

Ile of France, besides the Rescue of Property to an immense Amount out of the Hands of the Enemy.

It is impossible for me to do Justice to, or sufficiently express the high Sense I entertain of the Gallantry and Skill of Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, which were equally conspicuous in planning and conducting this Affair; and the Bravery shewn by the Troops in successively carrying the Batteries, was eminently distinguished.

I beg Leave to refer you for Details, to Lieutenant-Colonel Keating's Letter, and am happy to say he mentions in high Terms the Conduct of Captain Willoughby, the Officers, Seamen, and Marines, employed on this Occasion. I need scarcely say that I received every Assistance and Support from the Captains of His Majesty's Ships, whom I had the good Fortune to have placed under my Command, that might be expected from Officers of their known Merit and Experience; and I have only to regret that their Ability and Zeal had not more Room for Exertion, as to prevent Interference with the Movements of the Troops on Shore, the Services of the Ships were necessarily much limited.

The Loss of the Detachment in Killed and Wounded, considering the Nature of the Service the Troops had to perform, and the Advantages of the Position on the Part of the Enemy, was not so great as might have been expected; I herewith enclose a List of the Killed and Wounded of the Ships of the Squadron; among the latter I have particularly to regret Lieutenant Lloyd and Lieutenant Howden of the Royal Marines, both of the Reasonable with the Party on Shore, who have been always zealously forward on Occasions for Service; the Damages sustained by the Ships of the Squadron are immaterial.

On the Morning of the 22d we could have but little Communication with the Shore, on account of the Surf on the Beach, but we observed the Enemy collecting on the Heights, and in the Afternoon they appeared in Force, advancing towards the Town from St. Denis, upon which it was considered advisable by Lieutenant-Colonel Keating and myself, to destroy the Stores containing the public Property. From the State of the Surf on the Beach, the Marines were selected for this Service, with a small Party of Seamen, and Captain Willoughby again volunteered his Services on the Occasion: the Lieutenant-Colonel himself accompanied the Party, and a large and valuable Magazine, the only one we could ascertain to be public Property, was fired, and the Party re-embarked without Loss. On the Morning of the 23d, the Troops, Marines, and Seamen, all in Boats, were in Readiness to land under Cover of the Nereide, when we were informed that the Enemy, under the Command of General de Bruleys, had retreated to St. Denis in the Night. The Commandant St. Michiel being disposed to negotiate, the Lieutenant-Colonel and myself agreed to sign the Terms, of which the enclosed is a Copy, since which Time the Troops and Seamen have been actively employed in shipping the Property found in the public Stores, consisting of Provisions and some Ordnance Stores, and a Part of the Cargoes of the captured Indiamen, which had not been fired at the same Time as the others, on the Supposition of its being private Property; the Cargoes of the Indiamen alone being valued by them at Three Millions of Dollars.

As the Captains of the captured Indiamen were found in the Place, I have replaced them in their former Situations, with such of their People as we can collect, and are fitting their Ships for Sea. A strong Party has also been employed completing the Destruction of the Batteries, by bursting the Guns and Mortars, or heaving them off into deep Water, carrying off the Shot and Shells, &c. I have given the Charge of the Caroline to Lieutenant Bluett, first of this Ship, to whose Steadiness and good Conduct I feel much indebted, both on this and many other Occasions. The Sapphire sailed on the 24th, and the Boadicea on the 25th, to resume the Blockade of the Isle of France. I had to regret the Loss of the Services of the former, which from baffling Winds did not join us till the 23d.

I forward these Dispatches by the Nereide, and beg to refer you for further Particulars to Captain Corbet, who can give you every Information relative to these Islands, and to whom I feel highly indebted for the Assistance I have received from him on every Occasion.

The Wasp Schooner will be dispatched this Evening for Bombay. I beg to add that the Commander, Lieutenant Watkins, has shewn much Zeal and Attention in the Performance of every Duty he has been employed upon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. ROWLEY.

To Vice-Admiral Bertie, &c. &c. &c.

A Return of Officers, Seamen, and Marines killed, wounded, and missing, belonging to His Majesty's Ships under the Command of Josias Rowley, Esq; Captain of His Majesty's Ship Reasonable, in Action with the Enemy at St. Paul's and its Vicinity, Island of Bonaparte, 21st September 1809.

Killed.

Reasonable—1 Able Seaman, 1 Private Marine.
Boadicea—1 Private Marine.
Sirius—2 Private Marines.
Nereide—1 Able Seaman.
Otter—1 Private Marine.
Total—7.

Wounded.

Reasonable—1 Lieutenant (4th), 1 Able Seaman, 1 Lieutenant of Marines (2d), 3 Private Marines.
Boadicea—1 Lieutenant of Marines (1st), 1 Corporal, 2 Private Marines.
Nereide—1 Corporal, 4 Private Marines.
Otter—1 Able Seaman.
Sirius—2 Private Marines.
Total—18.

Missing.

Sirius—1 Ordinary Seaman.

Names of Officers wounded.

Reasonable—Lieutenant Lloyd (4th); Mathew Howden, Lieutenant of Marines.
Boadicea—Pye, Lieutenant of Marines.
(Signed) J. ROWLEY.

St. Paul's, Isle of Bourbon,
29th Sept. 1809.

SIR,

MY Letter of the 16th Instant, with its Inclosures from Commodore Rowley, will have prepared the Honourable the Governor in Council for a de-