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Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to the Honourable W. W. Pole, dated on board the Ocean, off Toulon, the 1st of December 1808.

THE Excellent, having been relieved on the Service at Rosas by the Fame, joined me the 24th, and Captain West gave me a Relation of Events that have lately occurred there, in his Letter dated the 21st Ultimo, which I inclose, together with a List of killed and wounded Seamen and Marines of that Ship and the Meteor Bomb, employed on the same Service.

But for the Presence of His Majesty's Ships in that Bay, and the powerful Assistance which Captain West, with the Companies of those Ships, afforded the Spaniards both on Shore and by the Fire from them, there is every Reason to believe the Citadel of Rosas and Castle of the Trinity would both have fallen; they were ill provided with every Thing necessary to a Siege; the Works of the Citadel in bad Repair, and the Garrison not sufficiently numerous for the Duties of its Defence.

Captain West's Ability, and the Valour and Perseverance of his Officers and Men, removed as many of those Defects as it was possible, and gave such severe Checks to the Enemy as made it necessary they should proceed by Rules of Art against a Place that with their great Force they intended to take by a Coup de Main, which has given ample Time for the Spanish Government to reinforce the Garrison, and replenish the Stores. &c. of this important Post.

The French have on this Occasion practised those Arts which Frenchmen are very expert in. A Motion was employed, it seems, to intercept the Letters written by Colonel O'Daly, the Commandant of the Garrison of Rosas, to the Supreme Junta of Girona; and they were Two or Three Weeks without having any Knowledge of what was passing:—at the same Time their Emisaries gave out that the English had taken Possession of the Fortress, and suspended the Spanish Officer from the Duties of his Office. The Junta wrote to Captain West, informing him of Part of those Reports, and begging he would inform them of the Circumstances which

had caused this Change. It was afterwards discovered to have been an Artifice of the Enemy to prevent Reinforcements coming.

In another Instance the French have shewn much Art, by abandoning their usual System of Terror, Defolation, and Plunder; and in the Neighbourhood of Figueras and Rosas have lately treated the Spanish Inhabitants with more Kindness to their Persons, and Forbearance of their Property, endeavouring to attach them by a feigned Moderation.

The Spaniards are very sensible and very grateful for the Support given to them by the English; the animating Example of Captain West, his Skill, and the Gallantry of his Officers and Men, is deserving of every Praise; in the Sortie he made at the Head of his Seamen and Marines, when they attacked the Enemy's advanced Post, and rescued the Miquelets, their Conduct and their Courage were admirable; several Men were wounded, and Captain West's Horse was shot under him, before they were obliged to retire, to prevent being cut off by the Cavalry, which was advancing for that Purpose. Captain Collins of the Meteor conducted the Bombardment with great Ability, and was indefatigable in the Annoyance he gave the Enemy by it. Lieutenant Howe of the Royal Marines, belonging to the Excellent, commanded a Detachment of that Corps, which was thrown into the Castle of Trinity for its Defence; and in two Assaults made by the Enemy with large bodies of Troops, this Officer, and the Marines under his Command, were highly distinguished for the Gallantry which they displayed, and the Resources they found, where almost every Thing was wanting.

The Enemy suffered a very considerable Loss of Men in these Assaults; but unless Measures have been taken to raise the Siege, I am apprehensive this very important Post will be reduced.

*His Majesty's Ship Excellent, Rosas Bay,
My Lord, November 21, 1808.*

I HAVE anxiously waited an Opportunity to inform your Lordship of the Investment of this Port by the Enemy, with a Force computed at Five or Six Thousand Men.

On the Evening of the 6th Instant, the Enemy was first observed in Motion between Figueras and Castillern, and, on the following Morning, was in