

dated on board His Majesty's Ship Caledonia, at Port Mahon, the 24th December 1813.

SIR,

THE enclosed narrative will convey to their Lordships, the details of a gallant enterprize, very ably directed by Captain Sir Josias Rowley, and most zealously executed by the force under his command, in co-operation with the battalion of Colonel Catahelli, who made a descent on the coast of Italy, under a hope of surprising Leghorn.

The loss sustained in this affair has been inconsiderable, when compared with that of the enemy. I am sure their Lordships will do ample justice to the merits of Sir Josias, and the captains, officers, seamen, and marines, engaged in this spirited service.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

EDWARD PELLEW.

His Majesty's ship America, off Leghorn, 15th Dec. 1813.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that in pursuance of my preceding communication to you from Palermo, I sailed thence on the 29th ult. in company with the Termagant, and anchored at Melazzo on the following night, where having joined the ships named in the margin*, and embarked on board them on the following day the troops of the Italian Levy, amounting to about one thousand men, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Catahelli, we sailed the same evening, and arrived on the coast of Italy, off Via Reggio, on the 9th instant: having fallen in with the Armada and Imperieuse off the north of Corsica, I detained them to assist us in getting the troops on shore. Having anchored with the squadron off the town, the troops and field pieces were immediately landed; a small party of the enemy having evacuated the place on a summons that had been sent in, and possession was taken of two eighteen and one twelve-pounder guns, which defended the entrance of the river.—The Lieutenant-Colonel proceeded immediately to Lucca, which place was surrendered to him at twelve the same night. The following day a detachment of forty royal marines from this ship, under Captain Ren, was sent to a signal station to the northward, which on his threatening to storm, surrendered to him, and eleven men who defended it were made prisoners: he found it to be a castle of considerable size and strength, walled and ditched, and capable of containing near one thousand men. On receiving this report, I sent Mr. Bazalgette, senior lieutenant of the America, who with a few barrels of powder completely destroyed it, bringing off a brass nine-pounder gun, which was mounted in the castle. Parties from the Imperieuse and Furieuse also brought off two other brass guns from the beach to the northward and southward of the town, those at the landing place having also been embarked.

The Lieutenant-Colonel not judging it advisable to continue at Lucca, had given me notice of his intended return to Via Reggio, where he arrived on the morning of the 12th, and signified his intention to proceed in another direction.

* Edinburgh, Furieuse, Mermaid.

Not conceiving my stay with this ship any longer necessary, I had made arrangements for leaving the Edinburgh, Furieuse, and Termagant, under the orders of Captain Dundas, to keep up (if practicable) a communication with the troops, and proposed sailing to rejoin your flag as soon as it was dark, when towards sunset we perceived a firing at the town, and found that the troops were attacked by a force of about six hundred cavalry and infantry, with a howitzer and two field-pieces. They consisted of a detachment from the garrison of Leghorn, which had been joined on its march by some troops at Pisa; the Lieutenant-Colonel completely routed them, with the loss of their guns and howitzer, and a considerable number of killed, wounded, and prisoners; the remainder retreated in much confusion towards Pisa. Information having been obtained from the prisoners of the weak state of the garrison at Leghorn, the Lieutenant-Colonel proposed to me to intercept the return of the routed troops, by proceeding immediately off Leghorn, in the hopes that by shewing ourselves in as much force as possible, the inhabitants, who, it was supposed, were inclined to receive us, might make some movement in our favour, and that we might avail ourselves of any practicable opening to force our way into the place.

I acceded to this proposal, and the troops were immediately embarked in a number of country vessels, which were towed off by the boats of the squadron, and the whole being taken in tow by the ships, we proceeded the same night for Leghorn Roads, where we anchored about three o'clock on the following day, to the northward of the town. The Imperieuse having previously reconnoitred the best spot for landing, the vessels were immediately towed in shore, and the troops and field-pieces landed without opposition. The boats then proceeded to land the marines; but the weather, which had been hitherto favourable, in the course of the evening became so bad, that only a part could be got on shore; and I regret to state that the pinnacle of the America was swamped, and Lieutenant Moody, (a most valuable officer) and two seamen were drowned. Early in the morning the remainder were landed, and proceeded to the positions assigned them.

The corps of the enemy which had been defeated at Via Reggio, was a second time reinforced at Pisa, and at this period made an attack on our marines without the tower. I beg to refer you to Captain Dundas's report, for the particulars of their defeat. The Lieutenant-Colonel suggested, as a proper time after this advantage, to summons the Commandant, which was accordingly done, but an answer returned that he would defend himself.

The gates of the town had been closely examined during this day and the preceding night, to ascertain the practicability of forcing an entrance, but that or any other means of immediate attack not being considered practicable against a place so strong and regularly fortified, and there not appearing any movement of the inhabitants in our favour, the precarious and threatening state of the weather, a change of which would have prevented all communication with the ships, rendered it expedient to reembark the whole without delay: by very great exertions this was effected in the best order during