

And as the intention of the expedition has now been so happily fulfilled, and the presence of His Majesty's ships and vessels under my command being no longer necessary here, I purpose joining you immediately, leaving His Majesty's ship *Druid* at Tarifa with the transports to follow, with such proportion of the army as Colonel Skerrett shall deem proper to embark.

I have now the pleasing task to state to you, Sir, that during the whole of this little siege, the exertions of Captains Searle, Pell, Everard, and Carroll, with the several lieutenants, commanding mortar brigs, and gun-boats, viz. Jenkins, Rook, Style, Rattray, Cobb, and Basden, in taking up positions, and their extreme perseverance in remaining at their different anchorages, during the most tempestuous weather, to the great annoyance of the enemy in carrying on their operations, and giving countenance to our little army on shore, has been most meritorious, and demands of me my warmest acknowledgments, as also Commodore Penrose's first lieutenant, Julian, who handsomely volunteered his services in the *San Juan*'s pinnace. I should be wanting were I not to recommend to you, Sir, my first Lieutenant Davis, for his indefatigable exertions with a party of seamen, in assisting the army in getting up guns and landing stores; and indeed, the very great cheerfulness with which every officer and seaman I have had the honour to command has borne the privations naturally attendant on the extreme tempestuous weather we have had to contend with, has been most praiseworthy.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) E. S. DICKSON, Captain.

*The Honourable A. K. Legge, &c. &c. &c.*

Admiralty-Office, January 28, 1812.

*Copies of two Letters from Commodore Penrose to John Wilson Croker, Esq.*

SIR, *San Juan, Gibraltar, Jan. 1, 1812.*

IN continuation of my letter by the *Conqueror*, of the 30th ultimo, I request you to inform their Lordships that the same wind which took that ship out of the Streights, enabled Captain Dickson to attempt to regain his station; but a strong breeze and heavy sea forced every ship, vessel, and gun-boat to leave Tarifa, and take shelter again in this bay. In the middle of the day we had received information that the breach in the walls appeared practicable, and that the town had been in consequence summoned, and a proper answer returned. About 5 P. M. I had the great satisfaction of seeing Lieutenant Cobb arrive with the intelligence, that a storm had been attempted about 8 A. M. yesterday, by about two thousand men, and the assailants gallantly repulsed with considerable loss, said to be about three hundred men, while on our part, two officers and three men are all who have lost their lives in this additional instance of the steady valour of the British troops. I have sincerely to regret, that our ships and bomb vessels were absent, they would not only have been able to annoy the enemy, but the perseverance, quickness, and skill shown by Captain Dickson, and all those who have been put under him, either by Admiral Legge or

myself, merited to share every honour, and participate in the cheerful sight of the enemy's repulse. Not one moment has been lost by Captain Dickson, either by leaving Tarifa beyond absolute necessity, or in returning with every possible dispatch, when the wind had again permitted.

Two light companies are ordered to proceed to assist the brave garrison, who have suffered great hardships and fatigue, from excessive rains, and I have provided for General Ballesteros making a diversion, which I hope he will attempt when the weather serves, but the rain and squalls at this moment are both excessive.

3 A. M.—Accounts from Tarifa agree, that the extreme bad weather, and incessant rains, have reduced the French army to great distress, and it is certain that sickness prevails in a great degree, and that they are in great want of bread and wine, but no appearance of retreat had been yet indicated; two hundred light troops are now on board the gun-boats, which had been driven here by the late gales, and a few boats of the country which have been hired, and are endeavouring to beat down. General Ballesteros, and one thousand three hundred Spanish grenadiers, are embarked, and waiting the first slant of wind.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. V. PENROSE.

*J. W. Croker, Esq.*

*San Juan, Gibraltar, Jan. 4, 1812.*

I REQUEST you to inform their Lordships that, after closing my letter yesterday, I received intelligence from Captain Lobo, that fifty deserters had come in from the French army in the course of the preceding afternoon, all of whom give accounts of great distress prevailing throughout it; want of bread and wine, and great sickness.

Accounts from Tarifa in the afternoon stated, the enemy appeared to be about erecting another battery, for the purpose of effecting a breach in another part of the wall; but from the excellent measures taken within, I do not think any fears need be entertained of the result of another attempt to storm. I should, indeed, feel in a state of the most perfect security, if we could get the Spanish grenadier battalion under Ballesteros all down, in addition to the two light companies which General Campbell has already sent.

4 P. M. *January 5.*—I have now the very great satisfaction to request you to inform their Lordships, that I have just received the intelligence that the enemy, after making some demonstrations of an assault during last night, broke up from before Tarifa, leaving seven brass eighteen-pounders and two howitzers spiked, with ammunition-waggons, tools, &c. In addition to the gallant repulse which I have before mentioned in the attempt of the French, and the fire from our guns, which have been most ably worked, both on the land and from our ships and boats when occasions offered, the enemy has had to encounter such excessive rains, attended with want of provisions and every species of shelter, that it is just to give him great credit for his persevering so long as he did.

I cannot speak to the loss of the enemy, or of