



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1806.

*Downing-Street, September 13, 1806.*

**D**ISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies and Extracts, have this Day been received at the Office of the Right Honorable William Windham, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Major General Beresford, commanding a Detachment of His Majesty's Troops in South America.

*SIR, Fort of Buenos Ayres, July 2, 1806.*

**I**HAD the Honor to communicate to you, by my Letter dated the 30th April, the Circumstances of my Arrival at St. Helena, and the Result of the Application to the Honorable the Governor of that Place for Troops.

The Fleet sailed thence the 2d of May, and after a most unexpected long Passage made Cape St. Mary on the 8th of June: His Majesty's Ship Narcissus had been dispatched from the Fleet on the 27th of May, and Sir Home Popham thought it right to proceed in her for the Purpose of making himself acquainted with the Navigation of the River, that no Delay might occur in proceeding immediately on the Arrival of the Troops to such Place as our Information should induce us first to attack. I had sent Captain Kennet of the Royal Engineers (not liking myself to leave the Troops) in the Narcissus, to make such Reconnoitring of the Enemy's Places on the River, as Circumstances would admit; and to collect every possible Information concerning them, and the Strength of the Enemy at the several Places.

From Fogs and baffling Winds we did not meet the Narcissus until the Sixth Day after our Arrival in the River, and I had there the Satisfaction to see in Company with her the Ocean Transport, which had parted from us previous to our going to St. Helena. Sir Home Popham and myself immediately consulted whether it would be better first to attack the Town of St. Philip of Monte-Video; or Buenos Ayres, the

Capital of the Provinces; and after much reasoning, we determined to proceed against Buenos Ayres, which made it necessary to remove from the Line of Battle Ships, the Troops and Marines, and such Seamen as were incorporated with the latter, and others that had been practised to Arms during the Passage, into the Transports, and His Majesty's Ship Narcissus, which was effected on the 16th Ult. and though then only about Ninety Miles from Buenos Ayres; still, though to his Skill Sir Home Popham added the most persevering Zeal and Assiduity, yet from Fogs, the Intricacy of the Navigation, and continual opposing winds, it was not until the 24th, at Night, that we reached opposite to it. We found ourselves the next Morning, about eight Miles from the Point of Quilmes, where I proposed landing, having been informed by an Englishman, who was Pilot for the River, and who had been taken by the Narcissus out of a Portuguese Vessel, that it was an excellent Place, and an easy Access from it into the Country. As soon as the Wind would permit, on the 25th Sir Home Popham took the Shipping as near as it was possible for them to go; and at a convenient Distance for disembarking, which was effected in the course of the Afternoon and Night, and without any Opposition: the Enemy remaining at the Village of Reduction, on a Height about Two Miles from us in our Front: the whole intermediate Space, as well as to the Right and Left, being a perfect Flat; but my Guide informed me that though in Winter it was impassable, it was then very practicable, and easy for Guns to pass.

It was Eleven o'Clock in the Morning of the 26th, before I could move off my Ground, and the Enemy could, from his Position, have counted every Man I had; the Numbers as per Margin\*. He was drawn up along the Brow of a Hill, on which was

\* See the "Actual State of the Troop, &c." at the end of this Letter.