

STARK'S VICTORY.

Progress of the Centennial Celebration at Bennington.

THE HISTORIC TOWN THROUGH.

Preparations for the Great Events of To-Morrow.

GENERAL STARK'S CAREER.

His Perilous Adventures Among the Indians.

THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR.

Prompt Action in Joining the Revolutionary Forces.

SOME CHARACTERISTIC LETTERS

How He Won the Battle of Bennington.

thing bids fair for the imposing ornaments of to-morrow and the day following.

LETTERS OF EIGHT. Many letters have been received from distinguished military and naval officers... FROM THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA. OTTAWA, CANADA, JULY 28, 1877.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY HONORABLE FAIRBANKS, GOVERNOR OF VERMONT. Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your courteous letter of the 25th inst., covering an invitation to me from the President and members of the Bennington Battle Monument Association...

FROM GENERAL HENRY BURDETT. HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, JULY 28, 1877. TO THE HON. HONORABLE FAIRBANKS, PRESIDENT, &c.— Sir—In reply to your kind letter of the 25th inst., in relation to the celebration of the independence of your State and of the battle of Bennington, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th inst., and to express my sincere appreciation of the interest which you have taken in the celebration of the independence of your State and of the battle of Bennington...

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during courage and physical hardihood never excelled in a similar body of men.

It was under circumstances like these of hardship and peril that the sons of Archibald Stark grew up to manhood. He had four sons—William, John, Archibald and James. They were all in the service during the seven years' war, each of them distinguished for daring courage and skill. Three of the four held commissions—William and John that of captain and Archibald that of lieutenant—in the corps of Rangers.

JOHN STARK AMONG THE INDIANS. In 1758 Mr. Stark removed from Londonderry to a place called Derryfield, on the banks of the Merrimack, and commenced a settlement upon the Amoskeag Falls, near the site of the present manufacturing city of Manchester. Here John remained with his father, engaged in alternate farming, hunting and fishing, until 1752. In the spring of that year he planned a hunting excursion up the valley of the Merrimack to Baker's River, some twenty miles beyond the English settlements. His companions were his elder brother William, David Stinson and Amos Bestman. On the 28th of April they were surprised at Baker's River by a party of ten Indians of the St. Francis tribe. The hunters two days before had discovered trails of the Indians, and were making preparations to depart. It being necessary to collect together their traps, toward the evening of that day John Stark separated from his companions, and proceeded up the Merrimack in the hands of the Indians. On being interrogated as to the course his comrades had taken he drew in a contrary direction, and succeeded in eluding his captors some two miles, where they made a halt. Stark's comrades, becoming alarmed at his absence, fired guns to inform him of their whereabouts, and were thus unfortunately discovered to the enemy, who, proceeding a short distance below their place of encampment, laid in ambush to intercept their boat as it came down the stream. Suspecting what had happened the hunters proceeded cautiously down the river. William Stark and Stinson in the canoe and Eastman upon the bank, when at about sunrise on the morning of the 29th Eastman was made a prisoner. The Indians now ordered John Stark to halt his brethren in the canoe. He did so, but instead of calling them to the shore, as his captors intended, he took them to escape by pulling hard for the opposite bank of the river. On their attempting to do so four of the Indians fired upon the canoe, but at this critical moment Stark knocked up two of their guns, and when two others fired did the same a second time, shouting to his brother to escape as the Indians had now discharged all their guns. Stinson was killed at the first volley, but William Stark succeeded in reaching the opposite bank.

