

St. Rosa, St. Paul's, St. Gill's, and St. Luce in the Island of Bourbon, have been effectually and completely destroyed, and in their Harbours the Enemy can no longer find that Protection for their own Ships or their Captures, which they were accustomed to seek, when the Rigour of the Blockade opposed their Entrance into the Isle of France.

Their naval Force is reduced on this Station, by a Frigate (La Caroline) of Forty-four Guns, and a Corvette (the Grappler) of Eighteen Guns, besides Merchant Vessels; but what is still more gratifying is the Recovery out of the Hands of the Enemy of the Honourable Company's Ships Europe and Streatham, with a considerable Part of their Cargoes, being the only Two Ships belonging to the East India Company which have, within my Knowledge, been brought within the Limits of this Station since my Arrival on it.

I cannot forbear to observe to their Lordships that on the present Occasion the Service has been particularly indebted to Captain Corbett, of His Majesty's Ship Nereide; and on every Service in which he has been employed, he has displayed a Zeal, Activity, and universal Abilities which are the Lot of few, and which when united must distinguish their Possessor.

Captain Rowley, and Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, alike express their high Approbation of the Conduct of Captain Willoughby of the Otter, both by Sea and Land; his many Wounds are honorable Testimonies of his former Services, and on no Occasion can he have distinguished himself beyond the present. It gives me much Satisfaction to add that the Loss, considering Service performed, has been comparatively inconsiderable, a Statement of which, with other Documents, is herewith transmitted.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) A. BERTIE.

*Raisnable, off Port Louis,  
August 28, 1809.*

SIR,

THE Harbour of St. Paul's having long been the Rendezvous of those French Cruizers, and such of their Prizes as have escaped the Vigilance of our look-out Ships off the Isle of France, and La Caroline French Frigate having succeeded in entering that Port with two homeward bound Indiamen richly laden, I considered it practicable, both from the Reports of Captain Corbett, of the Nereide, who is perfectly acquainted with the Coast, as well as from my own Observations, and from Information received from Prisoners, that the Place might be carried with the Assistance of a Detachment of the Troops from Roderique, to assist by Land in an Attack on the Batteries. Having communicated my Opinion to Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, commanding the Troops there, he immediately acceded to the Measure, and in the most handsome Manner offered to embark with all the Troops that could be spared from the Defence of the Place. I have therefore detached the Nereide, Otter, and Sapphire, to bring them down; and as soon as they arrive shall proceed with the whole of our Force to the Attack of the Place. I have in the meantime sent the Boadicea to blockade the Port, and trust that these Measures will meet your Approbation.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) J. ROWLEY.

To Vice-Admiral Bertie, &c.

*Raisnable, St. Paul's Road,  
29th Sept. 1809.*

SIR,

HAVING acquainted you by my Letter of the 28th August with the Reason which induced me to request the Assistance of Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, commanding the Troops at Roderique, to cooperate with His Majesty's Ships in an Attack on St. Paul's, I have now further to acquaint you, that being joined by the Nereide, Otter, and Wasp Schooner, having on board a Detachment of the 56th Regiment, and of the 2d Regiment Native Infantry, amounting in the whole to 368 Men, under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, and the Sirius having joined, we proceeded at Dusk on the Evening of the 20th for the Isle of Bourbon; the Force intended to be landed were the Detachment of His Majesty's and Company's Troops, reinforced by the Marines of the Squadron, and a Party of about 100 Seamen from this Ship and the Otter, under the Command of Captain Willoughby, whose Zeal induced him to volunteer the Command of so small a Party. As Secrecy and Dispatch were essential to the Success of the Expedition, the whole of this Force, amounting to 604, were embarked with Five additional Boats on board the Nereide Captain Corbet, who, from his perfect Acquaintance with the Coast, as well as his known Skill and Activity, was intrusted with this important Service.

On our Approach towards the Bay of St. Paul's, to prevent Suspicion, the Nereide preceded the other Ships, and being anchored close to the Beach, the whole of the Detachment were landed with the greatest Celerity, without any Alarm being given to the Enemy, and proceeded towards the Batteries, which were successively stormed and carried with the greatest Gallantry, and several of the Guns pointed on the Ships in the Roads; in the mean Time the Squadron stood into the Bay, and according to the Plan agreed upon, when the Movements of the Troops enabled them to act, opened their Fire on the Shipping, which was warmly returned by La Caroline Frigate, the Indiamen her Prizes, and those Batteries which, from their Distance from the first Point of Attack, were enabled to continue their Fire; but these being finally carried, our Ships preparing to anchor, and the Sirius having already taken a close raking Position a-head of La Caroline, they found it necessary to surrender, having made an honorable Resistance, and by Nine o'Clock the whole of the Batteries, Town, and Shipping were in Possession of His Majesty's Troops and Squadron.

The Squadron having anchored in the Roads close off the Town of St. Paul's, immediate Exertions were made to secure La Caroline and the rest of the Shipping, whose Cables being cut had drifted on Shore, and they were hove off without material Injury.

The Guns and Mortars at the different Batteries and on the Beach being spiked, their Carriages burnt or destroyed, and Magazines blown off under the Directions of Captain Willoughby, the whole of the Troops, Marines, and Seamen, were embarked soon after dark on board the different Ships: Thus, Sir, have we completely succeeded in the Objects of the Expedition, by the Capture of the Enemy's Shipping, the Destruction of all the Defences of the only safe Anchorage in the Island, and which has always been a Place of Shelter for their Cruizers and Prizes when prevented from entering the Ports of the