

*Admiralty-Office, August 20, 1809.*

DISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, were received last night at this Office from Sir Richard John Strachan, Bart. and K. B. Rear-Admiral of the White; &c. addressed to the Hon. William Wellesley Pole.

*St. Domingo, Flushing-Roads,  
17th August 1809.*

SIR,

I HAVE much Satisfaction in acquainting you, for the Information of their Lordships, that the Town and Garrison of Flushing have capitulated upon the Terms, a Copy of which I send herewith.

Their Lordships have already been apprised that it was my Intention to have proceeded up the Scheld, with the Division of Frigates under Lord William Stuart, and that the greater Part of our Flotilla had advanced to Bathz, in the Charge of Sir Home Popham, by whom the Enemy were driven above Lillo, where their Ships and Gun-Brigs had taken up a strong Position. The Command of the important Service of the Scheld, I have given to Sir Richard Keats, and he has my Directions to co-operate with Lieutenant General the Earl of Rosslyn, as well as to use every Means in his Power for capturing or destroying the Fleet and Flotilla of the Enemy.

Rear Admiral Lord Gardner remained with the Ships named in the Margin\* off Dykeshook, and his Lordship had received my Direction to hold that Squadron in readiness to go against the Garrison of Flushing.

On the 12th Instant, I was informed by Lord Chatham, that the advanced Batteries were sufficiently prepared to open on the Enemy the Day following, at One o'Clock in the Afternoon; and as it appeared to me of Consequence that the Line of Battle Ships should pass the Town at the same Moment, I therefore abandoned my Intention of going up to the advanced Flotilla, and proceeding to Dykeshook hoisted my Flag in the St. Domingo. The Batteries opened on the Garrison as it was previously settled, at One in the Afternoon of the 13th Instant, and the Fire was returned with great Vigour by the Enemy.

The Bombs and Gun Vessels under the Direction of Captain Cockburn, of the Belleisle, were most judiciously placed at the South East End of the Town; and to the South West, Captain Owen, of the Clyde, had with equal Skill and Judgment, placed the Bomb and other Vessels under his Orders. I had much Satisfaction in witnessing the Fire that was kept up by the Squadrons under the Command of these Two Officers, and the Precision with which the Shells were thrown from the Bombs.

Unfortunately the Wind was too scant to allow me to weigh when the Batteries opened, but it proving more favourable the following Day, I immediately put that Intention into execution, and at Ten in the Forenoon of the 14th proceeded with the Ships already named towards Flushing, meaning to pass to a more convenient Anchorage for placing the Squadron against it, when such a Measure should appear to be necessary.

This Squadron was led in by the St. Domingo; bearing my Flag, and I was followed by the Blake,

\* St. Domingo, Blake, Repulse, Victorious, Denmark, Agamemnon, and Venerable.

with the Flag of Rear-Admiral Lord Gardner; the other Ships advanced in Succession. Soon after we had opened our Fire, the Wind came more Southerly, and the St. Domingo grounded inside of the Dog-Sand. Lord Gardner not knowing our Situation passed inside of us, by which the Blake also grounded. The other Ships were immediately directed to haul off, and anchor as previously intended.

After being some Time in this Situation, during which the Enemy's Fire slackened, by the active and zealous Exertions of Captain Owen of the Clyde, who came to our Assistance, and anchored close to the St. Domingo, she was got off, and soon after I had the Satisfaction of seeing the Blake also afloat, and come to Anchor with the rest of the Squadron.

I was much pleased with the Conduct and Exertions of Captain Gill, of the St. Domingo, and his Officers, and with the Steadiness, energy, and good Order of the Ships' Company. Lord Gardner bears equal Testimony to the Behaviour of the Officers, Seamen, and Marines, of the Blake, and his Lordship mentions the Assistance he received from Captain Codrington in the highest terms of Praise.

The Fire of the Enemy towards the Evening had considerably abated, the Town was Burning in many Places, and much Damage was done to the Houses. At Seven o'Clock I received a Message from Lieutenant-General Sir Eyre Coote requesting I would cease Hostilities, as a Summons had been sent into Flushing; but at Night the Fire again Commenced, and was kept up without intermission until Two o'Clock of the Morning of the 15th, when the French Commandant General Monnet offered to Surrender. This was Communicated to me by the Lieutenant-General, and in Consequence I directed the Flag of Truce to be hoisted at Day light on Board His Majesty's Ships, and that Hostilities should cease.

The Lieutenant-General having also intimated his Wish, that Two Commissioners should be sent on the Part of the Navy, to assist in the proposed Capitulation, I accordingly nominated Lord Gardner to meet Sir Eyre Coote, at East Zouburg, and to take with him Captain Cockburn, to act in Conjunction with the Officers on the Part of the Army. Shortly after I received a Message from the Earl of Chatham, requesting to see me at Zouburg. On my Arrival there, I found his Lordship had selected Colonel Long, Adjutant-General of the Army, and Captain Cockburn, to be the Commissioners for settling the Terms of Capitulation, which were finally concluded late in the Evening of the 15th.

In the extensive and various Branches of the Service committed to my Care, their Lordships must be aware, that it would be impossible that all the Flag-Officers could be employed in the effective Ships under my Command, but I am no less indebted for the active Exertions of Rear-Admiral Otway, with whom I left the difficult Task of arranging all the Service connected with the Operations against Flushing, and I am happy in this Opportunity of making him my Acknowledgements for the Ability with which those Arrangements were made, and that Service conducted. To Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Keats, my Thanks are particularly due, for his zealous Exertions in defeating the Intentions of the Enemy at Bathz; and his active Co-operation with Lieutenant-General Sir John Hope on South Beveland, and the upper Part of the East Scheld.