THE BOLD CONDUCT OF HIS PRISONER SO IRRITATED THE INDIANS that they beat him severely and took away his traps and furs. They retreated to Coos, the present site of Haverhill, N. H., where two of their party had been left to collect provisions, and from thence proceeded up the Connecticut to the present site of Lancaster. From this place they dispatched three of their men with Eastman to St. Francis, choosing to keep Stark under their more immediate control. Several days were spent in hunting at the Upper Coos, Stark being allowed to accompany the party during the day and being confined at night. Crossing the Connecticut the Indians proceeded to the point where they arrived on the 6th of June. The party were received at this place with the parade of barbaric triumph. All the people of the tribe were assembled to witness the ceremony of running the gantlet, to which the captives were to be subjected. The young warriors were arranged in two parallel lines, extending a long distance from the council house, all being armed with sticks or clubs with which to strike at the prisoners as they passed. Eastman was first subjected to the trial, and was severely whipped before reaching the goal; but Stark, more athletic and adroit, snatched a club from the first Indian he approached, and, making his way through the lines, knocked down the Indians right and left, until he came within his reach of the last of the line. He then, with a flourish, seized the club of the last Indian, and, with a single stroke, cut off the head of the man, and, with a shout of triumph, held it aloft. The scene was witnessed with great delight by the old men of the tribe, who sat at a distance laughing at the ridiculous discomfiture of their young warriors.

"WORK FOR NEGROES, NOT WARRIORS." Another of the customs of that day was that of compelling their captives to aid the negroes in performing the labor and drudgery of the tribe. They ordered Stark to hoe their corn. He went to work readily, cutting up the corn by the roots, carefully avoiding the weeds, and when they threatened to punish him he threw his hoe into the river, telling them "it was the business of squaws, not warriors, to hoe corn." Instead of ordering this bold conduct to be severely punished, they discovered in young Stark the bearing of an undaunted warrior. They now treated him with the greatest respect, initiated him into the family of their deceased chief, gave him the widow for his mother and offered him her daughter in marriage. To the last days of his life Stark used to relate with much humor the incidents of his stay with the Indians at St. Francis. He used to say that he experienced more kindness from them than he ever knew prisoners of war to receive from a civilized nation. He was ransomed after three months' imprisonment: by Captain Stevens, of Charlestown, N. H., and Mr. Wheelwright, of Boston, and returned by way of Albany to his home in Derryfield.

BEGINNING HIS MILITARY CAREER. In 1754, upon a report that the French had entered Coos and were building fortifications upon the frontiers of New Hampshire, the Colonial Government appointed a committee to repair thither and ascertain its truth. Stark received an ensign's commission and went as a guide to the committee. The report proved to be without foundation. The colony, however, was soon obliged to arm for defence. The great Seven Years' War had now commenced—the final struggle between the French and English for the possession of North America. Stark was commissioned as lieutenant in the company of Rangers commanded by Robert Rogers. Other companies of Rangers were raised, and Rogers being advanced Stark took command of his company. His courage and skill in baffling the enterprises of the enemy attracted the notice of the British general, particularly of the gallant Lord Howe, whose friendship he enjoyed until the fall of that nobleman in the act of storming the French lines at Ticonderoga, on the 6th July, 1758. No service could be better calculated to insure men to hardship, danger and constant vigilance than that of the Rangers. The army never moved beyond their intrenchments without a corps of Rangers to guard their flanks. And while the main body reposed within the lines or marched in column during the day, the Rangers were always kept in advance, watching the movements of the enemy and checking the steady progress of the savages who were generally found hovering about the encampments. Frequent skirmishes, and sometimes prolonged and bloody encounters with the Indians, were the inevitable consequence. Stark was ever foremost in duty, pressing forward where deeds of valor were to be done, and such was the confidence of his men in his courage and discretion that, under whatever circumstances, against whatever odds, not a man of his gallant corps would ever seek safety until the signal of retreat was given. Many a secluded spot in the neighborhood of Lake George was moistened with blood in the deadly encounters of Stark and his Rangers with the enemy.

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1757. In the memorable campaign of 1757, which began and closed with the events of a single day—the 6th September—when three several battles were fought upon the banks of Lake George by the English army under General Johnson against the combined forces of French and Indians under the Baron Dieudonné, Stark was present, having arrived upon the field of battle just as the action commenced. The French army was routed, with the loss of 1,000 slain and their commander wounded and taken prisoner. The loss of the English was also severe. Close by the scene of slaughter in a small circular pond, scarcely a hundred yards in diameter, into which the bodies of the slain were indiscriminately thrown. The waters were discolored with blood, and from that day to the present it has been called the Bloody Pond.

