

made of his inability to cope successfully with the enemy's well-equipped, larger, and better-disciplined army, was not in any way justifiable. Deficient in ammunition, numerically weak, and daily lessened by disease and desertions, his army was wholly incapacitated for preventing at that time the southward advance of Lieutenant-General Burgoyne.

The lack of bullets in the Army of the North was so great in July, that Major-General Schuyler suggested that a temporary supply might speedily be afforded him, should the Albany Committee of Safety require the citizens to extract the lead framed in the windows of their houses, and in those of the churches, and have it melted into musket-balls. The want of this particular munition is forcibly expressed by him in an order to the deputy quartermaster-general :

“The citizens of Albany only can supply our immediate exigencies; recourse must therefore be had to the committee, begging their interposition to collect such lead as is in the city; the lead windows and weights may, perhaps, afford a supply for the present. As soon as it is collected, Mr. Van Rensselaer will have it made into ball, and send it up without a moment's delay. Should a wagon be sent off with one box, as soon as it is ready it must be pushed off; also all the buckshot.”

Writing to General Washington, previous to the retreat of the army from Fort Edward, he graphically depicts its condition :

“Desertion prevails, and disease gains ground; nor is it to be wondered at, for we have neither tents, houses, barns, boards, nor any shelter, except a little brush; every rain that falls, and we have it in great abundance almost every day, wets the men to the skin. We are besides in great want of every kind of necessaries, provisions excepted. Camp kettles we have so few that we cannot afford one to twenty men.”

The inconsequential character of the efforts made to oppose the enemy's progress toward Albany, evidently induced Lieutenant-General Burgoyne, on the sixth of August, to set forth, in his report to Lieutenant-General Howe, that he was then “well forward,” “impatient to gain the mouth of the Mohawk,” but not likely “to be in possession of Albany” before “the twenty-second or twenty-third” of the month.

“Menaced on its borders,” as Bancroft truthfully observes, “from the Susquehanna to Lake Champlain, and on every part of the Hudson, New York became the battle-field for the life of the young republic.”

Lieutenant-Colonel Marinus Willett, having remained at Fort Constitution to obtain recruits for the Third New York Regiment, was ordered on the eighteenth of May to join Colonel Peter Gansevoort in command of Fort Schuyler. Reaching Albany, on the twenty-first, on board of three sloops, he and the re-