

force, which was completed on the 30th: the weather came on so bad on that night, and continued so until the 5th February, that no communication could be held with the ships at the inner anchorage, a distance of about seventeen miles.

It being agreed between Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane and myself that operations should be carried towards Mobile, it was decided that a force should be sent against Fort Bowyer, situated on the eastern point of the entrance of the bay, and from every information that could be obtained, it was considered a brigade would be sufficient for this object, with a respectable force of artillery. I ordered the 2d brigade, composed of the 4th, 21st, and 44th regiments, for this service, together with such means in the engineer and artillery department, as the Chief and Commanding Officer of the Royal Artillery might think expedient. The remainder of the force had orders to disembark on Isle Dauphine, and encamp; and Major-General Keane, whom I am truly happy to say has returned to his duty, superintended this arrangement.

The weather being favourable on the 7th for landing to the eastward of Mobile Point, the ships destined to move on that service sailed under the command of Captain Ricketts, of the *Vengeur*, but did not arrive in sufficient time that evening to do more than determine the place of disembarkation, which was about three miles from Fort Bowyer.

At daylight the next morning the troops got into the boats, and six hundred men were landed, under Lieut.-Colonel Debeig, of the 44th, without opposition, who immediately threw out the light companies, under Lieut. Bennet, of the 4th regiment, to cover the landing of the brigade. Upon the whole being disembarked, a disposition was made to move on towards the fort, covered by the light companies. The enemy was not seen until about twelve hundred yards in front of their work: they gradually fell back, and no firing took place, until the whole had retired into the fort, and our advance had pushed on nearly to within three hundred yards. Having reconnoitred the fort with Lieut.-Colonels Burgoyne and Dickson, we were decidedly of opinion, that the work was only formidable against an assault; that batteries being once established, it must speedily fall. Every exertion was made by the navy to land provisions, and the necessary equipment of a battering train and engineers stores. We broke ground on the night of the 8th, and advanced a firing party to within one hundred yards of the fort during the night. The position of the batteries being decided upon the next day, they were ready to receive their guns on the night of the 10th, and on the morning of the 11th the fire of a battery of four eighteen-pounders on the left, and two eight-inch howitzers on the right, each at about one hundred yards distance, two six-pounders at about three hundred yards; and eight small cohorns advantageously placed on the right, with intervals between one hundred and two hundred yards, all furnished to keep up an incessant fire for two days, were prepared to open. Preparatory to commencing, I summoned the fort, allowing the commanding officer half an hour for his decision upon such terms as were proposed. Finding he was inclined to con-

sider them, I prolonged the period at his request, and at three o'clock the fort was given up to a British guard, and British colours hoisted; the terms being signed by Major Smith, military secretary, and Captain Ricketts, R. N. and finally approved of by the Vice-Admiral and myself, which I have the honour to inclose. I am happy to say our loss has not been very great; and we are indebted for this, in a great measure, to the efficient means attached to this force. Had we been obliged to resort to any other mode of attack, the fall could not have been looked for under such favourable circumstances.

We have certain information of a force having been sent from Mobile, and disembarked about twelve miles off, in the night of the 10th, to attempt its relief; two schooners with provisions and an intercepted letter fell into our hands, taken by Captain Price, R. N. stationed in the bay.

I cannot close this dispatch without naming to your Lordship again, Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson, Royal Artillery, and Burgoyne, Royal Engineers, who displayed their usual zeal and abilities; and Lieutenant Bennett, of the 4th, who commanded the light companies and pushed up close to the enemy's works.

Captain Honourable R. Spencer, R. N. who had been placed with a detachment of seamen under my orders, greatly facilitated the service in every way by his exertions.

From Captain Ricketts, of the R. N. who was charged with the landing and disposition of the naval force, I received every assistance.

(Signed) JOHN LAMBERT, Major-General, commanding.

Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

[For the Articles of Capitulation see the Gazette of Saturday last.]

Fort Boyer, February 14, 1815.

Return of Ordnance, Ammunition, and Stores captured from the Enemy in this Place on the 12th instant.

1 twenty-four-pounder, 2 nine-pounders, outside the fort.

Guns.

Iron—3 thirty-two-pounders, 8 twenty-four-pounders, 6 twelve-pounders, 5 nine-pounders.

Brass—1 four-pounder.

Mortar—1 eight-inch.

Howitzer—1 five and half-inch.

Shot.

Thirty-two-pounder—856 round, 64 grape, 11 case.
Twenty-four-pounder—851 round, 176 bar, 246 grape, 84 case.

Twelve-pounder—535 round, 74 grape, 439 case.

Nine-pounder—781 round, 208 grape, 129 case.

Six-pounder—15 round, 75 bar, 13 case.

Four-pounder—291 round, 38 grape, 147 case.

Shells—25 eight-inch, 74 five and half-inch.

183 hand grenades.

5519 pounds powder.

1 triangle gin, complete.

16,976 musket-ball cartridges.