

Reports I have the Honour to enclose. I have the Honour to be, &c. (Signed) A. COCHRANE.

His Majesty's Ship Abercrombie, off Great Bay, St. Martin's, Feb. 17, 1810.

SIR, I ARRIVED at Day-light on the Fourteenth Instant off this Island, with the Squadron you did me the Honour to place under my Orders, destined to co-operate with the Military Force under the Command of Brigadier-General Harcourt, for its Reduction. The Vimeira, Snap, and Mornefortunée, soon after joined me, and in the course of the Day the Frolic, Surinam, and Superieure.

Captain Scobell, in His Majesty's Brig the Vimeira, with a Company of the 25th Regiment under the Orders of Captain Beattie, Assistant Quarter-Master-General, was immediately dispatched to Marigot Bay, to occupy the French Quarter of the Island, having Charge of a joint Letter from General Harcourt and myself, addressed to the Commandant, and inclosing to him General Ernouf's Order to place His Majesty's Troops in Possession thereof, in conformity to the Capitulation concluded at Guadaloupe on the Sixth Instant; which I have the Satisfaction to acquaint you was instantly complied with, and the French Garrison embarked on board the Vimeira.

At the same Moment we sent a Summons to the Governor of the Dutch Part of the Island, to which he replied in evasive Terms. As the Disembarkation of the Troops and Artillery, therefore, became immediately necessary, His Majesty's Brigs, named in the Margin*, were ordered to anchor close to the Shore, in Little-Cool Bay, within a long Range of the Enemy's Batteries, where the Landing was effected before Sun-set, without Opposition. Anxious to give every Facility in my Power to the Views of General Harcourt, by an immediate Co-operation, I landed with him, determined to remain by his Side, until the final Accomplishment of the important Service entrusted to us. The Troops had just taken a forward Position, when we received a Message from the Governor, expressive of his Desire to capitulate, and his Intention to send out Commissioners with his Terms, by Eight o'Clock that Night. Brigadier-General Skinner, and Captain Dowers, of His Majesty's Brig the Ringdove, were appointed on our Part to meet them. It was, however, Noon on the Fifteenth before the Articles were adjusted, having for their Basis those granted to the Garrison and Island of Guadaloupe. It was stipulated that they should be ratified by the Governor, and returned in Three Hours; but before the Expiration of that Time, the Dutch Commissioners returned, and earnestly solicited to be allowed until Eight o'Clock the next Day; which was granted, on their positive Assurance that they would be prepared at that Hour to put His Majesty's Troops in Possession of the principal Fort. At Nine o'Clock, therefore, on the Morning of the Sixteenth, General Harcourt marched towards the Town of Phillipsburgh, the Seamen drawing the Howitzers over the Hills, and every Measure having been adopted for an immediate Attack, should it be found necessary; when, to our Surprise, we were met on the March by one of the Dutch Commissioners, who informed us that the Governor had determined to surrender at Discretion,

* Ringdove, Snap, Mornefortunée.

rather than ratify the Capitulation. This was immediately confirmed by the Appearance of the Governor, who, addressing General Harcourt, surrendered himself and Garrison as Prisoners of War. During this Conversation, the Dutch Colours were lowered at Fort Louis, and the Garrison marched down to the Foot of the Hill, where they laid down their Arms, and were embarked.

Had there been Occasion to call for the Gallantry of our Troops and Seamen employed on this Occasion, I am convinced that it would have been displayed equally to their own, and their Country's Honour; the happiest Unanimity and the most zealous Energy pervaded the whole.

The Character of Brigadier-General Harcourt leaves me the Satisfaction of expressing my Sense of the good Fortune which destined me to command on a conjunct Service with him.

Captain Dowers of the Ringdove, who has served on Shore under my Orders at Guadaloupe and at this Island, is entitled to my warmest Thanks.

The unconditional Surrender of the Colony will unavoidably delay us here some Days, as many Arrangements which relate to its internal Government become indispensably necessary; but for all Details on this Subject, I beg Leave, Sir, to refer you to Brigadier-General Harcourt's Letter to His Excellency Sir George Beckwith, and also for any Information you may desire respecting the proposed Articles of Capitulation, a Copy of which is inclosed to him.

I have thought it advisable to send the Surinam at once to you with this Dispatch, and she carries the Dutch Garrison; the Superieure will take those from the French Quarter.

The Moment the General has settled the Points which claim his Attention here, I shall fail to execute the remaining Part of your Orders, and I hope soon to acquaint you that they have been fully accomplished, and so consistently with your Instructions, Sir, as to meet your Approbation.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) W. C. FAHIE.

*Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir A. Cochrane, K. B.
Sc. Sc. Sc.*

Returns of the Garrisons of the Dutch and French Quarters at St. Martin's, 17th Feb. 1810.

Dutch Quarter—1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 2 Medical Officers, 1 Serjeant-Major, 6 Serjeants, 3 Corporals, 47 Yagers, and 7 in Hospitals.

Artillery—1 Lieutenant, 6 Gunners.

French Quarter—1 Captain-Commandant, 1 Serjeant, 16 Rank and File.

N. B. Seventeen Deserters returned from the Dutch Quarter, and one from the French.

W. C. FAHIE.

To Their Excellencies Brigadier-General George William Richard Harcourt, and Commodore William Charles Fahie, commanding His Majesty's Land and Sea Forces at St. Martin, &c. &c.

WE, the Inhabitants of the heretofore Dutch Part of the Island of St. Martin's, beg Leave to approach your Excellencies with Hearts impressed with the highest Gratitude for your Benevolence