

drawn up, and the Pomona's Musketry Men of the first Line, were detached to gain a Hill on the Left, covered with Wood, which commanded the Pass: These Orders being instantly executed, the Defile was forced. We received a scattering ill directed Fire from 50 or 60 Spaniards, which killed one Soldier only of the Loyal Irish, and wounded a Marine; and so great was their Panick, that they fled on all Quarters to the Fort, Woods and Town, evacuating the Governor's House built with Battlements, and terraced on the Top; a Post which, if defended by 20 British Regulars, would have stopped our whole Force. The gaining this Hill, and that which the Pomona's Men had ascended, gave us the entire View of the Fort, commanding it and the Town in the Bottom, the Fort distant Half a Mile, and the Town close under the Hill. The Skirmishing continued from the Town, and galled us a little; being unwilling to set Fire to it, I desisted upwards of an Hour; but finding that I could not permit an Enemy on my Flank, the Town forming a Crescent under the Hill, Orders were given for its being consumed, which were carrying into Execution, the Inhabitants flying to the Fort and the Woods: The Property consumed in the Town was estimated at 100,000 Piastras. The Squadron came into the Bay while the Town was in Flames; and, supposing it a proper Time to batter the Fort, went in a-breast of it. A Diversion was made by the Land Forces in their Favour from the Hill. The Scaling Ladders were carried by the Honduras Fusileers; but their Eagerness to engage in Skirmishing made them drop the Ladders, and hasten to get up to the Head of the Column; which prevented the Land Forces from co-operating with the Squadron (by storming) so heartily that Day as could have been wished.

The Lowestoffe having got a-ground, and the other Ships, as I imagined, observing the Signal was displayed that the Land Forces could not co operate, desisted firing. The Lowestoffe was much damaged, but got off.

The Day following we passed in skirmishing, in securing the Roads round the Fort, and driving in Cattle for the Land Forces. On the 18th, the Squadron landed some Guns to the Westward; 2 Four Pounders were got up that Night, and a Battery was immediately opened on them.

This Battery incommoded them much, but never could have made any Impression on the Walls of the Parapet, as they were 18 Feet thick.

The Spaniards pointed that Evening three more Guns towards the Land Side, and in the Morning dismounted one of ours. Observing there were some Houses near the Fort which the Spaniards had neglected to burn, Parties of Marines, Bay-men, and Indians occupied them, and kept up so incessant a Fire on the Embrazures of the Fort, that the Spaniards fire from the Guns, were often silenced for Hours, and we observed them throwing over the Dead. This Day 6 more Guns were got up by the Seamen and Bay men, One of which General Dal-ling had sent for the Bay-men, Three others being unfortunately swamped coming on Shore; Captain Cardan opened a Battery of 4 Six-pounders from the Hill which the Pomona's Men had gained in the first Skirmish at the Defile, which also commanded the

Foreseeing that, by a Siege of this Nature, before Approaches could be made in a regular Way, and a Breach effected, a vast Train of Artillery would be required; and a Length of Time, after which we would be obliged to storm, having also the Enemy in our Rear all round; and having maturely weighed all these Circumstances, and the Disadvantage inevitably attending a Siege, it was therefore determined to escalade the Fort, as the Ditch was found to be dry. And, having consulted with the Commodore on the Mode of Attack, it was resolved that the Pomona should be towed close in, the heavier Ships co operating. The Attack being determined on, the Europeans were formed into Four Columns in Line, Four Men advanced with Guides at the Head of each Column, in each Column followed 8 Men carrying the Ladders, who were followed by a few Hand Grenade Men. Two Columns consisted of Seamen and Two of Marines,

with a few Loyal Irish. At Three in the Morning, this Disposition being made; and our Force consisting of 150, we moved down the Hill, and there lay waiting for the Signal of the Charon, which was to denote she had got under Way, and would attack in 20 Minutes. The Signal being made a little after Four o'Clock in the Morning of the 20th, we advanced under the Fire of our own Batteries, and were encouraged, by observing that the Spaniards did not perceive our March, by the Direction of their Shot over us, pointed at our Batteries on the Hills.

The Pomona and Fleet also attracted their Notice by the Fire from the Sea-Side; by this fortunate Co-operation in profound Silence, Arms trailed, and in order to animate the Troops, the Parole was changed to *Bayonette*, and the Counter-sign *Britons Strike Home*. We advanced undiscovered under the Spanish Sentries, who were every two or three Minutes passing the Word *Alerto*. At the Entrance into the Ditch were two Guns pointed from the Flank of the Bastion to scour it. We were perceived by their Sentries, and their Drum beat to the Alarm Posts. Our Columns were staggered, and slept back; but instantly recovering themselves, they advanced to the Wall in Height 28 Feet, on which was a Battery of five Guns; they reared One Ladder, a Second, and a Third; the first Ladder was broke by the Flank Guns of another Bastion, killing a Midshipman, and badly wounding Five Men; the other Ladders were also wounded, but not broke; two Seamen got up first by one Ladder, and obeyed their Orders in not firing, they presented at 60 Spaniards drawn up, but retained their Fire until others ascended; and so great was the Consternation of the Enemy, that it seemed as if they had lost the Power of their Arms, although their Officers were at their Head encouraging them.

The Seamen scrambling up the Ladders, down off the Parapets they went, and, being reinforced by Marines and Seamen, the Spaniards fled to the Casemets, but they could not recover their Panick, notwithstanding every Exertion of their Officers: About 100 Spaniards escaped over the Walls on the opposite Side, and out of a Sally Port. The Governor and principal Officers then came and delivered up to me their Swords, the Garrison and Register Ships, with the Keys of the Fort, and asked their Lives. Inclosed is a List of the Spanish Officers, with the Troops of the Garrison, also a List of our killed and wounded, which is very inconsiderable. We found 11 Spaniards wounded, some of whom are since dead; they will not acknowledge the Number they have lost, but 'tis thought it exceeds Thirty.

As to the Behaviour of the Officers and Soldiers under my Command, the British displayed that Valour, which is their known Characteristic. The Bay-men and Indians were also of the utmost Service in all Duties of Fatigue, in Skirmishing and dragging up the Cannon.

Your Lordship will pardon my mentioning an Instance of an elevated Mind in a British Tar, which amazed the Spaniards, and gave them a very high Idea of English Valour: Not contented with One Cutlass, he had scrambled up the Walls with Two; and meeting a Spanish Officer without Arms, who had been roused out of his Sleep, had the Generosity not to take any Advantage; but, presenting him One of his Cutlasses, told him, "You are now on a Footing with me."—The Orders were, Not to spare while they resisted, but to grant Quarters to all who requested it. Only Two Spaniards were wounded by the Bayonet in resisting, nor was any Person pillaged or plundered.

I have the Pleasure to inform your Lordship, that the greatest Harmony has subsisted between the Sea and Land Forces during the Whole of this Expedition; and that Commodore Luttrell and the Captains of the Navy have, on every Occasion, made the greatest Exertions to forward the Service on Shore; and all underwent the most severe Fatigue, in this hot Climate, with uncommon Alacrity.

Of this Fortification your Lordship will judge of the Importance, from the incredible Expence the Crown of Spain has been at in erecting it, as the Stone of which it is built is raised out of the Sea, and brought Twenty Leagues.