

Currents, continual Fogs, and the great Inaccuracy of the Charts; but by the unremitting, and laborious Exertions of the Officers and Men I had the Honor to command, these Difficulties were surmounted, and the Squadron anchored on the Afternoon of the 25th off Point Quelmeý à Pouichin, about Twelve Miles from Buenos Ayres.

As it was impossible for the *Narcissus* to approach the Shore on Account of the Shoalness of the Water, the Encounter was run in so close as to take the Ground, the more effectually to cover the Debarkation of the Army in case of Necessity: the Whole however was landed in the course of the Evening without the least Opposition; consisting of the Detachment of His Majesty's Troops from the Cape, and that from St. Helena, with the Marine Battalion under the Orders of Captain King, of His Majesty's Ship the *Diadem*, which was composed of the Marines of the Squadron augmented by the Incorporation of some Seamen, and Three Companies of Royal Blues from the same Source of Enterprize, which had been regularly trained for that Duty, and dressed in an appropriate Uniform.

The Enemy was posted at the Village of Reduction, which was on an Eminence about Two Miles from the Beach, with the Appearance of a fine Plain between the Two Armies, which however proved on the following Morning to be only a Morass in a high State of Verdure.

This in some Measure checked our Advancement, nor did the Enemy open his Field Train till the Troops were nearly in the Middle of the Swamp, from whence he thought it was impossible for them to be extricated.

The able and excellent Disposition of General Beresford, and the Intrepidity of his Army, very soon however satisfied the Enemy, that his only Safety was in a precipitate Retreat, for we had the Satisfaction of seeing from the Ships near Four Thousand Spanish Cavalry flying in every Direction, leaving their Artillery behind them, while our Troops were ascending the Hill with that Coolness and Courage, which has on every Occasion marked the Character of a British Soldier, and has been exemplified in proportion to the Difficulties and Dangers by which he was opposed.

I have probably trespassed on a Line that does not immediately belong to me, but I could not resist the Gratification of relating to their Lordships what I saw; assuring myself, at the same Time, they will be convinced, if the Enemy had given the Squadron an equal Opportunity, I should have had the pleasing Duty of reporting an honorable Issue to the Effect of their eminent Zeal and Exertions.

On the 27th, in the Morning, we saw some Firing near the Banks of the River Chello, but it blew so hard that it was totally impracticable to have any Communication with the Shore during that Day.

Early on the 28th, a Royal Salute was fired from the Castle of Buenos Ayres in Honor of His Majesty's Colours being hoisted in South America, and instantly returned by the Ships lying off the Town.

I now consider it to be a proper Moment for acknowledging in Terms of the sincerest Gratitude, my high Sense of the zealous and animated Conduct of every Officer and Man in the Squadron which I have the extraordinary good Fortune to command.

Captain Rowley, with Captain Edmonds under his Orders, continued as long as the Weather would permit an advantageous Demonstration off Maldonado.

Captain Donnelly, who did me the Favour of requesting I would go up the River in the *Narcissus*, and to whom, from his Rank, no specific Service could be assigned in our small Scale of Operations, applied himself in every Occasion where he could promote the Objects of the Expedition:—and, as he is charged with this Dispatch, I take the Liberty of recommending him to their Lordships' Protection, under a full Conviction they will obtain, through him, every Information which they have a Right to expect from an Officer of great Intelligence and long meritorious Service.

I consider Captain King, with the Officers of the Marine Battalion, so completely under the Report of General Beresford that I shall only state to their Lordships my extreme Satisfaction on hearing personally from the General how highly he appreciated every Part of their Conduct, particularly the Celerity with which they transported the Artillery and Troops across the Rio Chello after the Bridge was burnt by the Enemy.

Lieutenant Talbot of the Encounter manifested great Zeal in every Instance where it was necessary to call on him; Lieutenant Groves of the *Diadem* was also very active in landing the Ordnance and Ordnance Stores, and I think it highly proper to state to their Lordships that the Masters and Crews of the different Transports behaved with great Attention during the Whole of this Service.

I inclose a Copy of the Terms* granted to the Inhabitants after the Capture of the City, by which their Lordships will see that the coasting Vessels in the River, supposed with their Cargoes to amount to One Million and a Half of Dollars, were restored to the Proprietors; for an early Record to the Country of the great Liberality of His Majesty's Government.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

HOME POPHAM.

I have sent Lieutenant Groves to take Possession of *Ensenada de Baragon*, a Port to the Eastward of Buenos Ayres, where I understand there are Two Gun Vessels and Two Merchant Ships. H. P.

* See Major-General Beresford's Dispatches.

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