

munition, as I learned there was left but twenty shot for the 18-pounders. The reinforcement obliqued to the right from the road, and formed a junction with the Indians in the rear of the heights. Finding, to my infinite mortification, that no reinforcement would pass over; seeing that another severe conflict must soon commence; and knowing that the brave men on the heights were quite exhausted, and nearly out of ammunition, all I could do was to send a fresh supply of cartridges. At this critical moment, I despatched a note to General Wadsworth, acquainting him with our situation—leaving the course to be pursued to his own judgment, with assurance, that if he thought best to retreat, I would endeavor to send over as many boats as I could command, and cover his retreat by every fire I could make. But the boats were dispersed, many of the boatmen had fled panic-struck, and but few got off. But my note could but little more than have reached General Wadsworth, about 4 o'clock, when a most severe and obstinate conflict ensued, and continued about half an hour with a tremendous fire of cannon, flying artillery, and musketry. The enemy succeeded in re-possessioning their battery, and gained advantage on every side; the brave men who had gained the victory, exhausted of strength and ammunition, and grieved at the unpardonable neglect of their fellow-soldiers, gave up the conflict."