

were steadily engaged during the entire night. At an early hour, on the morning of the tenth, the French battery, on the left, with four twelve-pounders and six mortars and howitzers, also opened its fire; and, on the same day, this fire was increased by the fire from two other French and two American batteries—the former mounting ten, eighteen and twenty-four pounders, and six mortars and howitzers, and four eighteen-pounders respectively; the latter mounting four eighteen-pounders and two mortars. ‘The fire now became so excessively heavy that the enemy withdrew his cannon from their embrasures, placed them behind the merlins, and scarcely fired a shot during the whole day.’ In the evening of the tenth, the *Charon*, a frigate of forty-four guns, and three transports were set on fire by the shells or hot shot and entirely consumed; and the enemy’s shipping was warped over the river as far as possible to protect it from similar disaster. * * * *

“About four o’clock, on the afternoon of the sixteenth, the fire of several batteries in the second parallel were opened on the town, while the entire line was rapidly approaching completion. At this time the situation of the enemy was peculiarly distressing—his defences being in ruins, his guns dismounted, and his ammunition nearly exhausted, while an irresistible force was rapidly concentrating its powers to overwhelm and destroy him. * * * *

“On the morning of the next day (October 17), the several new batteries, which supported the second parallel, opened their fire, when Lord Cornwallis considered it no longer incumbent on him to attempt to hold his position, at the cost of his troops; and, at ten o’clock, he beat a parley and asked a cessation of hostilities, that commissioners might meet to settle the terms for the surrender of the ports of York and Gloucester. * * * *

“The terms were precisely similar to those which the enemy had granted the garrison of Charleston, in the preceding year, and General [Benjamin] Lincoln, the commander of that garrison, on whom the illiberality of the enemy then fell, was designated as the officer to whom the surrender should be made.”¹

At two o’clock, in the afternoon, on October 19, the British troops with shouldered arms, colors cased, and their drums beating a march, with slow and solemn step, were seen approaching the long ranks of the allied and victorious forces, facing each other on opposite sides of the road leading from Yorktown; General Washington and his aids on horseback being at the head of the line of American troops, and Count de Rochambeau and his aids, also mounted, at the head of the line of French troops. A great concourse of country people, black and white, had collected to witness the formalities of the surrender. It was expected that Lord Cornwallis would conspicuously figure in them, but being

¹Battles of the United States by sea and land. By Henry B. Dawson, vol. i., pp. 734, 735, 736, 737.