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Whitehall, August 13.

Extract of a Letter from the Hon. Major-General Bruce, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in the West Indies, to the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State; dated at Sea, off Martinico, June 23, 1793. Received August 12.

S I R,

IN my Letter of the 25th of May I had the Honor to acquaint you, that I waited for the Report that Colonel Myers should bring from Martinico before I came to a final Determination respecting the Expedition against that Island. He returned the 31st ultimo, and the Information he brought was, that the Planters had expressed great Confidence if we would come down immediately, though only with a very small Force; and on the 6th of this Month a Deputation arrived here from the Committee *intermediaire*, with a very earnest Request for Assistance, stating, that they were then in Possession of some very important Posts, and that our Appearance, with a Force even not exceeding 800 Men, would encourage a great Number of the Royalists to declare themselves, who only waited the Arrival of the English for this Purpose.

These Representations induced me to undertake the Expedition; and the Admiral, who has uniformly complied with every Request that I have made him for forwarding the Service in which we are engaged, had previously consented to receive on board the Fleet such Part of the Troops as he could conveniently carry, and by this Means save a great Expence in Transports.

They embarked accordingly on the 10th, and arrived off Caze Navire on the 11th. The Officer who commanded the Royalists immediately proposed an Attack upon the Town of St. Pierre, which he said we could easily make ourselves Masters of, and that the Influence of the Merchants there was such as would procure the Submission of the rest of the

Island, Fort Bourbon alone excepted, and that there was even a Probability that this Place would very soon surrender for Want of Provisions.

The French Engineers were all confident in the Success of this Plan: Willing, therefore, to shew how ready I was in the Support of their Cause, I ordered the 21st Regiment to land on the 14th at Caze Navire, and there take Post, which enabled the Officer who commanded the Royalists to collect all his Force in the Neighbourhood of St. Pierre; he accordingly moved, and I landed the rest of our Forces on the 16th, and joined him at a very strong Post within about Five Miles of St. Pierre.

The British Troops consisted of the Grenadiers, Light Infantry, and Marines from the Fleet, with the Carolina Black Corps, amounting in all to about 1100 Men: The Corps of Royalists was said to be about 800. This Force was thought to be perfectly adequate to the Service proposed. We were retarded in our Operations by the Difficulty of bringing up the Six Pounders to their Stations, where they did not arrive till the 17th in the Afternoon, when the Enemy made an Attack upon One of them, but were very soon driven back by the Picquets of the Light Infantry; but, I am sorry to say, with the Loss of Captain Dunlop, and Three Men of the Royal Americans.

The Plan we had concerted was the Attack of Two Batteries which defended St. Pierre, the taking of which would immediately put us in Possession of that Town.

The Morning of the 18th was the Time fixed, and we were to move forward in Two Columns, the One consisting of the British Troops, the other of the Royalists; for this Purpose the Troops were put in Motion before Day-Break; but unfortunately some Alarm having taken Place amongst the Royalists, they began, in a Mistake, firing on one another; and their Commander being severely wounded on the Occasion, his Troops were immediately disconcerted, would

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