



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

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THE following Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Sir Ralph Abercromby, K. B. to the Earl of Elgin, together with Dispatches from His Lordship to His Royal Highness the Duke of York and Lord Hawkesbury, and a Letter from Colonel Anstruther to Colonel Brownrigg, of which the following are Extracts, have been this Day received.

Copy of a Letter from Sir Ralph Abercromby to the Earl of Elgin, dated Camp before Alexandria, 16th March 1801.

MY LORD,

ON the 1st Instant the Fleet arrived in Sight of Alexandria; on the 2d it anchored in Aboukir Bay; the Weather did not permit any Debarkation before the 8th; on that Day it was happily effected, under the most trying Circumstances. The Boats had near a Mile to row, and were for some Time under the Fire of Fifteen Pieces of Artillery, and the Musquetry of Two Thousand Five Hundred Men; still the Intrepidity of the Troops overcame every Difficulty. We took Eight Pieces of Cannon.

On the 9th, the Remainder of the Army was landed. On the 12th, we marched forwards to within Two Leagues of Alexandria, and One League of the Enemy, who were advantageously posted on a Ridge, with their Right to the Canal of Alexandria, and their Left to the Sea. On the 13th, we moved forwards to attack the Enemy, and to turn their Left. They did not, however, wait, but came down and attacked us. The Action was warm; but the Enemy were everywhere forced under the Walls of Alexandria. Our Loss is considerable. Although Colonel Erskine is wounded, he is doing well. He has lost a Leg. His Regiment gained great Credit, but suffered severely. No Officer of Rank is killed or dangerously wounded. Excuse this Scrawl, written on my Kneec.

R. ABERCROMBY.

Extract of a Letter from the Earl of Elgin to His Royal Highness the Duke of York, dated Constantinople, April 4, 1801.

AS Colonel Anstruther's Letter to me, which accompanied that to Colonel Brownrigg, was written on the 16th of March, It ake the Liberty of adding to your Royal Highness, that Menou having with 2000 Cavalry joined the Corps at Alexandria, attacked Sir Ralph Abercromby on the 21st. The Assault was vigorous; but the Enemy were entirely repulled with great Loss, not however before Sir Ralph Abercromby, General Moore, General Hope, and Sir Sidney Smith, had been wounded slightly, and Colonel Abercromby had lost a Limb. Colonel Paget appears to have had a slight Wound.

Lord Keith's last Letter says all the wounded are surprisngly well, considering they are all by Cannon or Grape Shot. I may add, that my Janissary, who left Rhodes on the 27th, mentions, that some of the Troops who came there first, or had been left sick, were already so well as to have sailed from thence to join.

Nothing could have been more brilliant than our Operations appear to have been.

Extract of a Letter from Lord Elgin to Lord Hawkesbury, dated Constantinople, April 14, 1801.

I Have the Happiness of informing your Lordship, that I have this Moment received an Exprefs from Rhodes, dated 27th March, with a Series of private Accounts, of the successful Progress of Sir Ralph Abercromby's Army.

It appears that Menou must have set out from Cairo, on the First Intelligence of Sir Ralph Abercromby's Landing. Meanwhile our Army had advanced (under Circumstances far too honourable for the British Arms, for me to attempt relating on the imperfect Details I possess), and had taken Post within Three Miles of Alexandria, where they had prepared against an Attack from Menou, who, with

Two Thousand Cavalry, having formed a Junction with the Garrison of Alexandria, came against our Army on the 21st.

In this Action we have to regret about Five Hundred Men killed and wounded; while the Enemy positively lost Two Thousand Men killed and wounded, and Five Hundred taken Prisoners. On the preceding Wednesday, Aboukir Castle surrendered, and the British and Turkish Flags were flying there.

Extract of a Letter from Colonel Anstruther to Colonel Brownrigg, dated Camp near Alexandria, 16th March 1801.

THE Fleet sailed from Marmaxie on the 22d February, and anchored in Aboukir Bay on the 2d March. From that Day to the 7th, the Weather was so boisterous, and the Swell so great, that it was impracticable to disembark. This Circumstance gave the Enemy full Leisure to collect Troops and Artillery, and to make every necessary Preparation to oppose us. The whole Infantry of the Garrison of Alexandria, Three Hundred Cavalry, and Fourteen or Fifteen Pieces of Cannon, were placed on a Space of little more than Two Miles, from near the Castle of Aboukir to the narrow Isthmus, which forms the Boundary of the Lake. Such was the Situation in which we found Things, on the Morning of the 8th, when the Descent was made. Nothing, I believe, ever exceeded the Boldness and Perseverance with which the Boats continued to approach the Shore, under a Shower of Bullets, Shells, and Grape. Every Discharge was answered by a Shout from the Seamen, and all seemed totally insensible of Danger. The Reserve on the Right formed as if on the Parade, and in a Moment carried a Height nearly equal to, and very like to, that of Camperdown. The Left were charged by the Cavalry, the Moment they got out of the Boats. However, they drove every Thing before them; and in the Course of Three Quarters of an Hour, the Enemy was completely beaten, with the Loss of Half his Artillery. After a Halt of Two or Three Hours, in order to disembark Ammunition, and Part of General Coote's Brigade, which had not been landed, the Army advanced about Four Miles, where we remained till the 12th; the

landing of Provisions and Stores being much impeded by the boisterous Weather.

On the 12th, we again marched about Five Miles, constantly skirmishing with the Advanced Guard of the Enemy, who had received a Reinforcement of Two Half-Brigades of Infantry, and One Regiment of Cavalry, from Cairo. We halted, for the Night, about Three Miles from the Enemy's Position, which seemed and proved very advantageous.

Next Morning the Army moved to attack the Right of it, marching by Lines from the Left; the Reserve covering the Movement, and moving parallel with the first Fire. As the Columns advanced into the Plain, the Enemy attacked the Heads of both with all his Cavalry, supported by a considerable Body of Infantry, and Ten or Twelve Pieces of Cannon. This Attack was repulsed by the Advanced Guard (the 90th and 92d), both of which behaved most nobly. The First Line then formed Two Lines to the Front of March, the Flanks of which were protected by the Reserve, and continued to advance in that Manner, whilst the Second Line continuing still in Column (excepting the First Brigade of it), turned the Enemy's Right, and forced him to quit his Position. The Army followed in the Order above stated, and Sir Ralph had given Orders for renewing the Attack on the Heights close to the Town, to which the Enemy retreated; but on examining them with Attention, it was thought that they were under the Guns of the Forts, and could not probably be kept if carried; the Army took up in the Evening the Ground which the Enemy had quitted.

The Force the Enemy opposed to us appeared about Five Thousand Infantry, Six Hundred Cavalry, and a large Proportion of Artillery; the Ground being particularly favourable to the Two last. The Movements, although under a constant Cannonade, were regular and accurate: The General, in this last Action, had his Horse shot under him.

The Position we occupy is good; it cuts off the Communication between Alexandria and the Nile, excepting through the Desert: Our Supplies are conveyed by Means of the Lake with Ease and Security.

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