

during the Interval fired upon our Encampments with Shot and Shells, but fortunately with little Effect, and his Picquets, when pressed, constantly fell back under the Protection of his Works.

On the 19th, at Half past Four in the Afternoon, we opened from Six Points upon the Enemy's Forts, with Fourteen Pieces of heavy Cannon, and Twenty-eight Mortars and Howitzers, and the Cannonade and Bombardment continued with little Remission until Noon of the 23d, when the French General sent a Trumpet with a Letter to our advanced Posts, near the Bouillé Redoubt, in the Front of Attack. In this Communication General Villaret proposed, as the Basis of Negotiation, that the French Troops should be sent to France free from all Restriction as to future Service; but this being inadmissible, the Bombardment recommenced at Ten at Night, and continued without Intermission until Nine o'Clock of the 24th, when Three white Flags were discovered flying in the Forts, in consequence of which, our Fire from the Batteries immediately ceased.

It is with the most heartfelt Satisfaction I have now the Honour to report to your Lordship, for His Majesty's Information, that, supported by the Talents of the General Officers, and in particular of Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, and of Major-General Maitland, the Experience and Zeal of all the other Officers, and the Valour and unremitting Labour of this Army, strengthened by the indefatigable Exertions of Rear Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane and the Squadron, the Campaign, notwithstanding incessant Rains, has been brought to a glorious Conclusion in the short Space of Twenty-seven Days from our Departure from Barbadoes.

The Command of such an Army will constitute the Pride of my future Life. To these brave Troops, conducted by Generals of Experience, and not to me, their King and Country owe the Sovereignty of this important Colony; and I trust that by a Comparison of the Force which defended it, and the Time in which it has fallen, the present Reduction of Martinique will not be deemed eclipsed by any former Expedition.

I have the Honour to inclose the Articles of Capitulation, as originally produced by the French Commissioners, in consequence of General Villaret's Application to me for this Purpose, during the Forenoon of the 24th, and acceded to by Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, Major-General Maitland and Commodore Cockburn, appointed by the Rear-Admiral and myself to meet them. This Capitulation, which was mutually ratified the same Night, will, I trust, be honoured with His Majesty's Approbation.

I inclose also a Return of the French Garrison, which it is supposed will be in a State to embark in the Course of a few Days; from which it will appear that I did not over-rate the original Numbers of the Enemy.

By the next Conveyance, I shall have the Honour to submit to your Lordship's Consideration the various Details which are now referred to in general Terms, and to report the Merits of the several Corps; but the Science of the Officers of the Royal Artillery has been too conspicuous not to be particularly noticed, the Interior of the Enemy's Forts being torn to pieces by Shells; his Works have also been much injured by Shot from the Gun-Batteries,

manned by the Seamen under the Direction of Commodore Cockburn and other Naval Officers.

After the Embarkation of the French Troops, I shall have the Honour to command the Eagles taken from the Enemy to be laid at the King's Feet.

Captain Preedy of the 90th Reg'tment, one of my Aides-de-Camp, has the Honour to be the Bearer of this Dispatch: He is an Officer of Service, and I beg Leave to recommend him to His Majesty's Favour, and to your Lordship's Protection.

I annex the following Returns—Ordnance, Ammunition and Stores taken from the Enemy; Provisions in the Forts, with the Daily Issues; the King's Hospitals.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GEO. BECKWITH, Com. Forces.

ARTICLES of CAPITULATION between Lieutenant-General George Beckwith, Commander of His Britannic Majesty's Land Forces, and Rear Admiral the Honourable Sir Alexander Cochrane, K. B. Commander in Chief of His Britannic Majesty's Squadron, upon a Joint Expedition against the French Colony of Martinique, on the one Part, and General Villaret, Captain-General in the Service of France, on the other Part.

FORT Desaix shall be given up to the Troops of His Britannic Majesty on the following Conditions:

Art. I. The Garrison of Fort Desaix shall march out in order to be embarked and conveyed to one of the Ports of France, between Bourdeaux and L'Orient, on the Days and at the Hours which shall be agreed upon, with all the Honours of War, viz. Drums beating, Colours flying, and Matches lighted, having in their Front Four Field-Pieces with their Artillery Men. The Officers, Civil and Military, of the Marine, and every one belonging to this Department, shall be also conveyed to the same Port.

Answer.—The Garrison shall march out with all the Honours of War demanded, but must ground their Arms beyond the Glacis. Officers shall keep their Swords. In Answer to the Rest of this Article, it is agreed that the Forces of France shall be embarked in proper Vessels as Prisoners of War: That they shall proceed to Quiberon Bay, under Guard of some English Ships of War. There an Exchange shall take place between the two Nations, Rank for Rank; but from the high Respect and Esteem with which His Excellency the Captain-General Villaret joyeuse is held by all, it is admitted, that himself and his Aides-de-Camp shall be sent to France free from any Restriction.

Art. II. The Captain-General, the Colonial Prefect, the General Officers, and those of the Staff, of the Artillery and Engineers, the Officers, Non-Commissioning Officers and Soldiers of the Land Service, the Officers, Troops, and Crews of the Navy, the Chief of the Civil Staff, the Commissaries and others employed in the Administration of the Marine and Colonies shall carry away their Arms, their personal Effects and every Thing belonging to them:—they shall besides have leave to dispose of their private Property of every Kind, and full Security assured to the Purchasers.

Answer.—Granted, excepting in what it differs from the Answer to the preceding Article.