

the Day of Corpus Christi, a great national Festival, when it had been usual for the Portuguese Regiments to attend with Colours flying. The Governor, D'Oliveira, in consequence of Orders from Junot, attempted to establish the French Flag instead of the Portuguese at the Procession. This violent Attack on the national Custom drew forth the Murmurs of the Populace to so great a Degree, that an Attempt to compromise on the Part of the Governor had no Effect; and on the 18th, in the Evening, the Day before my Arrival here, they were excited to such a Degree of Fury, that, countenanced by the Priests, the People rose in Masse, broke open the Depôts, and supplied themselves with Twenty-five Thousand Stand of Arms, and, together with the Regulars, formed a most determined and enthusiastic Army. From this Moment all French Authority ceased; and every Man, either French, or suspected of being inclined to the French Interest, was arrested.

The Bishop of Oporto was elected as the new Governor, and an Army of Twenty Thousand Men sent to meet the French, who had advanced to the Amount of Nine Hundred within Six Leagues of Oporto.

The Enthusiasm has communicated from one to the other, and the Portuguese Provinces of Traloz, Moutos, Minho, and the Northern Part of Beira, in Imitation of the Spaniards, have risen in Arms, determined to extirpate the French from their Kingdom. From the most moderate Accounts, besides what are at Oporto, I may estimate them at upwards of One Hundred Thousand Men.

All the regular Regiments disbanded by the French are forming again with the greatest Alacrity, and will soon join them. I have this Day had an Interview with His Excellency the Governor, conducted to him amidst the Shouts and Huzzas of the Populace.

To-morrow I send a Party of Men to mount the Guns of a large Brazil Ship, the Command of which is given to an Englishman, and destined as a Floating Battery to defend the Bridge, in case the French should have the Temerity to approach, though such an Event is not to be apprehended. If any Requisition is made for Powder, I shall comply with it, but they have at present Abundance of Arms, Ammunition and Provisions.

The Detestation of the Portuguese to the French is so great, that Captain Jones and myself, after having begged the Life of the French Intendant of Police, had the greatest Difficulty in conveying him a Prisoner to the Boat, and the unbounded Love and Respect for the English alone prevented the enraged Populace from tearing him to Pieces.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) G. A. CREYKE.

Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, Bart. Commander in Chief, &c.

Admiralty-Office, July 12, 1808.

*Extract of a Letter from Captain Digby, of His Majesty's Ship the Cossack, addressed to the Right Honourable Lord Gambier, Admiral of the Blue, &c. and transmitted by his Lordship to the Honourable William Wellesley Pole.*

*His Majesty's Ship Cossack, off Saint Andero, June 25, 1808.*

MY LORD,

THE last Opportunity I had of writing to your Lordship, I acquainted you of my Intention to

go to St. Andero immediately, and afford every Assistance in my Power to the loyal Inhabitants, and bring off any British Subjects that might wish to come away, in the present uncertain State of the Country; and I had Intelligence that the French Frigate in Passage, accompanied by several Gun-Boats, was expected to make a Descent on that Part of the Coast; owing to the strong easterly Winds, and long Calms, I did not get there till the 21st. The Signal-Post displayed a Flag of Truce, which was answered by both Ships. The Captain of the Port, Don Vincento Camino, came on board, he told us the French Army were soon expected to make an Attack on the Pass in the Mountains that guarded the Approach to the Town; he invited us to anchor in Sardenero Bay, which we did at Five P. M.; until he had made his Report to the Bishop, who was the present Governor, he wished us not to land. No Boat returning by One o'Clock the next Day, I concluded some sudden Attack, or unexpected Event must have taken Place. In the Afternoon a Brig came out of the Harbour full of People of all Descriptions, who had left the Town on the Report that the French were advancing. I immediately got under Weigh, and sent Captain Daly, of the Comet, up the Harbour, to gain some confirmed Intelligence, and should the Report prove true, to reconnoitre the Fort, and find out where the principal Magazine was; and, if it was possible, to destroy it. Between Eight and Nine P. M. Captain Daly returned with certain Information, that the French Army had gained the Pass, and had halted only a few Miles from the Town, and were expected to enter that Night or next Day.

Captain Daly also made every possible Observation, and had himself spiked the Guns in Two Forts near the Town, and he requested to go and destroy the Magazine, and the Guns in the Forts that guard the Entrance of the Harbour. I should certainly have sent the Boats that Night, but the great Chance of their being taken by Surprise, should the Enemy advance, and the Night being very dark and squally, with every Appearance of bad Weather, made me defer it till the next Morning; at Day-light we stood into the Bay, and manned and armed Two Boats from each Ship, under the Orders of Captain Daly; he was accompanied by Lieutenant H. M. Herbert, of the Cossack, and Lieutenant Read, of the Royal Marines, and several of the younger Officers, who all volunteered their Services; they left this Ship soon after Six o'Clock, and landed about Eight, spiked all the Guns in Fort St. Salvador de Ano, and Fort Sedra, and wedged Shot in the Chambers of them, which renders them quite useless; the Magazine was at some little Distance, and had Five Hundred whole Barrels of Powder in it, besides Quantities of other Stores; all which was completely destroyed, great Part by throwing it over the Cliffs into the Sea, leaving sufficient to blow up the Magazine; the Train was laid for a considerable Distance, and it was let off about Ten o'Clock; which instantly levelled the whole Building to the Ground; finding some more Powder in Fort Sedra, a Train was laid to it, which took Effect, and blew Part of the House and Storehouse in it up; the Two other Forts on the West Side of the Bay they could not attempt, as the Surf was so high it was impossible to land, and to walk round was too far from the Boats, as they had not a Moment to spare; having heard before they set Fire