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ON BEING INFORMED OF THE WANTON ATTACK OF THE BRITISH upon the Americans at Lexington he shouldered his musket, and bidding good-by to his wife and children, without a coat, that he might not be encumbered, he set out to join the little band of heroes who had assembled at the first signal of alarm. They proceeded onward from town to town, expecting at every step to meet the enemy, for the information was the same—every one told them the "regulars" would soon be upon them. Their numbers increased as they advanced, and in twenty-four hours 1,200 volunteers were on their march from New Hampshire. Stark had advised them to rendezvous at Medford, passing through Lexington he informed himself of the state of the 10th of April, and proceeded to Cambridge,

between Crown Point and Ticonderoga, when they discovered a sled passing on the ice from the former to the latter. Others followed, three of which were laden with seven prisoners and six horses; but others, discovering the presence of the Rangers, precipitately retreated to Crown Point. Rogers, well knowing that a strong body would at once be thrown out from that fortress against him, ordered a retreat, which was instantly commenced, in single file, Rogers in front and Stark in the rear. They had crossed over broken ground and a small valley for a mile, when, on reaching the summit of the hill beyond, they found the enemy more than two hundred strong drawn up in the form of a crescent to intercept their retreat. The Rangers after the first volley fell back to the opposite bank, where Stark was posted, and here a bloody and desperate action ensued, continuing from two o'clock until sunset of that day. Captain Spikeman and several other gallant officers fell in the struggle. Major Rogers, though wounded in the head at the beginning of the battle, still fought on until disabled by receiving a ball through the wrist. The command now devolved upon Stark, whose deadly rifle had kept the enemy at bay, pouring death with every volley into their ranks. Rogers, when he could no longer wield the rifle, suggested a retreat; but Stark, who was the only officer who had escaped injury, threatened about the first man who attempted to retreat by declaring that he would not bring a man to safety until dark, when a retreat could be made in safety. While he was cheering on his men a stray ball from the enemy broke the lock of his gun. At the same instant, seeing a Frenchman fall, he sprang forward, possessed himself of his gun and resumed his place at the head of his little band. Night came to his relief and the carnage ceased. He now quitted the scene of his detachment, and with all his wounded men reached Lake George in safety at eight o'clock on the following morning. The wounded men, who during the night march had kept up their spirits, were now in a poor condition, with cold, fatigue and loss of blood, that they could go no further. They were still fifty miles from Fort William Henry, whence relief must come or the wounded must be left to perish. The snow was four feet deep upon the ground and the distance could only be traversed upon snowshoes. Stark, with two others, at once departed, and by an effort more easily imagined than described reached the fort at nightfall. The next day all his wounded comrades were safely removed in sleighs to Fort William Henry. It needs no idle flourish of high-sounding words to kindle the admiration of the reader for deeds of the noblest heroism like these. Of the Rangers fourteen were killed, six wounded and six taken prisoner, the day spent in coos and in the woods, and the loss of the enemy, the only one, who were killed to the number of 250, lost no less than 116 killed or mortally wounded.

IN A NEW ORGANIZATION of the Rangers Stark was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Captain Spikeman. Shortly afterward his vigilance saved Fort William Henry from capture. In the absence of Rogers he had command of the Rangers. Going the rounds on the evening of the 16th of March he overheard some of them planning the celebration of St. Patrick's (the following) Day. Many of his own corps and of the regular troops of the garrison were of Irish origin, and he at once foresaw the danger which the day spent in coos and in the woods, and the loss of the enemy, the only one, who were killed to the number of 250, lost no less than 116 killed or mortally wounded.

