

to any of His Majesty's Settlements in South America; provided the Merchant Exporter shall first verify, upon Oath, that the Articles so exported are intended for the Use of a particular Plantation or Settlement, to be named in the Entry Outwards, and not for Sale; and that the said Plantation or Settlement has not before been furnished with any Supply of the said Articles during the same Season; and provided also that the Exportation of the said Articles shall, in no Case, exceed the Value of Fifty Pounds Sterling for any given Plantation or Settlement, whether by one or more Shipments within the same Season: And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, and the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, are to give the necessary Directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

W. Fawcener.

Downing-Street, January 10, 1809.

DISPATCHES, from which the following are Extracts, were, on the 8th Instant, received at the Office of Lord Viscount Castlereagh, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-General Sir John Moore, K. B. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces employed in Spain:

Benevente, December 28, 1808.

SINCE I had the Honour to address you upon the 16th, from Toró, the Army has been almost constantly marching through Snow, and with Cold that has been very intense. The Weather, within these few Days, has turned to Rain, which is much more uncomfortable than the Cold, and has rendered the Roads almost impassable. On the 21st the Army reached Sahagun; it was necessary to halt there in order to refresh the Men, and on account of Provisions. The Information I received was, that Marshal Soult was at Saldana with about Sixteen Thousand Men, with Posts along the River from Guarda to Carrion.

The Army was ordered to march in Two Columns at Eight o'Clock on the Night of the 23d, to force the Bridge at Carrion, and from thence proceed to Saldana. At Six o'Clock that Evening, I received Information that considerable Reinforcements had arrived at Carrion from Palencia, and a Letter from the Marquis de la Romana informed me that the French were advancing from Madrid either to Valladolid or Salamanca. It was evident that it was too late to prosecute the Attempt upon Soult, that I must be satisfied with the Diversion I had occasioned, and that I had no Time to lose to secure my Retreat.

The next Morning Lieutenant-General Hope, with his own Division and that of Lieutenant-General Frazer, marched to Majorga. I sent Sir David Baird with his Division to pass the River at Valmira, and followed Lieutenant-General Hope on the 25th with the Reserve and the Light Brigades, by Majorga, Valderas, to Benevente. The Cavalry under Lord Paget followed the Reserve on the 26th; both the latter Corps entered this Place Yesterday. We continue our March on Astorga. Generals Hope and Frazer are already gone on; Sir David Baird proceeds to-morrow from Valencia;

and I shall leave this with the Reserve at the same Time; Lord Paget will remain with the Cavalry, to give us Notice of the Approach of the Enemy; hitherto their Infantry have not come up, but they are near, and the Cavalry is round us in great Numbers; they are checked by our Cavalry, which have obtained, by their Spirit and Enterprize, an Ascendancy over that of the French which nothing but great Superiority of Numbers on their Part will get the better of.

The Diversion made by our March on Sahagun, though at great Risk to ourselves, has been complete; it remains to be seen what Advantage the Spaniards in the South will be able to take of it; but the March of the French on Badajoz was stopped when its Advanced Guard had reached Talavera de la Reina, and every Thing disposable is now turned in this Direction.

The only Part of the Army which has been hitherto engaged with the Enemy, has been the Cavalry, and it is impossible for me to say too much in their Praise. I mentioned to your Lordship in my Letter of the 16th the Success Brigadier-General Stewart had met with in defeating a Detachment of Cavalry at Rueda. Since that few Days have passed without his taking or killing different Parties of the French, generally superior in force to those which attacked them. On the March to Sahagun Lord Paget had Information of Six or Seven Hundred Cavalry being in that Town. He marched on the Night of the 20th from some Villages where he was posted in Front of the Enemy at Majorga with the Tenth and Fifteenth Hussars. The Tenth marched straight to the Town, whilst Lord Paget with the Fifteenth endeavoured to turn it. Unfortunately he fell in with a Patrol, One of whom escaped and gave the Alarm. By this Means the French had Time to form on the Outside of the Town before Lord Paget got round. He immediately charged them, beat them, and took from One Hundred and Forty to One Hundred and Fifty Prisoners, amongst whom were Two Lieutenant-Colonels and Eleven Officers, with the Loss on our Part of Six or Eight Men, and perhaps Twenty wounded.

There have been taken by the Cavalry from Four to Five Hundred French, besides a considerable Number killed;—this since we begun our March from Salamanca. On his March from Sahagun, on the 20th, Lord Paget, with Two Squadrons of the 10th, attacked a Detachment of Cavalry at Majorga, killed Twenty, and took above One Hundred Prisoners. Our Cavalry is very superior in Quality to any the French have; and the right Spirit has been infused into them by the Example and Instruction of their Two Leaders, Lord Paget and Brigadier-General Stewart.

Astorga, December 31, 1808.

I ARRIVED here Yesterday. Major-General Frazer, with his Division, will be at Villa Franca this Day, and will proceed on to Lugo. Lieutenant-General Hope, with his Division, stopped Yesterday Two Leagues from this, and proceeds this Morning, followed by Sir David Baird. The Two Flank Brigades go by the Road of Peñerada. I shall follow, with the Reserve and Cavalry, to Villa Franca either this Night or To-morrow Morning, according as I hear the Approach of the French.