. But when he demanded from the magistrates of Boston guides to conduct his troops, they sent him a deputation to assure him the design was impracticable there being no road through, and it was impossible to make one, some of them actually made affidavits to this astonishing fact. They had to deal with a man of indomitable will and whose resolution once taken was unalterable, and who very soon discovered the anxiety of the sapient select men of the Puritan City to be that—"if General Amherst could march an army through to the enemy why the enemy could march an army over the same road to Boston." Such reasoning did not affect Amherst's resolution, he commenced his march on the 14th September and on the 2nd October left the troops under command of Colonel Burtin 35 miles east of Albany en route to Lake George, while he proceeded direct to Abercrombie's camp, which he reached on the 5th, and found as secure as the labor of 12,000 men expended in intrenchments could make it. This extraordinary march was 178 miles in length and was accomplished by a force of upwards of 4000 men with necessary baggage and artillery, the road had to be cut throughout and the whole movement effected in 18 days. After placing this force under General Abercrombie's command he returned on the 8th October to Halifax, where he was ordered to remain.

The concentration of the French forces for the defence of Ticonderoga denuded the Posts on Lake Ontario of troops. As soon as Abercrombie had recovered the effects of the fright he received in the action of 8th July, and satisfied himself that his personal safety was not imperilled by the likelihood of pursuit, he began to listen to the persuasions of those who wished to achieve the honor of wiping out the disgrace of that memorable

and covered in front by an abatis of trees day Colonel Bradstreet by reducing the flight from Carrillon to something like an orderly retreat and re-embarkation, had the greatest claims on his gratitude and managed so well as to be entrusted with a force of 2,952 men, a small detachment of Royal artillery, 8 cannon and 2 mortars, for an expedition against Fort Cataragui, or Frontenac (now Kingston), on the North Shore of Lake Ontario, the principal French Port on that Lake. Leaving Albany on the 4th August, Bradstreet's first delay was caused by the destruction of the navigation of Wood Creek, a consequence of Webb's paltriness in 1756, but the resolution of the troops and his own activity and energy overcame all obstacles, the Creek was again rendered navigable to a certain extent by which his artillery stores and baggage were embarked the troops marching by land to the Oneida Lake and from thence by the Onondaga River to Oswego on Lake Ontario, where they all embarked to cross the Lake to Frontenac.

On the 25th of August they landed near the Fort and it surrendered after a trifling resistance early on the morning of the 27th, the garrison consisting of 110 men and some Indians yielding themselves prisoners of war. This fort was a quadrangle of about 200 feet on each face with bastions at the angles mounting 50 pieces of artillery and 16 small mortars, it contained 13 pieces of field artillery with an immense quantity of goods and provisions to be sent to the troops in garrison in the Forts on the Allegheny and Ohio, and likewise the stores accumulated for the supply of M. de Levis's troops which had been destined for the expedition against the Mohawk valley and Albany; the stores were valued by the French at 800,000 livres. There was also captured 9 vessels mounting from 9 to 18 guns each, two of them were sent to Oswego, and being richly laden, the rest were most unwarrantably burnt or otherwise destroyed, as was also the Fort, artillery and stores in obedience to General Abercrombie's orders. This was the most severe blow dealt the French since the beginning of this contest; with failing harvests and a diminishing army they had hitherto faced every casualty, but the loss of such a quantity of provisions and stores was irreparable to a people who were brought to consider two ounces of horse-flesh a dainty, and whose daily allowance of bread did not for some months exceed four ounces each man.

The blunders of Abercrombie enabled them to prolong the contest for another year, as the retention of the Fort would have given the English command of Lake Ontario, the preservation of the vessels would have effectually prevented the French from recovering it; their only line of communication would have been permanently interrupted, their commerce ruined and their garrisons in the west starved out; the stores and provisions were sufficiently valuable to warrant an effort being made for their preservation, but Abercrombie was neither a soldier nor General, and his subalterns were every way worthy of him. This expedition struck a vital blow at French interests in a very singular manner, and possibly its full consequences were not apprehended by any of those specially concerned except Sir Wm. Johnson and the Marquis de Vaudreuil; it dissolved the Indian confederacy, which in this war so strenuously supported the French, by the destruction of their market, place of Council and depot of Trade; it was just the kind of blow to tell on keen sagacious savages, and it facilitated Brigadier General Forbes's operations against du Quesne in no ordinary degree.