THE ATTACK ON FORT TICONDEROGA. In 1758 the English commander determined to attempt the reduction of Ticonderoga. A large army was collected, numbering 6,000 men, commanded by General Burgoyne, but the British army was the grandeur of the scene in this large army in battle slowly moved over the waters of Lake George. At evening on the 6th of July they reached Sabbath Day Point, on the lake, where they halted to refresh. Here Lord Howe summoned Captain Stark to sit with him in his tent. Resting upon a bear skin (his cap and his sword he laid on a table) he had a long and familiar conversation with the brave partisan from the wilds of New Hampshire upon the position of the fort and the best mode of attack. The movement of the army was resumed and the landing effected by noon of the next day. Orders had been given to carry the bridge between Lake George and the plains of the half-gate. The column of the enemy was directed to the rear of the Americans. On approaching the bridge Rogers, perceiving a party of French and Indians, crossed up to dispute the passage, halted suddenly, which threw the rear, in full march under Stark, upon the front. Stark, not understanding the cause of the interruption, pushed forward, saying, "It was no time for delay," carried the bridge and opened the passage for the advancing columns. Lord Howe commanded the centre of the army, and, falling in with a part of the advanced guard of the enemy, he attacked and dispersed it, but exposing himself too rashly fell at the first fire of the enemy. The assault was continued through the 6th, 7th and 8th of July, when General Abercrombie ordered a retreat. The failure of the expedition, in which nearly two thousand regulars and provincial troops were killed or made prisoners, was attributed to the death of Lord Howe and the incapacity of his successor, General Abercrombie. Stark was warmly attached to Lord Howe, and deeply deplored his untimely death. They were nearly of the same age, and the young nobleman, bent upon acquiring all the knowledge necessary to his profession, used to accompany Stark in his ranging excursions. With high military talents he united those estimable personal qualities which endeared him to the British and provincial troops.

CAPTAIN STARK'S MARRIAGE. At the close of the campaign Captain Stark returned home on a furlough and was married to Elizabeth Page, daughter of Caleb Page, of Dunbarton. In the spring of the following year he was again in the field at the head of his Rangers, and was ordered by Sir Jeffrey Amherst to superintend the opening of a military road from Crown Point to St. Lawrence (Charlestown), in the Connecticut, a distance of eighty miles through the wilderness. This he accomplished the season and was present with General Amherst at the reduction of Ticonderoga and Crown Point. The conquest of Canada in 1760 put an end to the military operations in North America. This circumstance, together with the jealousy of the British officers against those of the provinces, and the arrogance of the young officers who had purchased commissions but had never done service in the army, induced Captain Stark to retire from the service. He retired with the friendship of General Amherst, who promised him that he should rejoin his rank whenever he chose to rejoin the army.

PORTENTS OF THE REVOLUTION. From this period he continued in the quiet enjoyment of domestic life and the occupation of his farm until the opening of the Revolution. He watched with deep solicitude all the movements of the British government, and from the first dawn of the attempt to "revolve the colonies" he openly declared for "freedom." In 1774, when it became necessary for the people to organize, he was one of the committee of safety, and discharged his duties with the energy belonging to his character. The man whose heart was not in the cause, who hesitated in the struggle that he saw was coming, found no favor in his eyes. Tyranny never flourished in his neighborhood. When it was told in the towns below Derryfield that a battle had been fought at Lexington, and that the regulars were driving all before them and were marching into the country, the first that rallied and despatched a messenger to Stark, directing him to lead them to the defence of their countrymen. He was found at work in his usual occupation. He had just finished his share in the success of that brilliant and bloodless campaign.

STARK RESIGNS HIS COMMISSION. Colonel Stark accompanied Washington a few days after when he again crossed the Delaware, was with him in the attack upon the enemy at Princeton, and remained with the army until it went into winter quarters at Morristown. He now returned upon furlough to New Hampshire. On his arrival he ascertained the truth of a report which had reached him before leaving the camp that Congress had neglected his just claims in their new appointments of brigadier. A man of the lofty spirit of Stark could brook no dishonor, and he immediately tendered his resignation to the Legislature, then in session at Concord. His efforts were made to dissuade him from his purpose, but in vain. "The man," said he, "who will not stand up for his rank in the army will not fight for his country." He fitted out and dispatched all of his family, who were engaged in bearing arms to join his regiment, and declared himself ready to take the field whenever New Hampshire should be attacked and retired to his farm as a private citizen.

