



THE  
Edinburgh Gazette.

Published by Authority.

FROM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22. TO TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26. 1799.

DOWNING-STREET, NOV. 23. 1799

A letter, of which the following is a copy has been received by Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Alex. Hope, Deputy Adjutant-General to the army lately serving in Holland, from Lieutenant General Sir James Pulteney, Baronet, and; by order of his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, transmitted by him to the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

SIR, SWAN CUTTER, at sea, NOV. 20.

I have from time to time reported to you, for the information of his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, the progress which had been made in the embarkation and departure of the British and Russian troops which were left under my command, in the Province of North Holland; and I am now happy to acquaint you, that the last of them embarked yesterday morning, when the wind being fair, the whole of the ships of war and transports remaining in the Texel left that port.

Every thing belonging to the army was brought off excepting a small proportion of damaged provisions, a few waggons, and about 300 draught horses of little value, for which there was no tonnage; of these the latter alone were saleable, but they bore so small a price, that I thought it better to distribute the whole to the Magistrates of the different villages in and near which the army had been cantoned, to be delivered to any of the inhabitants who might have suffered from the inevitable consequences of war.

Several large Dutch Indiamen and other ships, which it was impossible for us to remove in their present state, but which might have been fitted out as ships of war by the enemy, were completely disabled and rendered useless for any further purpose, through the exertions of a detachment of Seamen, under the direction of Capt. Bovar. The desire of complying most strictly with the ar-

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ticles of the agreement entered into between his Royal Highness and General Brune, prevented their being blown up, which could not have been done without endangering the navigation of the Nieuve Diep.

Vice Admiral Dickson, as well as myself, made it our study to comply in this, as in every other instance, with the articles of the agreement, and I must do the French General the justice to say, that he seemed actuated by the same spirit.

Previous to quitting the Helder, I had, in obedience to his Royal Highness's instructions, discharged every just demand of the inhabitants of the country which has been occupied by the army; and I was happy to find that very few claims were brought forward beyond those which it was in my power to satisfy.

The embarkation of the troops, difficult from the multiplicity of the arrangements required, and sometimes arduous from the state of the weather, was carried on with the utmost zeal and activity by Vice-Admiral Dickson, and the officers and seamen under his command. I feel particularly indebted to Capt. Lawford of his Majesty's ship Romney, who was left on shore, and had the immediate direction of the embarkation, for his exertions and his attention to every branch of his Majesty's service, and to Captain Woodriffe, Principal Agent of the Transport Service, for his great zeal in the execution of the duties of that situation.

I have the honour to be, &c.

JAMES PULTENEY.

The Hon. Col. Hope, Adjutant-General, &c.

P. S. Three armed vessels have been left to cruise off the Texel, to give warning to any British ships of our having evacuated the port.

It was agreed by the French General, that if any should arrive previous to the expiration of the month, they should, as a matter of course, be allowed to depart.

(B.)

