

The Post of Muisenberg being extremely strong to the Front, and covered by a numerous Field Artillery, against which I had not one Gun to oppose, our principal Reliance was upon the Fire from the Ships, which, being properly disposed of at the different Stations assigned them by Commodore Blankett, produced every Effect which could be expected from it. The Enemy were driven from Two Twenty-four Pounders, which were directed towards the Sea, and abandoned the Post before it was possible for us to arrive near enough to profit by the Circumstance so completely as we were in Hopes of doing, as they carried off all their Artillery, except the Two heavy Guns above mentioned, and One Brass Six Pounder, with Two Eight-Inch Howizers.

The Enemy having, however, taken Post on an advantageous Ridge of rocky Heights, very strong, and difficult of Access, a little beyond the Camp, the Advanced Guard, under the Command of Major Money Penny, of the 78th, supported by the Battalion of that Regiment, attacked and drove them from thence with the greatest Spirit, although, in Addition to the Strength of the Ground, the Enemy were further protected by Cannon from the opposite Side of the Lagoon, which covers the Post of Muisenberg towards the Cape Town. In this Affair, which terminated only with the Day, the Activity and Spirit of the Light Company of the 78th, under the Command of Captain Campbell, were conspicuously displayed. Captain Scott, of the 78th, was the only Officer wounded on the Occasion.

The next Morning the Enemy, having drawn out their whole Force from the Cape Town, Eight Field Pieces advanced to attack us, but finding us too strongly posted, and being themselves fired upon from the Pieces they had left behind the preceding Day, which had been drilled and brought forward by the Exertions of a Company of Pikemen under Lieutenant Coffin of the Rattlesnake, they thought it more prudent to desist from the Attempt, and retired, after some skirmishing, attended with little Loss on our Side, and only remarkable for the Steadiness displayed by the 1st Battalion of Seamen, commanded by Captain Hardy of the Echo, who, having crossed the Water with the Marines, received the Enemy's Fire without returning a Shot, and manœuvred with a Regularity which would no have discredited veteran Troops. The Marines, under Major Hill, displayed an equal Degree of steady Resolution on the Occasion.

On the 9th the Arniston arrived from St. Helena, with such Assistance as Governor Brooke had been able to afford us. It consisted of 352 Rank

and File, with some Field Artillery, and a very limited Proportion of Ammunition: They were directed to proceed immediately to Camp, and the Boats of the Fleet were unremittingly employed in forwarding Stores and Provisions to us; a Work in which, from the peculiar Difficulty of our Situation, and the Inefficiency of our Means, our Progress was very slow, and frequently so much interrupted by unfavourable Weather, that we could hardly get a-head of our Consumption. While this necessary Business was going on, our future Operations became the Object of my most earnest Consideration. On the one Hand, as the Enemy appeared numerous, and disposed to an obstinate Defence, for the which they had had ample Time to make the best Preparations, I could not but be sensible that the Force under my Command was, in Point of Numbers, inadequate to the Attempt of reducing them; and I had little to rely on to counterbalance the Disparity, but the Spirit of the Individuals belonging to it. I possessed no Cattle or Carriages for the Transport of Ammunition or Provisions, and a Communication of Twelve Miles was to be kept up to be furnished with either, at least till I could open a shorter one with the Ships that the Admiral might send to Table Bay, for which the Season was still very unfavorable. On the other Hand, though these Difficulties were sufficiently discouraging, yet the Arrival of General Clarke was uncertain, and the State of our Provisions was such as to render the Possibility of our Stay, till it should happen, very doubtful. Under these Circumstances, I determined on an Attempt by Night on the most considerable of the Enemy's Out-Posts, in the Hopes that a severe Execution among the Burgher Militia might intimidate them, and produce Circumstances to our Advantage. It took Place on the 27th of last Month; but unfortunately, notwithstanding every Attention on the Part of Lieutenant-Colonel M'Kenzie, who commanded, it failed, from the Intricacy of the Roads and the Timidity and Ignorance of the Guides; while it served only to produce among the Enemy a Degree of Vigilance, which soon convinced me of the Impracticability of any further Attempt by Way of Surprise.

On the Morning of the 1st of September, the Enemy, having lined the Mountains above us with Hottentots and Burgher Militia, commenced a Fire of Musquetry upon our Camp, which, from the total Want of Effect that had attended a former Attempt of the same Nature, was little attended to, till unfortunately the Picquet of the Reserve, being