



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY

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MONDAY, JULY 4, 1796.

Parliament-Street, July 4, 1796.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, have been received from Lieutenant-General Sir Ralph Abercromby, K. B. by the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

St. Lucia, May 22, 1796.

S I R,

IN Addition to my Letter of the 2d of May, I have the Honor to acquaint you that Major-General Whyte has returned from Berbice, which Colony accepted of the Terms offered to Demerary, and is now in our quiet Possession.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. ABERCROMBY.

St. Lucia, May 22, 1796.

S I R,

IN my Letter of the 4th of May I had the Honor to acquaint you of the unsuccessful Attack on the Enemy's Batteries on the Side of the Grand Cul de Sac; and as it had been previously determined that the principal Attack on the Enemy's Works should be made on the North Side of Morne Fortuné by the Ridge of Duchasseaux, every Exertion was made to complete the Road for erecting the necessary Batteries, and to bring forward the Artillery and Ammunition. On the 16th Instant the Batteries, con-

sisting of Eighteen Pieces of Ordnance, were opened. These could only be considered in the Light of a First Parallel. The Second Parallel is now nearly complete, and the Lodgment for the last or Third is to be made To-Morrow. If this Operation should be attended with the Effect expected from it, it is probable that we shall, in the Course of Ten or Twelve Days, be in Possession of the Enemy's Works upon Morne Fortuné. It is difficult for me to give an adequate Idea of the Ground on which we are obliged to act. The natural Obstructions, as well as every Obstacle that the Enemy could throw in our Way, render the Post of Morne Fortuné not only respectable, but in a high Degree difficult to be subdued.

As the Enemy still retained Possession of the Vigie, and as they only held it with a slender Force, it appeared of Consequence to get Possession of it, as it would shorten our Line of Attack, and cover our Right Flank; and also as it gave us in some Degree the Command of the Casenage. For this Purpose, on the Night of the 17th Instant, the 31st Regiment, happening to be the Regiment nearest at Hand, was ordered to march immediately after it was dark to take Possession of the Vigie, where the Enemy had not apparently more than from One Hundred and Fifty to Two Hundred Men. The first Part of the Attack succeeded to our Wish; a Battery of Three Eighteen Pounds,