AFTER THE EVACUATION of Ticonderoga, in 1777, and the advance of General Burgoyne from the north, at the head of a powerful and well appointed army, all the energies of the New England colonies were summoned to the rescue. Burgoyne's troops were led by accomplished and experienced officers; he had a formidable train of artillery, with all the equipments necessary; and veteran corps of the best troops of Britain and Germany formed the main body of his army. It was here that the Continental Congress fled, and was rescued by the American patriots with spies, scouts and rangers and a numerous array of savages.

HE OBTAINS A CALL TO ARMS. In this emergency New Hampshire was called upon for aid against the invader. John Langdon was at that time presiding officer of the Assembly, and upon the receipt of the news from the north thus addressed that body:— "I have \$3,000 in hard money; my plate I will pledge for as much more. I have several hundred pounds of tobacco grain, which shall be sold for the most for my part. These are at the service of the State. If I succeed in raising a regiment, I will be glad to see you to no use to me. We can raise a brigade; and our friends Stark, who so nobly sustained the honor of our arms at the battle of Bennington, will be entrusted with the command, and we will cheer Burgoyne." The Legislature at once summoned Stark from his retirement to lead his troops to battle. Stark obeyed the call, but made a stipulation that he should have a separate command, independent of the officers of the general army. His conditions were accepted; the people rallied to the standard of their favorite leader, and in a few days he was at the head of a small but brave force on the frontier.

ON ARRIVING at Manchester, where a portion of his volunteers had been directed to assemble, Colonel Stark noticed that the packs of his men were packed as for a march. Inquiring for the cause he was told that General Lincoln had ordered them to march for the mouth of the Mohawk. He waited on Lincoln, and informing him of the nature of his command refused to comply with the order. Had he submitted to the demand of General Schuyler the campaign would probably have terminated with the ruin of the northern army and Burgoyne would have reached Albany instead of meeting his fate at Saratoga. When, upon the report of General Schuyler, Congress was informed of these proceedings, they adopted resolutions concerning New Hampshire for the instructions given to General Stark, and requesting that he should be required to conform to the rules of the service governing the volunteers and militia in the field. This action took place on the 19th of August, three days after the victory at Bennington.

THE MARCH TO BENNINGTON. General Stark, joined by the Green Mountain Boys, who chose to march under his banner, was soon equipped at Bennington. On the 13th of August he was informed by a messenger from Cambridge, twelve miles northwest of Bennington, that a party of Indians was approaching in that direction, and during the night to be attacked by the Indians. On the morning of the 14th, General Stark, with all his disposable force, marched out to meet the enemy. At the distance of four or five miles he met Colonel Gregg, who had been despatched the preceding day with two hundred men to intercept the Indians, in full retreat before a large body of Germans, who were advancing in the rear of the Indians, and were now within a mile of the American lines. General Stark ordered a halt, and drew up his men in order of battle, on perceiving which the enemy halted, on advantageous ground, and drew up in order of battle. On the following day Stark made his dispositions for attacking Burgoyne, by sending out flanking parties to the right and left, to meet in rear of the enemy, and commence the attack while he should engage the main body in front. A violent rain setting in prevented any movement during the day. During the night further reinforcements were received. Among them was a clergyman from Berkshire, Mass., who appeared to be the temporal as well as spiritual leader of his people. On reaching the General's quarters he addressed him in the following strains:—"We, the people of Berkshire, have often been called on to fight, but have never been permitted. We have now resolved, if you will not let us fight, never to turn our backs upon the enemy. We are determined to go to battle on our own, while it rains and was dark? "Oh, no," "Well, then," said Stark, "if the Lord gives us sunshine again, and I do not give you fighting again!" I will never ask you to come again."

