

had been abandoned by the Enemy. The Top of the Mountain of Faron is intersected by a Succession of transversal Heights, of steep Ascent from the West, and rising successively to the Easternmost Extremity of the Mountain, where the Redoubt of Faron is placed. We found the Enemy drawn up on the Front of this last Ridge. The Rock to the North, on the Right of the Position taken by the Enemy, ends in a Precipice above the Vallon de Favieres; the Ground which lay between the Right of the Enemy and the Column under my Command is a low Ridge, forming the narrow Head of a deep Valley, which descends to the Southward, widening itself by a gradual Turn to the Eastward, so as to form a steep Side to the Left Flank of the Enemy's Position, and ending on the flat Summit of an interior Ridge of the Mountain, directly above the Town of Toulon.

The Enemy were formed in a Line on the Front of the Eminence, and within Musket Shot of our Position: In Front of the Right of the Enemy's principal Line, and on the Crest of the Ridge which forms the Head of the Valley, they had an Advanced Guard of about Fifty Men; in the Rear of their Right Flank, which did not reach up to the Precipice, a Body of about 200 Men were placed en Echelon; a considerable Body was placed en Potence behind the Left of their Line; and in Front of their Left Flank was placed an Advanced Guard, similar to that on the Right; in the Rear, half Way between the Redoubt and the first Line, a strong Column was placed in Reserve; and the Parapet of the Redoubt was lined with Men. The Post of the Enemy commanded very considerably every Part of the Position which we were obliged to occupy. The Left Column, under my Command, arrived first in Presence of the Enemy. I placed the greatest Part of it, under Cover of a rising Ground, behind the narrow Crest of the Valley over which I was to pass, when the Attack should be made. The Column of General Gravina being soon after also in Presence of the Enemy, he formed his Line on an Height, which extended beyond the Left of the Enemy's Position, and was separated from the Height on which I had taken Post by a Branch of the great Valley, running to the Westward, and forming a Dip between the Posts occupied by our respective Divisions. I immediately sent Notice of our being in Presence of the Enemy (by an Officer, who was obliged to make a considerable Circuit) to Governor Elphinstone, who was at Fort Faron.

A brisk Fire, begun by the Advanced Posts of the Enemy, took Place at this Time between them and General Gravina's Line, and a Fire also commenced on the Side of Fort Faron by the Corps under the Command of Colonel del Porto, against the Potence (or Return Line) of the Enemy's Position, which could not, however, at that Time, produce it's Effect, and was soon after very judiciously discontinued. As I could plainly perceive from the Post I occupied that no Impression could be made from a Fire across the deep Part of the Valley, and that there was a Defect in the Disposition of the Enemy's Left, I went to the Right, to communicate my Observations to General Gravina; and it was then agreed that the Corps under the Command of that General should descend, by it's Right, into the Valley, and march, under Cover of the Ascent on the Left of the Enemy, to attack them on that Flank, which they had injudiciously placed upon the extreme Summit of the Hill, so as not to have the Command of the whole Descent, as they might have had, by placing themselves a little below the Brow. It was agreed also, that the Left Column, under my Com-

mand, should endeavour to attract the Attention of the Enemy during this Movement, and that when General Gravina should have attained a certain Point, I should move forward, and the general Attack be made. On my Return to the Left (General Gravina having already began his Movement) I produced my whole Force to the View of the Enemy. The Operation answered to our utmost Wish. The Enemy marched Reinforcements to the Right of their Line, and appeared in Expectation of an immediate Attack from my Column: During this Period General Gravina proceeded down the Valley, and came unperceived up the Side of the Hill occupied by the Enemy; the Line of March round this steep and rocky Ascent being explored, with infinite Intrepidity and Judgment, by Serjeant Moreno of the Spanish Marines, and Three Soldiers of his Corps, to within Pistol Shot of the Enemy's Line. The whole Crest of the Mountain of Faron being a hard grey Rock, without Vegetation, and in some Parts broken into sharp and loose Pieces, which render walking very difficult, the March of General Gravina's Column was necessarily slow: As soon as he had got to the Point agreed upon, the British of my Column, led by Captain Moncrief of the 11th Regiment, and preceded by Thomas Graham, Esq; of Balgeroon, (a Gentleman of independent Fortune, who was attracted to Toulon by the extraordinary Event of it's being in our Possession, to whose Abilities on many Occasions here, and to whose distinguished and exemplary Gallantry on this Occasion the Service has been infinitely indebted) and the Piedmontese Chasseurs, led by Lieutenant-Colonel the Chevalier de Revel, advanced in Two Columns, supported by the Piedmontese Grenadiers, under Colonel the Comte de Forax, the Ridge being too narrow to admit of a Line. A very heavy Fire from the greatest Part of the Enemy's Line checked our Progress for a short Period at somewhat less than Half the Way, between the Ground from which we had advanced and the Enemy's Post. Here a continued Fire was kept up between the Enemy and the British and Piedmontese Troops, under every Disadvantage on our Part of a most exposed and confined Situation. The Column of General Gravina in the mean Time advanced in excellent Order, under Cover of the Hill; the Two Companies of Piedmontese Chasseurs, with the Neapolitan Grenadiers and Spanish Troops, advancing with a regular Progress, and well-supported Fire, towards the Left of the Enemy's Line, whilst the Detachment from Fort Faron, under Colonel Comte del Porto, recommenced their Attack, which they made a real one, instead of a mere Diversion, as at first intended. At this Instant the advanced Part of General Gravina's Column having nearly gained the Brow of the Hill, I perceived the Left of the Enemy's Line begin to waver, and crowd together, and ordered the British and Piedmontese under my Command to rush forward, which they did with the utmost Spirit and Alacrity, under an heavy and galling Fire of the Enemy, which, however, was of very short Duration, for the whole Line of the Enemy, with their different Corps of Reserve, (400 of their Troops having abandoned the Redoubt before the Conclusion of the Action) were thrown into Confusion, and the Rout became general; several were killed in the Pursuit, but a very considerable Number indeed were destroyed by pressing each other over the Precipice in their Flight; 75 of their Dead were collected, without descending into the Valley to which they fell from the Precipice: An Officer and 60 Prisoners were taken; and, by Accounts