

* Extract of a letter from the honourable John Adams to Major-general Gates, dated

“ Philadelphia, June 18th, 1776.

“ My dear General,

“ We have ordered you to the post of honour, and made you dictator in Canada for six months, or at least until the first of October.— We do not choose to trust you, Generals, with too much power for too long a time.”

† Without apprehension of danger, the officers were in the practice of visiting a Canadian hut on the western shore of the river, to drink spruce beer. The scouts of the enemy had observed this intercourse, and formed an ambuscade of Indians, who suddenly attacked an unarmed party, within eighty rods of the camp and in sight of the army, killed and scalped Captain Adams, Ensign Culbertson, and two privates, and made prisoners Captain M'Lane, and Lieutenants M'Far-
ran, M'Allister, and Hogg, with two privates; Captain Rippy and Lieutenant Rush made their escape in a canoe. I think the party was from the Pennsylvania line.