ON THE MORNING of the 10th of August General Stark moved to execute the plan of attack which had been concerted for the day before. Every order was executed with precision. The flanking parties closed in the rear of the enemy, perceiving which the Indians took to flight, while Stark was hotly engaged in front. The action immediately became general. "It is over," says Stark, "two hours, and was the hottest I ever saw. It was like no contest I ever saw before. The British were driven back to the camp of the Americans, and the Germans were forced from their breastworks, and although gallantly led to the charge by Colonel Baum they were overpowered by the invincible Yankees and compelled to retreat, leaving their artillery and baggage on the field.

Parties of the militia now dispersed in different directions to gather the plunder and secure the prisoners. Scarcely had they done so before information came that a large reinforcement from Burgoyne's army was approaching and was within two miles' distance. Stark's troops were in no very favorable circumstances to renew the contest, but as he proceeded to rally them. The fortunate arrival of Colonel Warner with a regiment of fresh troops, just as the enemy's forces reappeared, enabled Stark to win a second battle on the same day. The contest was continued until sunset with great obstinacy, when the enemy gave way. Stark pursued their flying forces until dark, when he was obliged to draw off his men. The fruits of this day's victories were four pieces of brass cannon, several hundred stand of arms and 700 prisoners. Two hundred and seven of the enemy were killed, the number wounded unknown. The American loss was thirty killed and forty wounded.

IMPORTANCE OF THE VICTORY. Thus "the great stroke struck by General Stark near Bennington," as Washington described it, determined the fate of the Northern army, and so the bills of Bennington were rendered memorable for two victories won in a single day by raw militia over the disciplined veterans of England.

ORIGINAL LETTERS OF GENERAL STARK. The following documents, with letters of General Stark never before published, give too vivid a picture of the man and the time to be abridged or abridged, and, if we are not greatly mistaken, will be regarded as a contribution to the centennial celebration of the battle of Bennington, hardly second in interest to the proceedings now going on at the scene of the action.

FROM GENERAL STARK. MANCHESTER August 7th, 1777. I arrived at this place yesterday in the afternoon, and fitted out my volunteers. I have the honor to inform you that it was Genl. Schuyler's orders to me to take command of the militia, and march them to Still Water where he is retreated to—informing me that my orders were to put myself under the command of the Continental Troops, but was to meet and consult with the Committee of this State, and to act in conjunction with the troops of the State and of the other States, but was not to be commanded by either of them.

THE INHABITANTS that do reside on this side of the River apprehend themselves to great danger by reason of the near approach of the enemy in their late movements. And as I have the honor to inform you that I have with me my family from that part of the Green Mountains above Bennington—Genl. Burgoyne's late troops are at Fort Johnson—Genl. Burgoyne's late

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HE OBTAINS A CALL TO ARMS. In this emergency New Hampshire was called upon for aid against the invader. John Langdon was at that time presiding officer of the Assembly, and upon the receipt of the news from the north thus addressed that body:— "I have \$3,000 in hard money; my plate I will pledge for as much more. I have several hundred pounds of tobacco grain, which shall be sold for the most for my part. These are at the service of the State. If I succeed in raising a regiment, I will be glad to see you to no use to me. We can raise a brigade; and our friends Stark, who so nobly sustained the honor of our arms at the battle of Bennington, will be entrusted with the command, and we will cheer Burgoyne." The Legislature at once summoned Stark from his retirement to lead his troops to battle. Stark obeyed the call, but made a stipulation that he should have a separate command, independent of the officers of the general army. His conditions were accepted; the people rallied to the standard of their favorite leader, and in a few days he was at the head of a small but brave force on the frontier.

