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day, but when they had presently concealed their cannon
behind dark projections it was impossible for us to get possession
of them. This encounter I am sorry to say, deprived us
of the lives of two valuable chamars, and wounded one.
I was in the chair stages boat, but did not in any
degree disturb the regularity of our movements.

The most formidable preparations were made near
the town of Syme and on the opposite bank of the
river which is there not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile wide,
here they were provided with several pieces of cannon,
and from my own observation confirmed by Major Oly's
statement, I feel confident that their military force
amounted to many hundred men.

By waiting till the night became dark,
and by then allowing the boats to drop silently down
the stream, we got nearly abreast of this part
of the passage unobserved.

Every precaution within the compass
of their military skill has here been taken to
arrest our progress; large fires were light on each
side to show the situation of the boats, and vessels
filled with armed men were anchored in the river,
all then commenced a brisk but ill directed fire
at the same instant, and from the short space
which separated the parties, I have reason to
suppose it must have proved much more destruction
to their friends than to their enemies, for the British
no boat escaped without receiving more or less shot.