

and, permit me to assure you, has been attended with such uncommon Difficulties, that it never could have been accomplished but by the Display of the Qualities I have mentioned in the Troops, and a Union of extraordinary Exertions in all the Departments concerned. In these all have equal Claim to my Acknowledgments; but I cannot dispense with particularizing the Intelligence and Activity with which, regardless of the uncommon Fatigue which attended it, Lieutenant M<sup>c</sup>Nab, of the 98th Regiment, with about Twenty of his mounted Men, performed the Service allotted to him of watching the Enemy, and preventing any Communication with them, from the first Moment of their coming into the Bay, till our Arrival.

It is, Sir, with very particular Satisfaction that I have further to report, that I have received, on this Occasion, every possible Assistance from His Majesty's Subjects of the Colony.

The Burgher Senate have discharged the Duty imposed upon them with the greatest Readiness, Impartiality, and Activity, whilst their Requisitions and Orders on the Inhabitants for their Waggon, Cattle and Horses, have been complied with with a Cheerfulness which could, I am satisfied, only proceed from a Conviction of the Preference to be given to His Majesty's mild and paternal Government over the wild System of Anarchy and Confusion from which they were furnishing the Means of being effectually defended.

This will be delivered to you, Sir, by my Aide-de-Camp, Captain Baynes, who has been in this Country since the first Arrival of His Majesty's Troops under my Command, and to whose intelligent and active Assistance I have been, on every Occasion, highly indebted. I beg Leave, Sir, most humbly to recommend him to His Majesty's Notice.

I have the Honor to be,

With the greatest Respect, Sir, &c.

J. H. CRAIG.

*Admiralty-Office, November 3, 1796.*

**D**ISPATCHEs, of which the following are Copies, (brought by Captain John Aylmer, of His Majesty's Ship Tremendous) were this Day received from the Honorable Vice-Admiral Sir George Keith Elphinstone, K. B.

*Monarch, Saldanha Bay,*

*August 19, 1796.*

S I R,

I Have the Honor to inclose a List of a Dutch Squadron under the Command Rear-Admiral Engelbertus Lucas, sent hither for the Reduction of

this Colony, but which were compelled to surrender by Capitulation, on the 17th Instant, to the Detachment of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, named in the Margin \*, on the Terms also inclosed. For further Particulars I beg Leave to refer you to the accompanying Detail of the Proceedings of the Squadron from the 4th to the 18th Instant, and I hope the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will approve the Measures I have taken, so essential to the British Commercial Interests in the East.

The Ships are all copped, and in good Condition, excepting the Castor, whose Rudder is defective.

In Justice to the Officers and Men I have the Honor to command, it is my Duty to observe, that, in consequence of the most violent tempestuous Weather I ever beheld, and the very unpleasant Situations in which the Squadron was at Times placed, they cheerfully, and much to their Credit, underwent a Degree of Fatigue hardly credible.

Captain Aylmer will have the Honor of presenting these Dispatches. I beg Leave to mention him to their Lordships, as a respectable Gentleman and an active Officer.

I have the Honor to be, with great Esteem,

S I R,

Your most obedient humble servant,

G. K. ELPHINSTONE.

*Evan Nepean, Esq;*

*Monarch, Saldanha Bay, August 19, 1796.*

S I R,

I Have the Honour to inform you, that Intelligence was received at Cape Town, on the 3d Instant, of a Number of Ships having been seen in the Offing at Saldanha Bay, which was confirmed on the 5th. In consequence of this every Preparation was made for putting to Sea immediately, with the Squadron under my Command; but from the Monarch's Main-Mast being out, and the tempestuous Weather, I was not able to quit the Anchorage in Simon's Bay until the 6th, when we proceeded to Sea.

On getting under Weigh an Officer from the Shore came on Board to inform me that a Number of Sails had been seen the preceding Night in the Offing, near False Bay; I then resolved to steer to the Southward and West, in Expectation of their having taken that Course.

The Squadron continued cruising in the most tempestuous Weather I have ever experienced, which

\* Monarch, Tremendous, America, Stately, Ruby, Sceptre, Trident, Jupiter, Crescent, Sphynx, Mofelle, Rattlesnake, Echo, Hope.