ON ARRIVING at Manchester, where a portion of his volunteers had been directed to assemble, Colonel Stark noticed that the packs of his men were packed as for a march. Inquiring for the cause he was told that General Lincoln had ordered them to march for the mouth of the Mohawk. He waited on Lincoln, and informing him of the nature of his command refused to comply with the order. Had he submitted to the demand of General Schuyler the campaign would probably have terminated with the ruin of the northern army and Burgoyne would have reached Albany instead of meeting his fate at Saratoga. When, upon the report of General Schuyler, Congress was informed of these proceedings, they adopted resolutions concerning New Hampshire for the instructions given to General Stark, and requesting that he should be required to conform to the rules of the service governing the volunteers and militia in the field. This action took place on the 19th of August, three days after the victory at Bennington.

THE MARCH TO BENNINGTON. General Stark, joined by the Green Mountain Boys, who chose to march under his banner, was soon equipped at Bennington. On the 13th of August he was informed by a messenger from Cambridge, twelve miles northwest of Bennington, that a party of Indians was approaching in that direction, and during the night to be attacked by the Indians. On the morning of the 14th, General Stark, with all his disposable force, marched out to meet the enemy. At the distance of four or five miles he met Colonel Gregg, who had been despatched the preceding day with two hundred men to intercept the Indians, in full retreat before a large body of Germans, who were advancing in the rear of the Indians, and were now within a mile of the American lines. General Stark ordered a halt, and drew up his men in order of battle, on perceiving which the enemy halted, on advantageous ground, and drew up in order of battle. On the following day Stark made his dispositions for attacking Burgoyne, by sending out flanking parties to the right and left, to meet in rear of the enemy, and commence the attack while he should engage the main body in front. A violent rain setting in prevented any movement during the day. During the night further reinforcements were received. Among them was a clergyman from Berkshire, Mass., who appeared to be the temporal as well as spiritual leader of his people. On reaching the General's quarters he addressed him in the following strains:—"We, the people of Berkshire, have often been called on to fight, but have never been permitted. We have now resolved, if you will not let us fight, never to turn our backs upon the enemy. We are determined to go to battle on our own, while it rains and was dark? "Oh, no," "Well, then," said Stark, "if the Lord gives us sunshine again, and I do not give you fighting again!" I will never ask you to come again."

ON THE MORNING of the 10th of August General Stark moved to execute the plan of attack which had been concerted for the day before. Every order was executed with precision. The flanking parties closed in the rear of the enemy, perceiving which the Indians took to flight, while Stark was hotly engaged in front. The action immediately became general. "It is over," says Stark, "two hours, and was the hottest I ever saw. It was like no contest I ever saw before. The British were driven back to the camp of the Americans, and the Germans were forced from their breastworks, and although gallantly led to the charge by Colonel Baum they were overpowered by the invincible Yankees and compelled to retreat, leaving their artillery and baggage on the field.

Parties of the militia now dispersed in different directions to gather the plunder and secure the prisoners. Scarcely had they done so before information came that a large reinforcement from Burgoyne's army was approaching and was within two miles' distance. Stark's troops were in no very favorable circumstances to renew the contest, but as he proceeded to rally them. The fortunate arrival of Colonel Warner with a regiment of fresh troops, just as the enemy's forces reappeared, enabled Stark to win a second battle on the same day. The contest was continued until sunset with great obstinacy, when the enemy gave way. Stark pursued their flying forces until dark, when he was obliged to draw off his men. The fruits of this day's victories were four pieces of brass cannon, several hundred stand of arms and 700 prisoners. Two hundred and seven of the enemy were killed, the number wounded unknown. The American loss was thirty killed and forty wounded.

IMPORTANCE OF THE VICTORY. Thus "the great stroke struck by General Stark near Bennington," as Washington described it, determined the fate of the Northern army, and so the bills of Bennington were rendered memorable for two victories won in a single day by raw militia over the disciplined veterans of England.

ORIGINAL LETTERS OF GENERAL STARK. The following documents, with letters of General Stark never before published, give too vivid a picture of the man and the time to be abridged or abridged, and, if we are not greatly mistaken, will be regarded as a contribution to the centennial celebration of the battle of Bennington, hardly second in interest to the proceedings now going on at the scene of the action.