

jeſty's Forces in the Iſland of St. Domingo; dated on board His Majeſty's Ship Thunderer, off Mole St. Nicolas, the 10th of May, 1798.

S I R,

I Embrace the very firſt Opportunity of informing you, that on the 22d of laſt Month I came to the Reſolution of immediately evacuating the Towns of Port au Prince and St. Marc's, with their Dependencies, together with the Pariſh of Arcahaye; and it is now with great Pleaſure I have the Honor of acquainting you, that this Meaſure has been carried into complete Effect without the ſmalleft Loſs of any Kind, and in a Manner, I flatter myſelf, to give perfect Satisfaction, as far as, under the Circumſtances, it was poſſible, to all the French Inhabitants and Planters, whether theſe choſe to follow the Fortune of His Majeſty's Arms, or to remain in the Part of the Colony about to be evacuated.

In conſidering the Modes of effecting this very difficult but important Object, there ſeemed to me but two in any Degree practicable; the one, to withdraw the ſmall British Force and ſuch of the Colonial Troops as it was immediately poſſible to induce to go with us, in a precipitate Manner, after blowing up the Forts; the other, to ſtate fairly my Determination, and, acting as Events occurred, to endeavour in a deliberate Way to withdraw the whole of our Stores and Force, and at the ſame Time to attempt to obtain ſome Terms for the numerous Inhabitants, who, either from Neceſſity or Choice, wiſhed to remain.

The Firſt of theſe Meaſures ſeemed to me (however ſafe to the British) to be ſo perfectly contrary to the ſpirit of Generoſity and Liberality which has ever actuated the British Nation, and ſo certain of being attended with immediate and ſhocking Scenes of Bloodſhed among the Inhabitants, whoſe natural Impetuouſity of character would be encreaſed by contending Paſſions, deluded Hopes, and different Interests, that I determined at once to ſet it aſide; and I began the 23d ultimo, in conſequence of adopting the ſecond, to embark the heavy Stores of every Deſcription; ſtating my full Determination to all the Parties concerned, and ſending at the ſame Time a Flag of Truce to General Touſſaint l'Ouverture, at Gonaives, to acquaint him with my Reſolution, and leaving to his Option, either to obtain the Poſſeſſions we evacuated in a ſtate of Ruin, or *in a ſtate of perfect Order*, provided he would guarantee, in a ſolemn Manner, the Lives and Properties of ſuch Perſons as choſe to remain.

General Touſſaint immediately agreed to the laſt Propoſition, and ſent to Port-au-Prince on the 28th inſtant a confidential Officer, who, having met Lieutenant-Colonel Nightingall, Deputy Adjutant-General, on my Part, on the 30th of April the accompanying Agreement was mutually exchanged and ratified by both Parties.

The Stipulation in favor of the Inhabitants and Planters afforded them the only Security in my Power to obtain, and with which they were ſo entirely ſatisfied, that although at firſt they had univerſally reſolved to follow the King's Forces, yet, upon hearing of this Agreement in their Favor, many of them who had actually embarked relanded, and I think I may ſafely aſſure you, there are not Ten rich Proprietors who have, ultimately, upon this Occaſion quitted their Properties.

By the 6th Inſtant the whole of the heavy Britiſh Stores of every Deſcription being embarked, and all the French Braſs Guns and Mortars, with ſuch of the Inhabitants as voluntarily wiſhed to go, and all the Merchandize belonging to British Merchants, I ordered the Pariſh of L'Arcahaye to be evacuated, which was accordingly done the 7th at Noon. The 8th, at Two o'Clock in the Morning, I withdrew the whole of the Force from Port-au-Prince, and embarked it at Fort Bizoton, and on the 9th in the Morning the whole Fleet ſailed to its different Deſtinations.

I have not heard from Colonel Grant, who commanded at St. Marc's, but I have every Reaſon to believe he evacuated that Place on the 6th or 7th of this Month, and I entertain no Doubt but that he is now at the Mole, where I ordered him to proceed with his Gariſon.

You will readily believe, that on ſuch an Occaſion much Military Precaution, and much Exertion in all the Departments muſt have been neceſſary, as well for the Honour and Security of His Majeſty's Arms, as to enable me to move off within a reaſonable Period.

Of the Conduct of the Officers and Men of His Majeſty's British and Colonial Forces, I have nothing to ſay, but what tends infinitely to their Credit.

To the Heads of Departments I feel myſelf extremely indebted for the Zeal and Activity with which they ſeconded my Wiſhes, moſt particularly to Lieutenants-Colonels Nightingall and Littlehales, Deputies Adjutant and Quarter-Maſter Generals, and to Captain Spicer, commanding the Royal Artillery; nor can I here omit doing myſelf the Pleaſure of ſignifying to you what very eſſential Aid I have received from the Zeal and Intelligence of Mr. Wigglesworth, His Majeſty's Commiſſary General.

To the Royal Navy I am under every Obligation for their cordial Aſſiſtance throughout the whole of this Service; to Captains Couchet and Ogilvie of His Majeſty's Ships Abergavenny and Thunderer, it is principally owing that I was enabled to carry my Wiſhes into early Effect.

Lieutenant Young, of the Navy, Chief Agent of Transports, conducted himſelf in the Execution of this arduous Taſk in ſuch a Manner that I ſhould neglect a very material, though pleaſant Part of my Duty, were I not to ſeize this Opportunity to recommend him in the ſtrongeſt Manner to your Notice. He is a very old Officer, but his Length of Services has neither impaired his Zeal, or diminiſhed his Activity.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

THOMAS MAITLAND,

Brigadier-General, commanding in St. Domingo,

THE Honourable Brigadier-General Maitland, commanding in Chief His Britannick Majeſty's Forces in the Iſland of Saint Domingo, having intimated to General Touſſaint l'Ouverture, commanding the French Army in the ſaid Iſland, his Intention to evacuate the Towns of Port-au-Prince, St. Marc's, and their Dependencies, with the Pariſh of L'Arcahaye; and having propoſed to General Touſſaint l'Ouverture, to ſend a Perſon to Port-au-Prince, charged with full Powers, that this object might be effected in a Manner moſt conſonant to the Interests of Humanity and the Views of each Party; and General Touſſaint l'Ouverture, having conſented