

Additions to the heavy Burthens which have been unavoidably imposed on My People.—I trust that their Pressure will, in some Degree, be alleviated by the flourishing State of Our Commerce and Manufactures, and that Our Expences, though necessarily great in their Amount, will, under the actual Circumstances of the War, admit of considerable Diminution in Comparison with those of the present Year.

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

I have observed for some Time past, with the greatest Anxiety, the very high Price of Grain, and that Anxiety is increased by the Apprehension that the Produce of the Wheat Harvest in the present Year may not have been such as effectually to relieve My People from the Difficulties with which they have had to contend. The Spirit of Order and Submission to the Laws, which, with very few Exceptions, has manifested itself under this severe Pressure, will, I am sure, be felt by you as an additional Incentive to apply yourselves, with the utmost Diligence, to the Consideration of such Measures as may tend to alleviate the present Distress, and to prevent, as far as possible, the Renewal of of similar Embarrassments in future. Nothing has been omitted on My Part that appeared likely to contribute to this End; and you may be assured of My hearty Concurrence in whatever Regulations the Wisdom of Parliament may adopt, on a Subject so peculiarly interesting to My People, whose Welfare will ever be the Object nearest My Heart.

*Downing-Street, October 28.*

The Ratifications of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, between His Majesty and the United States of America, signed the 19th of November last, were this Day exchanged by Lord Grenville, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, with William Allen Dias, Esq; Chargé d'Affaires from the United States.

*Herse-Guards, October 31.*

A Dispatch, of which the following is an Extract, has been received by the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Vice-Admiral the Honorable Sir G. K. Elphinstone, K. B. dated on Board His Majesty's Ship Monarch, Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope, August 18, 1795.

I HAD the Honor of informing you, in a former Dispatch, that the Dutch were entrenched in a strong Position at Muyfenbergh, and well furnished with Cannon, having a steep Mountain on their Right and the Sea on the Left, difficult of Approach on Account of shallow Water, with high Surf on the Shore, but which the absolute Necessity of the Post rendered it requisite that we should possess, and

made it obvious to Major-General Craig and myself that it ought to be attempted.

For this Service I secretly prepared a Gun-Boat, and armed the Launches of the Fleet with heavy Cannonades, landed Two Battalions of Seamen, about One Thousand, under the Command of Captains Hardy of the Echo, and Spranger of the Rattlesnake, and sent Ships frequently around the Bay, to prevent Suspicion of an Attack, when any favourable Opportunity might offer.

On the 7th Instant a light Breeze sprung up from the North-West, and at Twelve o'Clock the preconcerted Signal was made; when Major-General Craig, with his accustomed Readiness and Activity, instantly put the Forces on Shore in Motion, and, at the same Moment, Commodore Blankert, equally zealous, in the America, with the Stately, Echo and Rattlesnake, got under Weigh, whilst the Gun-Boat and armed Launches preceded the March of the Troops about Five Hundred Yards, to prevent their being interrupted.

About One o'Clock the Ships, being abreast of an advanced Post of Two Guns, fired a few Shot, which induced those in Charge to depart; and, on approaching a second Post of One Gun and a Royal Mortar or Howitzer, the Effect was the same. On proceeding off the Camp the Confusion was instantly manifest, although the Distance from the Ships was greater than could have been wished, but the Shallowness prevented a nearer Approach.

The Echo led, commanded by Lieutenant Tod of the Monarch, and anchored in Two and a Half Fathoms, followed by the America, which anchored in Four and a Half, then the Stately and Rattlesnake, anchoring nearer, in Proportion to their lesser Draughts of Water, off the Enemy's Works, which began to fire, and the Fire was returned by the Sloops; but an Increase of Wind prevented the large Ships from acting until they had carried out heavy Anchors. This Duty was performed by the Commanders with great Coolness, much to their own Honour and their Country's Credit.

In a few Minutes after the Fire opened, which obliged the Dutch to abandon their Camp with the utmost Precipitation, taking with them only Two Field-Pieces, and at Four o'Clock the Major-General took Possession of it, after a fatiguing March over heavy sandy Ground. To him I beg Leave to refer for the Particulars of what was taken therein, as the Sea ran so high that no Person from the Ships or Gun Boats could venture to land.

In transmitting to you the Proceedings of the Fleet under my Command, I shall at all Times feel great Satisfaction in doing Justice to the Merits of the several Officers. To their Judgment and good Conduct in the present Instance is to be attributed the immediate Success which attended the Attempt; it is therefore my Duty to recommend to His Majesty's Notice Commodore Blankett, Captain Douglas, Lieutenant Tod of the Monarch, commanding the Echo, and Lieutenant Ramage, also of the Monarch, commanding the Rattlesnake, and Mr. Charles Adam, of the Monarch, Midshipman, who commanded the Gun-Boat. I am sensibly obliged to them, each individually, for their steady and correct Discharge of my Orders.

I must further beg Leave to add, that it is universally agreed the Echo's Fire was superiorly directed and ably kept up; and particular Acknowledgements