

be pleased to grant, both to them and to their Property, that Protection which their Situation deserves. We have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

REDAUD, Civil Commissary and Minister of Police.

DES CRESSOUISSERES, Commandant of the Militia at Basseterre.

E. DARBOUSSIEU, Judge presiding at the First Tribunal.

DIN, the Imperial Solicitor at the First Tribunal at Basseterre.

To their Excellencies the Commanders in Chief of His Britannic Majesty's Military and Naval Forces before Basseterre and Guadaloupe.

(Copy)

Pompée, off Basseterre, Guadaloupe, February 2, 1810

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE received your Letter, of this Date, addressed to the Commanders in Chief of His Britannic Majesty's Land and Sea Forces, acquainting me, if it is our Will to take Possession of the Town of Basseterre, that there are only defenceless Persons inhabiting it, for whom you request the Protection they merit.

In reply thereto, I promise in my own Name, as well as that of my Colleague, Lieutenant-General Sir George Beckwith, the Protection you desire, and that the Inhabitants of the Town shall be included in any general Capitulation for the whole Island which may be entered into.

I will therefore send a sufficient Guard To-morrow Morning for the Protection of the Town; in the meantime I require you to take such Steps as may be in your Power to preserve its Peace and Safety, and prevent the evil-disposed from doing any Injury to the Inhabitants or their Property: you will consequently see that none of the public Property is destroyed, as I now hold you responsible for the same.

I have to request that you will at Day-light send off a Deputation, to attend the Officer whom I may appoint to take the Command of the Town, and Forts in its Vicinity.

Enclosed I send some of the Proclamations issued by His Excellency Sir George Beckwith and myself, which have been received with Joy by all the Inhabitants to whom they have been delivered.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) A. COCHRANE.

To the Chief Officers of the Provisional Government, Town of Basseterre, Guadaloupe.

(Translation.)

Colony of Guadaloupe.

At Basseterre, the 2d February 1810, and the 7th Year of the French Empire.

The Civil and Police Commissioners of the District of Basseterre, and the Commandant of the National Guard, to His Excellency Admiral Cochrane, Commander in Chief of the Naval Forces of His Britannic Majesty.

SIR,

THE Magistrates having had the Honour of informing your Excellency that the Town of Basseterre was without Defence, and the Refuge of the old

Men, Women and Children, and reposing on your Generosity, have not been deceived in their Expectation; but our Duty urges us to inform your Excellency that the Fort does not in any Manner depend upon us, the Commandant having his Instructions, with which we are unacquainted, having no Communication with him. After this Explanation, we flatter ourselves that in your Military Measures, you will have the Humanity not to drive our timid Wives and Children to Despair. We are, &c.

REDAUD.

DES CRESSOUISSERES,
Civil and Police Commissioner.

His Majesty's Ship Pompée, off Basseterre, Guadaloupe, 3d Feb. 1810.

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN I received your Letter last Night I answered it in the full Confidence that the Forts were to be given up, as without it complete Possession could not be taken of the Town.

Motives of Humanity, although contrary to my Duty, induce me to delay the Attack of the Forts by the whole Squadron until you shall have Time to hear from General Ernouf, who I can hardly suppose intends to sacrifice the Town for a temporary Occupation of an untenable Fort, commanded by immediate Heights.

I therefore, Gentlemen, give you until Two o'Clock this Day to receive an Answer from the Captain-General, with whom all Responsibility must rest; the Fate of the Town is in his Hands. I offer to the Forts that the Officers and Soldiers shall preserve their private Property, upon their surrendering as Prisoners of War: further I will not go

I expect your Answer by Two o'Clock, and I enclose a Passport for the Messenger to pass the British Sentries. The Watch of the Bearer of this Letter is set with me.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) A. COCHRANE.

To the Chief Officers of the Provisional Government, Town of Basseterre, Guadaloupe.

(Translation)

Head Quarters, February 3, 1810.

To the principal Inhabitants of the City of Basseterre.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE already manifested my firm Intention of removing from the City of Basseterre the unfortunate Calamities of War; it is under this Impression that I am determined to occupy the Heights.

It is always customary, when a City without Fortifications finds itself under the Guns of a Fort, in the Case of being besieged by the Enemy, to make a Convention that the Town shall not be fired upon by either Side. This Convention is the more easy to make for Basseterre, as the Front of Attack is not on that Side.

The English Generals are too generous and too just to exact the Reduction of a Fort which is not in your Power, and for which you are not responsible.

On my Part, my Honour and my Responsibility demand that I shall defend the Colony by all the

