

I could be under no Apprehension for the Safety of the Colony from any Force which could be landed from Nine Ships of War. It became, however, an Object of infinite Importance to the Welfare of the Settlement to prevent any Body of the Enemy from throwing themselves into the Country. At the same Time the Security of the Cape Town became an Object of particular Attention, both from the reasonable Expectation, that the Enemy would not have come with such a Force without a Prospect of a Junction with some other Armament, and from the Possibility of the Admiral being prevented from doubling the Cape by the North-Westerly Winds which usually prevail at this Season, and which would carry the Enemy in Six Hours from Saldanha to Table Bay. It was therefore with particular Satisfaction that I found myself possessed of a Force adequate to both these Objects.

No Time was lost in making the necessary Arrangements in a Country totally unused to a Movement of this Nature. The Troops began their March on Sunday Morning, necessarily by Divisions, on Account of Subsistence. The Burgher Senate was assembled, to whom I exposed my Intentions, to which they expressed the most ready Compliance. Waggons were every where demanded by them and furnished with Cheerfulness. Cavalry was necessary, but the Appointments of the 28th were on Board a Ship which had failed in Quest of the Admiral. Those of the 25th were also on Board Ship in Simon's Bay, and we had not above Fifty Horses. The Appointments were brought up, and I did not scruple, on such an Occasion, to require all Saddle-Horses without Exception to be brought in, which were valued by Two Members of the Court of Justice, and Two Officers of the 28th Dragoons, and paid for on the Spot to the entire Satisfaction of the Owners.

By these Means, Sir, leaving Major-General Doyle in the Command of the Troops at and about Cape Town, amounting to near 4000 Men, and Brigadier-General Campbell in the immediate Command of the Town, I, on the Morning of the 16th Instant, reached Saldanha Bay, at the Head of the Advanced Guard, consisting of the Light Infantry, a Body of Hottentots, and Fifty of the 25th Light Dragoons, assisted by Brigadier-General M'Kenzie, the Remainder of whose Corps, consisting of the Grenadiers, the 78th and 80th Battalions, Fifty more of the 25th and One Hundred of the 28th

Light Dragoons, in all about 2500 Men, with Two Howitzers and Nine Field Pieces, arrived there also in an Hour after.

In the mean Time the Admiral had returned to False Bay, and on there receiving the first Accounts of the Enemy being in Saldanha Bay, had put to Sea again with the utmost Expedition; and we had the Satisfaction, from the Heights from whence we descended to the Shores of the Bay, to see him, with all his Sails crowded, advancing with a fair Wind directly to the Mouth of the Harbour, though still at some Distance. One of the Enemy's Frigates, which lay near the Shore to cover their Watering, cannonaded us very briskly as we descended the Heights, though without Effect, and we returned their Fire with as little, having at that Time only Three Pounders with us; but a Howitzer being brought up, a few Shells were thrown with great Precision by Captain Robertson, who would probably soon have destroyed her; but perceiving that our Fleet was then entering the Bay, and that there was no Possibility of her escaping, I desisted from firing, thinking it more for His Majesty's Interest that she should share the Fate of the Remainder of the Squadron, the Capture of which appeared to me to be inevitable, than that we should risk the destroying her, from a vain Punctilio of obliging her to strike to us. We then employed ourselves in making the necessary Dispositions for affording such Assistance as might be in our Power, in the Event of the Obstinacy of the Enemy obliging the Admiral to attack them, as well as such as would be expedient in case they should run their Ships on Shore, neither of which, however, I thought probable. I was accordingly informed, by a Letter from Sir George the following Morning, that the Whole had surrendered themselves to him.

The Means by which this Event has been accomplished, Sir, has not afforded any Opportunity to His Majesty's Troops of displaying that Bravery in his Service, which I am confident they would have shewn, had the Occasion presented itself: But if the utmost Alacrity and Cheerfulness, under almost every Privation, except that of Meat, during a March of Ninety Miles, through so barren a Country that there exist but Five Houses in the whole Line, have any Merit, I can with Truth present them to His Majesty's Notice.

This March, Sir, has never yet I believe been attempted by any Body of Troops, however small,

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