

NERAL
MAJOR GE GREENE.

CHAP.
XIV.

attempted this hazardous service ; six actually reached the ditch, but were immediately shot down by the garrison. The English writer, remarking on this attempt, observes—" That Colonel Lee suffered: his impatience to get the better of his discretion." The fire could neither have extended itself, nor the garrison have been prevented from extinguishing it.

The works of the besiegers were, at "this time, so near completion, that the American commander confidently asserts, the place could not have held out four days longer. Besides the towers before spoken of, one of which was within thirty yards of the enemy's ditch, the besiegers had erected several batteries for cannon, one of which of twenty feet in height, within one hundred and forty yards, so entirely commanded the Star, that it became necessary to give it a parapet, already twelve feet high, three feet more of elevation. This was done by means of sand-bags, through which apertures were left for the small arms ; and without any previous indications by day, at what point the artillery would appear, the removal of the sand-bags, left embrasures for using the pieces by night.

Thus, the two parties, besiegers and besieged, lay continually watching each other for near ten days; during which time not a man could show his head on either side without receiving a shot. Much blood was consequently shed on both sides.

4, Still, however, the garrison resisted, with a constancy that often calls forth a warm eulogium from the American commander; until on the 17th, the posture of affairs rendered it indispensable that the place should be carried by assault or abandoned. Lord Rawdon was close at hand, and the garrison had got intelligence of his approach.

This important communication is said to have been made to them on the 12th-- it was probably two days later. The ingenuity and immunities of women were often had recourse to by the American commander, in circumventing the enemy. On this occasion they were successfully employed against himself. A lady, the daughter and sister of a tried Whig, had formed a matrimonial connexion with a British officer. Her residence at a place not far distant, countenanced her visiting the camp with a flag, on some pretence of that moment. * She was received with civility, and dined at the general's table. It was afterward ascertained, that she had remained at a farm-house in the vicinity a day or two. In that time, a young loyalist, well mounted, dashed past the pickets of the American army, and the guns of the sentinels discharged at him in vain, were his passport of admission into the garrison. A verbal message from Lord Rawdon was all he brought, but it conveyed under circumstances which insured it credence. Huzzas and