

gular though quick Fire of Musquetry on us from the Boulogne, and of Cannon from the Heights which overlook it. We kept them at bay by Discharges of Grape Shot from Time to Time, which prevented their coming so near as to discover the Insufficiency of our Force to repel a closer Attack. A Gun-Boat was stationed to flank the Wall on the Outside, and Two Field Pieces were placed within against the Wicket usually frequented by the Workmen, of whom we were particularly apprehensive. About Eight o'Clock I had the Satisfaction of seeing Lieutenant Gore towing in the Vulcan Fireship. Captain Hare, the Commander, placed her, agreeably to my Directions, in a most manly Manner, across the Tier of Men of War, and the additional Force of her Guns and Men diminished my Apprehensions of the Galley Slaves rising on us, as their Manner and occasional tumultuous Debates ceased entirely on her Appearance. The only Noise heard among them was the Hammer knocking off their Fetters, which Humanity forbade my opposing, as they might thereby be more at Liberty to save themselves on the Conflagration taking Place around them. In this Situation we continued to wait most anxiously for the Hour concerted with the Governor for the Inflammation of the Trains. The Moment the Signal was made, we had the Satisfaction to see the Flames rise in every Quarter. Lieutenant Tupper was charged with the Burning of the General Magazine, the Pitch, Tar, Tallow and Oil Store-Houses, and succeeded most perfectly; the Hemp Magazine was included in this Blaze: Its being nearly calm was unfortunate to the Spreading of the Flames, but 250 Barrels of Tar divided among the Deals and other Timber, insured the rapid Ignition of that whole Quarter which Lieutenant Tupper had undertaken.

The Mast-House was equally well set on Fire by Lieutenant Middleton, of the Britannia. Lieutenant Pater, of the Britannia, continued in a most daring Manner to brave the Flames, in order to complete the Work where the Fire seemed to have caught imperfectly. I was obliged to call him off, lest his Retreat should become impracticable: His Situation was the more perilous, as the Enemy's Fire redoubled as soon as the amazing Blaze of Light rendered us distinct Objects of their Aim: Lieutenant Ironmonger, of the Royals, remained with the Guard at the Gate till the last, long after the Spanish Guard was withdrawn, and was brought safely off by Captain Edge of the Alert, to whom I had confided the important Service of closing our Retreat, and bringing off our detached Parties, which were saved to a Man. I was sorry to find myself deprived of the further Services of Captain Hare: He had performed that of placing his Fireship to Admirable, but was blown into the Water, and much scorched, by the Explosion of her Priming, when in the Act of putting the Match to it. Lieutenant Gore was also much burnt, and I was consequently deprived of him also, which I regretted the more, from the Recollection of his Bravery and Activity in the warm Service of Fort Mulgrave. Mr. Eales, Midshipman, who was also with him on this Occasion, deserves my Praise for his Conduct throughout this Service. The Guns of the Fireship going off on both Sides as they heated, in the Direction that was given them, towards those Quarters from whence we were most apprehensive of the Enemy forcing their Way in upon us, checked their Career. Their Shouts and Republican Songs, which we could hear distinctly, continued till they, as

well as ourselves, were in a Manner thunderstruck by the Explosion of some Thousand Barrels of Powder on Board the Iris Frigate, lying in the Inner Road, without us, and which had been injudiciously set on Fire by the Spanish Boats, in going off, instead of being sunk, as ordered. The Concussion of Air, and the Shower of falling Timber on Fire, was such as nearly to destroy the Whole of us. Lieutenant Patey, of the Terrible, with his whole Boat's Crew, nearly perished; the Boat was blown to Pieces, but the Men were picked up alive. The Union Gun-Boat, which was nearest to the Iris, suffered considerably. Mr. Young being killed, with Three Men, and the Vessel shaken to Pieces. I had given it in Charge to the Spanish Officers to fire the Ships in the Balcon before the Town, but they returned, and reported that various Obstacles had prevented their entering it. We attempted it together, as soon as we had completed the Business in the Arsenal, but were repulsed in our Attempt to cut the Boom, by repeated Volleys of Musquetry from the Flag Ship and the Wall of the Battery Royale. The Cannon of this Battery had been spiked by the judicious Precaution taken by the Governor, previously to the Evacuation of the Town.

The Failure of our Attempt of the Ships in the Balcon before the Town, owing to the Insufficiency of our Force, made me regret that the Spanish Gun-Boats had been withdrawn from me to perform other Service. The Adjutant Don Pedro Cotiella, Don Francisco Riguelme, and Don Francisco Trufello remained with me to the last; and I feel bound to bear Testimony of the Zeal and Activity with which they performed the most essential Services during the Whole of this Business, as far as the Insufficiency of their Force allowed it, being reduced, by the Retreat of the Gun-Boats, to a single Fellucca, and a Mortar-Boat which had expended its Ammunition, but contained 30 Men with Cutlasses.

We now proceeded to burn the Hero and Themistocles, Two Seventy-four Gun Ships, laying in the Inner Road. Our Approach to them had hitherto been impracticable in Boats, as the French Prisoners who had been left in the latter Ship were still in Possession of her, and had shown a Determination to resist our Attempt to come on Board. The Scene of Conflagration around them, heightened by the late tremendous Explosion, had however awakened their Fears for their Lives. Thinking this to be the Case, I addressed them, expressing my Readiness to laud them in a Place of Safety, if they would submit; and they thankfully accepted the Offer, shewing themselves to be completely intimidated, and very grateful for our humane Intentions towards them, in not attempting to burn them with the Ship. It was necessary to proceed with Precaution, as they were more numerous than ourselves. We at length completed their Disembarkation, and then set her on Fire. On this Occasion I had nearly lost my valuable Friend and Assistant, Lieutenant Miller, of the Windsor-Castle, who had staid so long on Board to insure the Fire taking, that it gained on him suddenly, and it was not without being very much scorched, and the Risk of being suffocated, that we could approach the Ship to take him in. The Loss to the Service would have been very great, had we not succeeded in our Endeavours to save him. Mr. Knight, Midshipman of the Windsor Castle, who was in the Boat with me, shewed much Activity and Address on this Occasion, as well as Firmness throughout the Day.

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