were left to encounter new difficulties, two men that I had dispatched
on the path the horsemen came, by some means or other missing them.
We again constructed a place of defense, and I dispatched Sergeant-
major Reese with one private to Picolata, to learn what had occasioned
the delay of our expected supplies, and told him I should remain where
I was until I could hear from him, and endeavored to procure cattle,
as we discovered signs of their being near us.

The evil genius of Captain —— again prevailed, and I have since
learned from Captain Cone, that this person instigated not only him,
but many of the privates to urge a departure from our works even in
the day time, when I was convinced that the Indians knowing our weak
situation would endeavor to ambuscade. This gentleman, if innocent,
will have an opportunity of proving himself so before a court-martial.

With a burning fever on me and scarcely able to walk, the march was
ordered about three o'clock in the afternoon. I had directed the adjutant,
Captain Hardin, to march in front, to avoid all places where there could
be an ambuscade, and the litters should be distributed among the dif-
ferent companies. Being extremely weak, I marched in the rear with
Captain ———, who carried my firelock, Lieut. Fannin, and about fif-
teen or twenty privates. We had scarcely marched five miles before
the front of the detachment discovered the heads of several Indians on
both sides of the path, from among several pine trees that were laid
prostrate by the hurricane; the same instant, the enemy fired upon our
advanced party, and shot down four of them, one, a Spaniard, died on
the spot, and two survived a few days; my negro boy was one of them.

The moment I heard the firing I ordered the detachment to charge, and
the Indians were completely defeated in fifteen minutes, many of them
dropping their guns, and the whole running off without ever attempting
to rally. Four were left dead on the field, and I am convinced from the
constant fire we kept up, that many more must have been slain, but
were hid from our view by the thick and high palmetto bushes.

We lay on the battle ground all night, and started next day at
10 o'clock, marched five miles and again threw up breastworks between
two ponds, living upon gophers, alligators and palmetto stocks, until
Sergeant-major Reese arrived with provisions and 14 horses, when we
were enabled to proceed to the St. Johns with all our sick and wounded,
where a gun-boat (schooner) by the direction of Colonel Smith was in
waiting for us, which conveyed us to his camp, where we met with
every attention that humanity or benevolence could bestow.

I cannot refrain from expressing the high sense I have of the
care and anxiety which Colonel Smith has manifested for the detach-
ment under my command, and his promptitude in affording every aid
in his power, when apprised of our situation. My pen can scarcely do
justice to the merits of the brave officers and men under my command,
their fortitude under all their privations and distresses never forsak-
ing them. Captain Hamilton, who volunteered as a private, his com-
pany having left him at the expiration of their time; Lieutenant Fannin,