

gers led by Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, Deputy Adjutant-General, whom I detached for this Service. We had now a strong Position. Before us were the Enemy's three Forts, showing stout Garrisons, and Three Line of Battle Ships, and Two Frigates in the Harbour. The large Ships very full of Men. We found, however, we could not advance without being flanked on our Left by the Fort on Isle de Cabrit. Two Eight-Inch Howitzers were immediately landed, a Battery quickly constructed by Lieutenant Hobbs of the Royal Engineers. Brigadier-General Stehelin of the Royal Artillery and all his Officers and Men were most strenuous, and before Six that Evening our Battery opened on the Enemy's Squadron at a very fair Distance. About an Hour after there were Indications that the French Squadron was about to push out, and by Eight it was not doubtful. Not a Moment was lost; Captain De Courcy of the Quarter-Master-General's Department was sent by me to Captain Beaver of the Acaïta, and we fired Six Rockets from a Headland at Five Minutes interval, being the signal fixed on by the Admiral. About Ten at Night, the Three French Line of Battle Ships were seen to go through the windward Passage. Next Morning, the 15th Instant, the Intrepid was the only Line of Battle Ship in Sight.

The Difficulty of advancing on the West Side of the Island, forced us to re-embark the greater Part of our Troops, to land at Ance Vanovre, but as the Enemy occupied a strong and commanding Position on the East Side of this Bay, Lieutenant-Colonel Prescott, with the Flank Companies of the 3d West India Regiment, and the Two Rifle Companies of the 60th, and Major Henderson with the Reserve, were ordered to descend from Morne Ruffel to protect the Landing, and to dislodge the Enemy. This was well executed, and we gained a favourable Position; whence our Mortars could reach Fort Napoleon at a proper Distance, as well as the Fort on the Islet. A Mortar Battery of Two Thirteen-Inch, and Four Ten-Inch was immediately begun, and carried on with unremitting Exertions;—all our Men volunteering every Labour. Between the Enemy's Forts Napoleon and Morelle, and us, was a Middle Ridge, which was on the Back of the Town, and held by the Enemy. On the Night of 15th, a strong Picquet of the Enemy's was surprised by Two Companies of the Royal York Rangers, commanded by Captain Starke, and Lieutenant White. The French had One Officer and Seventeen Men bayoneted, and Twelve Prisoners were brought away. This Affair was highly creditable to the Officers named. The Night following we determined to occupy the Middle Ridge, and confine the Enemy within his Works. Major Alen was ordered with the Two Flank Companies of the 3d West India, and a Flank Company of the 8th West India for this Service,—he was supported by Part of the Royal York Rangers under Major Henderson. The Position was taken up without Opposition, but about Eight next Morning the Enemy advanced from Forts Napoleon and Morelle to recover this Ground. A sharp Action took place, the whole of the York Rangers, and the Rifle Companies of the 60th, supporting our Black Troops. The Ground lay open in great Part to the Grape Shot from Forts Napoleon and Morelle, and to Round Shot from Islet de Cabrit; but

all our Troops were undaunted;—none were more brave or active than the Flank Companies of the 3d West India Regiment, and a Flank Company of the 8th West India under Major Alen. The Enemy was driven back with Loss, and our Possession of the Ground completely secured. On this Occasion our Loss was about Thirty Men, killed and wounded.

I omitted to say that the Two French Frigates, both landed with Flour, took their Chance of escaping on the Forenoon of the 15th. They went through the Windward Passage, keeping a little from the Wind to gain the Shore of Guadaloupe. The leading Frigate was engaged by His Majesty's Ship Intrepid. This Frigate however doubled the Point of Vieux Fort, was followed by the other, and both escaped into Basse Terre.

About the Middle of the Day, Yesterday the 17th, the French Commandant, Colonel Madier, sent a Flag of Truce to enter into Terms. They expected what we would not concede, and they submitted to what we were willing to grant. They are Prisoners of War.

I understand their Number to be from Seven to Eight Hundred; of this Number, Six Hundred were landed by the French Squadron.

We are to take Possession of the Forts this Evening at Four o'Clock. The French Troops will be immediately embarked, and I shall proceed to carry the Remainder of your Orders into Execution without Loss of Time. But I must not conclude my Report without doing Justice to the Merits of those whom I have been so happy as to command.

The Navy have most cordially supported us. Captain Beaver of His Majesty's Ship Acaïta, has increased that Character which I know his Conduct at Bay Robert, Martinique, in your Presence gained him. His Arrangement and Presence of Mind render him particularly qualified for joint Operations. Captain Cathew of the Gloire, and Captain Malcolm of the Narcissus, also merit the warmest Acknowledgment: and I am also much obliged to the Honourable Captain Bertie of His Majesty's Ship Dart, who acted on Shore.

The Royal Artillery under Brigadier General Stehelin, have continued their usual spirited Manner. If the Enemy had not capitulated Yesterday, we should have opened a fine Battery of Six Mortars; and I am certain from what happened at Martinique, our Artillery would have given them enough of it in One Night.

To Lieutenant Colonel Rial 15th Regiment, I with Pleasure acknowledge the Assistance I have received from him. He tantalized me with an Offer to take Fort Morelli by Assault with the 15th Regiment the Morning of Yesterday during the Action. Lieutenant-Colonel Prevost deserves equal good Report. Major Henderson who commands the Reserve is a true Soldier; and Major Alen, 3d West India Regiment, gallantly led his black Troops.

The Staff have all been active. Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, Deputy Adjutant-General, has been always forward; he is an Officer who must rise from his Merit.

The Honourable Captain de Courcy, of the Quarter-Master-General's Department, has shewn an Activity and Exertion which does him great Credit, and proves him to be an Officer for Service. Lieutenant Hobbs, Royal Engineers, yields to

