Soon after I had the Honor of writing your Lordſhip from Thomſon's, I received Information of Greene's having moved with the Rebel Army towards Camden, and croſſed the Wateree near that Place; and, from the beſt Intelligence I could collect, was on his March to Friday's Ferry on the Congarees.

The Army under my Command being much in Want of Neceſſaries, and there being at the ſame Time a Convoy with Proviſions on the March from Charles-Town, which would have neceſſarily obliged me to make a Detachment of at leaſt 400 Men (which at that Time I could ill afford, the Army being much weakened by Sickneſs) to meet the Convoy at Martin's, 56 Miles from my Camp; the Diſtance being ſo great, a ſmaller Eſcort was liable to fall by the Enemy's Cavalry, which are very numerous.

I therefore thought it adviſeable to retire by ſlow Marches to the Eutaws, where I might have an Opportunity of receiving my Supplies, and diſencumber myſelf of the Sick, without riſking my Eſcorts, or ſuffer myſelf to be attacked at a Diſadvantage, ſhould the Enemy have croſſed the Congaree.

Notwithſtanding every Exertion being made to gain Intelligence of the Enemy's Situation, they rendered it impoſſible, by way-laying the By-Paths and Paſſes through the different Swamps; and even detained different Flags of Truce which I had ſent on public Buſineſs on both Sides.

About Six o'Clock in the Morning I received Intelligence by two Deſerters, who left General Greene's Camp the preceding Evening about 7 Miles from this Place; and, from their Report, the Rebel Army conſiſted of near 4000 Men, with a numerous Body of Cavalry, and 4 Pieces of Cannon.

In the mean Time I received Information by Major Coffin, whom I had previouſly detached with 140 Infantry and 50 Cavalry, in Order to gain Intelligence of the Enemy, that they appeared in Force in his Front, then about Four Miles from my Camp.

Finding the Enemy in Force ſo near me, I determined to fight them, as from their numerous Cavalry, a Retreat ſeemed to me to be attended with dangerous Conſequences: I immediately formed the Line of Battle, with the Right of the Army to the Eutaw Branch, and its Left croſſing the Road leading to Roache's Plantation, leaving a Corps on a commanding Situation to cover the Charles-Town Road, and to act occaſionally as a Reſerve.

About Nine o'Clock the Action began on the Right, and ſoon after became general.

Knowing that the Enemy were much ſuperior in Numbers, and at the ſame Time finding that they attacked with their Militia in Front, induced me not to alter my Poſition, unleſs I ſaw a certain Advantage to be gained by it: For by moving forwards, I expoſed both Flanks of the Army to the Enemy's Cavalry, which I ſaw ready formed to take that Advantage, particularly on the Left, which obliged me to move the Reſerve to ſupport it.

By ſome unknown Miſtake, the Left of the Line advanced, and drove their Militia and North Carolinians before them; but unexpectedly finding the Virginian and Maryland Lines ready formed, and at the ſame Time receiving a heavy Fire, occaſioned ſome Confuſion. It was therefore neceſſary to retire a little Diſtance, to an open Field, in order to form, which was inſtantly done, under Cover of a heavy and well-directed Fire, from a Detachment of New York Volunteers under the Command of Major Sheridan, whom I had previouſly ordered to take Poſt in the Houſe, to check the Enemy ſhould they attempt to paſs it.

The Action was renewed with great Spirit; but I was ſorry to find that a Three-pounder, poſted on the Road leading to Roache's, had been diſabled, and could not be brought off when the Left of the Line retired.

The Right Wing of the Army being compoſed of the Flank Battalion, under the Command of Major Marjoribanks, having repulſed and drove every Thing that attacked them, made a rapid Move to their Left, and attacked the Enemy in Flank; upon which they gave Way in all Quarters, leaving behind them 2 Braſs Six-pounders, and upwards of 200 killed on the Field of Action, and 60 taken Priſoners, amongſt which is Colonel Waſhington; and, from every Information, about 800 wounded, although they contrived to carry them off during the Action. The Enemy retired with great Precipitation to a ſtrong Situation, about Seven Miles from the Field of Action, leaving their Cavalry to cover their Retreat. The Glory of the Day would have been more compleat, had not the Want of Cavalry prevented me from taking the Advantage which the Gallantry of my Infantry threw in my Way.

I omitted to inform your Lordſhip, in its proper Place, of the Army's having for ſome Time been much in Want of Bread, there being no old Corn or Mills near me. I was therefore under the Neceſſity of ſending out Rooting Parties from each Corps, under an Officer, to collect Potatoes every Morning at Day-Break; and unfortunately that of the Flank Battalion and Buffs, having gone too far in Front, fell into the Enemy's Hands before the Action began, which not only weakened my Line, but increaſed their Number of Priſoners.

Since the Action our Time has been employed in taking Care of the Wounded; and finding that the Enemy have no Intention to make a Second Attack, I have determined to cover the Wounded as far as Monk's corner with the Army.

My particular Thanks are due to Lieutenant-Colonel Cruger, who commanded the Front Line, for his Conduct and Gallantry during the Action; and to Lieutenant Colonel Allen, Majors Dawſon, Stewart, Sheridan, and Coffin, and to Captains Kelly and Campbell, commanding the different Corps and Detachments; and every other Officer and Soldier fulfilled the ſeparate Duties of their Stations with great Gallantry: But to Major Marjoribanks, and the Flank Battalion under his Command, I think the Honor of the Day is greatly due. My warmeſt Praiſe is due to Captain Barry, Deputy-Adjutant-General, Major Brigade Coxon, Lieutenant Ranken, Aſſiſtant Quarter Maſter General, and to Acting Major of Brigade Roorback, for the great Aſſiſtance they rendered me during the Day.

I hope, my Lord, when it is conſidered ſuch a Handful of Men, attacked by the united Force of Generals Greene, Sumpter, Marion, Sumner, and Pickens, and the Legions of Colonels Lee ane Waſhington, driving them from the Field of Battle, and taking the only 2 Six-pounders they had, deſerve ſome Merit.

Incloſed is the Returns of the killed, wounded, and miſſing, of His Majeſty's Troops.

From the Number of Corps and Detachments which appears to have been engaged, it may be ſuppoſed our Force great; but your Lordſhip will pleaſe to obſerve, that the Army was much reduced by Sickneſs, and otherwiſe. I hope your Lordſhip will excuſe any Innaccuracy that may be in this Letter, as I have been a good deal indiſpoſed by a Wound which I received in my Left Elbow, which, though ſlight, from its Situation is troubleſome. It will give me moſt ſingular Pleaſure if my Conduct meets with the Approbation of His Majeſty, that of your Lordſhip, and my Country.

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