

did not attempt to stretch themselves across to the Hudson which might have been done with great ease." Instead they moved farther northward into Westchester County on the eastern side of the little river Bronx, which was commonly fordable.

Having left Colonel John Lasher's regiment of New York troops at Fort Independence, Major-General Heath, on October 21, moved with his division from the north side of King's Bridge, and with it, having marched all night, reached the next morning about four o'clock the foot of Chatterton's Hill, distant less than a mile from the village of White Plains, in Westchester County.¹ Other parts of the army followed and went into position west of that place, and awaited, "behind rapidly augmenting breastworks on eligible ground for defense," the advance of the British.

If the assertion of Colonel John Haslet be true, his Delaware regiment was the first body of troops to get into line of battle on Chatterton's Hill, on October 28, where it was joined by "one of Brigadier-General Benjamin Lincoln's Massachusetts militia regiments under Colonel John Brooks on its right. They were followed immediately by McDougall's brigade, consisting of what was lately his own battalion, which had no field officers, Ritzema's, Smallwood's, and Webb's. The troops formed along the brow of the hill, and stood waiting for the enemy. The two-gun battery brought up at the same time was Captain Alexander Hamilton's.

"The British marched up in brilliant array towards Washington's position, but unexpectedly declined to make an attack in front, although the centre was the weakest point. Chatterton's Hill appeared to engage Howe's attention at once, and it became the first object of capture. The troops assigned for this purpose were the second British brigade and Hessians under Donop, Rall, and Lossberg, in all about four thousand men. They crossed the Bronx, under cover of their artillery, and prepared to ascend the somewhat abrupt face of the hill on the other side [of the stream]."²

As described by Major-General Heath (whose division was on the left of the American line, and who had ordered Colonel William Malcom, with his regiment of New York troops, and Lieutenant Fenno of the artillery with a field-piece to take a position on the skirt of a wood crowning a piece of high ground near by), the British advanced in two columns. "The right column, * * * * preceded by about twenty light-horse in full gallop, and brandishing their swords, appeared on the road leading to the court-house, and directly in front of Major-General Heath's division. The light-horse leaped the fence of a wheat-field at the foot of the hill on which Colonel Malcom's regiment had been

¹ Memoirs of Major-General Heath, pp. 73, 74.

² Campaign of 1776. Memoirs of the Long Island Historical Society, vol. iii., p. 274.