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Admiralty-Office, November 17, 1801.

*Copy of a Letter from the Right Honorable Lord Keith, K. B. Admiral of the Blue, &c. to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated Foudroyant, off Alexandria, August 27, 1801.*

SIR,

MY Letter of the 5th Instant acquainted you, for the Information of their Lordships, that the Embarkation of General Beliard's Corps was carrying into Execution with all possible Dispatch; but, on account of the Difficulty of getting forward the immense Quantity of Baggage that they brought with them from Cairo, the Operation was protracted till the 8th. The Ships of War, as well as the Transports, however, were directed to proceed by Divisions. The Braakel, with the First Division, sailed on the 4th; the Inflexible, Dolphin, and Ulysses, with the Second, on the 6th; and the Experiment and Pallas, with the Last, on the 10th, carrying with them between Thirteen and Fourteen Thousand Individuals of all Descriptions.

The Army from Cairo moved on forthwith to the Camp before Alexandria; and the General, who did me the Honor of spending some Days with me while the Embarkation of the French was going on, resolved on transporting by the Mareotis, to the Westward of Alexandria, a Corps of about Five Thousand Men, under the Orders of Major-General Coote, to divide the Enemy's Force and Attention, to invest the Town closely on that Side, and cut off all farther Hope of Reinforcement or Supplies by Land. On the 12th I proceeded with Lieutenant-Colonel Anstruther, the Quarter-Master-General, to examine the Enemy's Position on the Side of the Lake, and the Strength of the Flotilla that they had assembled there; and having ascertained that their Armed Force could be easily subdued, and that a Debarkation could be effected with little or no Difficulty, the General determined to carry the Measure into immediate Effect; to secure the Landing from Interruption; Captain Stevenson, of the Europa, who is continued in the Command of the Flotilla, was forthwith directed to take a Station in Front of the Gun-Boats and Armed Boats which the Enemy had assembled on the Lake, and drawn up in a Line under the Protection of Batteries thrown up

for their Defence, to keep them in check till they could be seized or destroyed. On the Evening of the 16th, all the Boats of the Ships of War and Transports in this Bay were assembled in the Mareotis, with as many Germs as could be collected from the Nile, for the Purpose of receiving the Troops, who were embarked in the Night, and landed without Opposition the next Morning, under the Superintendance of Captain Elphinstone, considerably further to the Westward than was intended, the Wind not admitting of the Boats reaching the Shore nearer to the Town; the Enemy seeing no Prospect left of saving their Armed Boats, set Fire to them and blew them all up in the course of this and the following Day, except Two or Three which have fallen into our Hands; whilst the Landing was carrying into effect, Captain Sir William Sidney Smith, of the Tigre, was directed with some Sloops of War and Armed Boats to make a Demonstration of Attack upon the Town.

On the Night of the 17th, Major-General Coote was enabled to establish Batteries against Marabout, a small fortified Island that protects the Entrance into the Great Harbour of Alexandria, on the Western Side, and distant from the Town about Seven or Eight Miles, which, for many Reasons, it was important to possess; Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Bickerton, having the Command of the Squadron blockading the Port, directed Armed Launches from the Ships to co-operate with the Troops, and the Garrison, consisting of near Two Hundred Men, unequal to farther Resistance, surrendered as Prisoners of War on the Evening of the 21st; Mr. Hull, Midshipman, and one Seaman, of the Ajax, were killed on this Service, and Two Seamen of the Northumberland, wounded.

On the Afternoon of the same Day the Rear-Admiral ordered the Cynthia, Port Mahon, Victorieuse, and Bon Citoyenne, with Three Turkish Corvettes, to proceed into the Harbour under the Direction of the Honorable Captain Cochrane of the Ajax, (a Channel having been previously surveyed with great Industry and Precision by Lieutenant Withers of the Kent;) and on the Morning of the 22d Major-General Coote's Detachments moved forward Four or Five Miles on the narrow Isthmus leading to the Town, formed by the Mareotis or Inundation on