



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1795.

*Horſe Guards, November 23, 1795.*

**D**ISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies and an Extract, have been this Day received by the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Vice-Admiral Sir George Keith Elphinstone, K. B. and Major-Generals Alured Clarke and J. H. Craig.

*Caſtle of the Cape of Good Hope,  
September 21, 1795.*

S I R,

**T**HE Dutch Governor having not only rejected, in the most peremptory Terms, the Proposals which had been made to him, that the Settlement should place itself under the Protection of Great Britain, but having also acted in a Manner demonstrative of such hostile Dispositions towards us as to justify the Suspicion which was conveyed to us of it's being his Intention to set Fire to Simon's Town, from which all the Inhabitants had been obliged to retire by his Order, the Admiral and myself concurred in thinking it expedient to prevent the Execution of his Purpose, by landing ourselves, and taking Possession of the Place, which I accordingly did on the 14th of July, with the Part of the 78th Regiment under my Command, and the Marines of the Squadron, the latter amounting to about 350 Men, and the former to 450. Very few Days elapsed before our Patroles were fired upon by the Burgher Militia and Hotten-

tots, who occupied the Hills round us, while our People were restrained by the Directions which they had received not to commit any Act of Hostility towards the Dutch Troops. Hostilities being, however, thus commenced, and as the Time approached when we might reasonably expect the Arrival of the Troops and Stores which had been requested of the Governor of St. Helena, it appeared to me to be an Object of Consequence to dispossess the Dutch Forces of the Post which they occupied at the important Pass of Muifenberg, as by it we might perhaps open a more ready Communication with the Country, at the same Time that we should by doing so convince the Inhabitants of the Reality of our Intentions, of which we knew they entertained Doubts. I accordingly proposed it to Sir George Elphinstone, who immediately agreed to it with that Readiness which has so strongly attended all the Instances of Assistance which I have received from him. Sir George having landed a Detachment of Seamen, which was formed into two Battalions, we were only delayed by the Want of a proper Wind, which would not permit the Movement to take Place till the Morning of the 7th of August, when Sir George having made the Signal that it would serve, the America and Stately, with the Echo and Rattlesnake, got under Weigh about Twelve o'Clock, and I marched at the same Time with the 78th and Marines, together with the Seamen, being in all about 1600 Men.

[ Price Niae pence. ]

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