

The destruction of the batteries was necessarily a very delicate measure, and one which the people, however loyal, were naturally alarmed at; but from the exertions and conciliatory representations of the Count de La Tour and the Baron de Montalembert, together with the promptness with which the service was followed up, we succeeded in completely destroying every piece of cannon that operated in the smallest degree upon the communication of the river.

The forts of Verdon, Royan, de Lousac, and Miché, were completely dismantled, and nearly seventy pieces of heavy artillery (mostly French thirty-six-pounders), including in that number a great many mortars, were completely spiked, and their carriages rendered useless.

The fort on Point Negro, which did not so immediately command the passage, was not touched.

At this time Comte de la Tour and myself entered into a negotiation with General Clausel, and for that purpose I dispatched Captain Palmer to him. On Sunday the 16th, every thing having been arranged for organizing the people of the district we left, we ran farther up in the neighbourhood of Castellon, where there was another battery, and a French post, with the tri-coloured flag; when I received a dispatch from General Clausel, formally announcing to me the armistice that had taken place at Paris, and expressing a wish that it might operate here. From the tone of the communication, I considered that there was a good opportunity for continuing to treat with him, and did so till it ended in the General sending for Count de la Tour, the Baron de Montalembert, and Captain Palmer, who are now at Bourdeaux arranging the national guard, and preserving the internal tranquillity of that city.

Throughout the country the white flag is now flying, and the enthusiasm and joy of the inhabitants cannot be better described, than by the letter I have just received (and which I inclose) from Captain Palmer, at Bourdeaux, who throughout has been extremely active, and by his judgement very serviceable indeed to the cause we have been engaged in. The greatest cordiality has existed between the French gentlemen employed on this service and myself; and their dispatches I have forwarded to Lord Bathurst, by the Larne, who brings this letter to your Lordship.

I have deemed it proper, with the advice of the Baron de Montalembert, to continue Captain Palmer at Bourdeaux, to assist in making the arrangements for the quiet and order of the city.

A French ship, laden with cotton and copper, from the Mississippi, has fallen into our hands whilst lying in the river, but Captain Palmer with myself, considering that it would favour the cause greatly and convince the people of the good faith of the squadron, we consented to let her pass up the river: the loyalty of the inhabitants we thought strongly meriting this step.

I have the honour to be, &c.

F. W. AYLMER, Captain.

Bourdeaux, Saturday Night,
July 22, 1815.

SIR,

WE arrived here (the Baron Montalembert, the Comte La Tour, and myself) late this evening, and

immediately proceeded to the house of General Clausel. We have just returned from his meeting, and every thing has been settled in the most satisfactory manner. The troops lately under Buonaparte have left the city, except a few, who will be disposed of as soon as possible. These are mostly in the Chateau Trompette, away from the opportunity of producing much mischief, or quarrelling with the inhabitants or national guards; which latter are completing both cavalry and infantry with the greatest zeal and activity, and will in a few days be very formidable, as well from their numbers as their devotion to the royal cause. For the most part the soldiery have broken up, separated, and returned to their homes, and every step has been taken for the peace of the surrounding country. A dispatch is now closing for the Duke of Angoulême, who is in Toulouse, and His Royal Highness may be expected in a very few days.

I cannot give you, in writing, an idea of the enthusiastic feeling that pervades all ranks and descriptions of persons in this city. While I write to you, the hotel at which we lodge is surrounded by an immense populace, and shouting, a thousand times repeated, "Vive le Roi," "Vive Wellington," "Vivent les Anglais," &c. &c. The whole city is illuminated. The windows and balconies are filled with busts of their Sovereign and the Royal Family, while groups of the citizens are everywhere dispersed about the streets, singing and playing the most loyal and popular airs, expressive of their love for their King and their joy at his return.

They have long been prepared for this, but the white flag, which is now flying from every house, was hoisted only to-day at the Castle, and the feeling of the people, so long suppressed, has now broken forth with increased energy.

Our passage up the river was very interesting; for seventy miles along both banks one feeling of loyalty appeared to prevail, except where the soldiery, just breaking up from their several posts, awed and restrained it. From the tops and branches of the trees, the country seats, the villages, every where, the white colours and the fleurs de lis were to be seen. As our barge approached the city, the people poured down along the quays and river side, cheering and welcoming us. Indeed, such was the throng, it was with the utmost difficulty we could press on or make our way through the caresses of the people.

I am happy to say that amidst all this enthusiasm nothing like violence or tumult has occurred. The rejoicings are to continue some days, but every hour now will strengthen the police of the city, so that there is not the slightest apprehension to be entertained.

I have the honour to be, &c.

EDMUND PALMER, Captain.

To the Honourable Captain Aylmer, Bourdeaux.

Whitehall, August 1, 1815.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, to grant unto Burges Camac, Esquire, Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army, and Captain in