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Admiralty-Office, December 21, 1779.

CAPTAIN Christian, of His Majesty's Armed Ship the Vigilant, arrived here early this Morning with a Letter from Captain Henry, of His Majesty's Ship the Fowey, to Mr. Stephens, dated in Savannah River, Georgia, November 8, 1779, of which the following is an Extract.

IBEG you will be pleased to communicate to the Right Honorable my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the following important Particulars:

That the French Fleet, under the Count d'Estaing, consisting of Twenty Sail of the Line, Two of 50 Guns, and Eleven Frigates, arrived on this Coast the 1st of September past, from Cape Francois, having on Board a large Body of Troops, purposely for the Reduction of this Province: They sailed from the Cape on the 20th of August, and came through the Windward Passage, when they dispatched Two Ships of the Line and Three Frigates to Charles-Town, to announce their Coming, and prepare the Rebel Force by Sea and Land to join the Comte d'Estaing; these Two Ships of the Line and Frigates were seen from Tybee the 3d of September, when Lieutenant Lock, of the Rose, was sent to reconnoitre them, and brought Word they were French.

Lieutenant Whitworth, who commands the Keppel Armed Brig, was ordered to get ready a fast sailing Tender of his own, to proceed to New York with this Intelligence, and sailed with his Dispatches on the 6th, but was chased in again by Seven Sail. On the 7th at Night he made another Attempt, wherein there is every Reason to hope he was successful.

On the 8th, Forty-one Sail were discovered to the Southward of Tybee, plying to Windward, the Wind being Northerly, as it had been for some Days past, drove them to the Southward of this Port.

Major-General Prevoit at Savannah was immediately acquainted of their Appearance, who went to work, with every Exertion, to increase the Fortifications of the Town. Dispatches were sent to the Honorable Colonel Maitland, who was posted with Part of the Army on Port Royal Island, and to Captain Christian, of His Majesty's Ship Vigilant, to repair to Savannah as soon as possible, with the Troops, Ships and Gallies there.

The Fowey, Rose, Keppel Armed Brig, and Germain Provincial Armed Ship, were so placed, that if the French Ships came in superior, we might run up the River; and the leading Marks for the Bar were cut down.

On the 9th the whole French Fleet anchored off the Bar, and next Day Four Frigates weighed and came to Tybee Anchorage. It was determined on their Approach to run up the River with the King's Ships, and join our Force with the General, for

the Defence of the Town; at this Time the French were sending Troops from their Ships, which were first put into small Craft from Charles-Town, and run into Oflabaw Inlet, from whence they were landed in Launches at Bowley, Thirteen Miles from Savannah, under Cover of Four Gallies; and their Frigates were preparing to advance up the River.

From the 10th to the 13th we were busy sending to Town Part of the Fowey and Rose's Guns and Ammunition, in Vessels sent by the General for that Purpose. On the 13th, the Fowey and Rose being much lightened, sailed over the Mudflat to Five Fathom Hole, Three Miles below the Town, from whence were sent up the Remainder of the Guns and Ammunition.

The Comet Galley and Keppel Armed Brig were directed to place themselves so below the Mudflat as to cover the Passage of Colonel Maitland, with the King's Troops from Port Royal, through Walls cut, from whom we had not heard since our Dispatches to them were sent, the Communication with Boats being cut off.

The 14th and 15th the Seamen were employed landing the Cannon and Ammunition of the Ships from the small Vessels, which having done, the Seamen were appointed to the different Batteries, and the Marines incorporated with the Grenadiers of the 60th Regiment.

On the 16th the Comte d'Estaing summoned the General to surrender the Town to the Arms of his most Christian Majesty; at the same Time saying, His Troops were the same who so recently stormed and conquered the Grenades; that their Courage and present Ardour were so great, any Works we should raise, or any Opposition we could make, would be of no Import. Not intimidated with this Language, the General called a Meeting of Field and Sea Officers, when it was resolved to take 24 Hours to consider. In that Time the Troops from Beaufort arrived in Boats from the Vigilant and Transports (in Callibogie Sound) through Walls cut under the Direction of Lieutenant Goldsbrough of the Vigilant; and now the Comte d'Estaing had his final Answer, That we were unanimously determined to defend the Town.

The General, ever attentive to increase the Defences of the Town, with Capt. Moncrief, our principal Engineer, were now indefatigable Night and Day, raising new Works and Batteries which astonished our Enemies; and every Officer, Soldier and Sailor worked with the utmost Chearfulness: And I have the Pleasure to inform their Lordships, the General has been pleased to express his particular Satisfaction with the Services of the Officers and Seamen of the King's Ships and Transports during the whole Siege.

It being apprehended the Enemy's Ships might come too near the Town, and annoy the Rear of our Lines, it was judged expedient to sink a Number of Vessels to stop the Passage; His Majesty's Ship Rose, making at this Time Seventeen Inches Water an Hour, after

sheathing

[Price Seven-Pence.]