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FROM *FRIDAY*, JULY 14. TO *TUESDAY*, JULY 18. 1797.

PARLIAMENT STREET, July 13, 1797.

A DISATCH, of which the following is an extract, has been received by the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-Colonel Simcoe, commanding his Majesty's troops in the island of St Domingo, dated Port au Prince, May 8. 1797.

IN my letter of the 13th of April I have done myself the honour of informing you, that the army of the enemy under Touffaint, after the unexpected evacuation of Mirebalais, had possessed itself of Grand Bois, while the division of their forces on the side of Leogane continued to fire with cannon against Grenier.

The preservation of these posts was an object of considerable moment. Every method was taken, in case of their loss, to guard the mountain, and to dispute the ground on which the enemy could place their howitzers for the destruction of Port-au-Prince, the object which was supposed to be in their contemplation; but, as it was evident that the army of Touffaint could not be prevented from crossing the plain, and, under this impression, the Baron Montalembert had obtained my permission to evacuate the post of Thomazeau, at the foot of the mountains of Grand Bois, I determined to take the guns in the battery against Grenier, that, in case the armies of Touffaint and Leogane should join, they might be totally without cannon, which could not well be brought across the plain of the Cul de Sac, and without cannon the junction or separation of their armies was equally indifferent. Colonel Dessources was therefore placed at the head of 2000 troops, and such preparatory arrangements were made as provided for the protection of L'Archaye, and were well cal-

culated to mislead the enemy; and such feints were directed as might distract their attention.

The attack was intended to have taken place on the 15th of April, but the wind did not permit the arrival of Colonel Dessources with his regiment until the 16th, when he marched early in the morning from Port au Prince to Tourmier. The enemy, as was their custom, placed some troops in ambuscade, who were soon discovered, and the King's forces arrived at Tourmier, with little loss. The enemy had occupied two posts on the crest of the mountain L'Hospitre, on each side of Tourmier, and nearly at two miles distance from it, at the habitations of Boutillier and St Laurent. It was necessary to dislodge them from these positions. Colonel De Peyster was therefore detached to Boutillier, from which, with his usual gallantry and good conduct, he drove the enemy. The post of St Laurent was more obstinately defended, and, by the unfortunate loss of Major Pouchet, who was killed in leading on the Jeremie troops, they were thrown into confusion; nor was the post taken till a greater force, with cannon, appeared against it.

The delay occasioned by the defence of St Laurent induced Colonel Dessources to postpone the attack of the battery till the next day; and that intelligent officer employed the remainder of the night in making such preparations as were necessary to assure the success of this enterprize.

The defence of the Cul de Sac was entrusted to the Baron Montalembert, who made a considerable detachment to the pass where the road from Leogane by Grenier, enters the plain. This detachment was skillfully conducted by Major O'Gorman. It attracted the

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