

in consequence of the landing of the British troops, which were reported to amount to a considerable number.

Baron de Tettenborn, Colonel Commandant of a corps of that division of the Russian army commanded by Count Wittgenstein, entered Hamburg on the 18th instant, amidst the acclamations and every demonstration of joy on the part of the citizens; in consequence of this happy event the ancient Government has been restored, and a mail from England is now dispatched from that city.

Admiralty-Office, March 30, 1813.

*Copies of two Letters from Lieutenant Francis Banks, Commanding His Majesty's Gun Vessel the Blazer, to John Wilson Croker, Esq. dated off Cuxhaven, the 16th and 17th instant.*

*Blazer, at anchor off Cuxhaven, March 16, 1813.*

SIR,

I BEG to inform you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that from the intelligence communicated to me by the Lieutenant-Governor of Heligoland, and what I otherwise learned by the arrival of vessels from the Continent, of the distressed state of the French forces at Cuxhaven, and of the entrance of a Russian army into Hamburg, I judged it expedient to take the Brevdageren under my orders, and proceeded to the river Elbe, which I entered early this morning, with the hope of intercepting such of the enemy's vessels as might attempt to make their escape; two of the gun-vessels we found deserted in the entrance of this river, and were afterwards destroyed; on a nearer approach to this place I observed some were burning, others were sunk and drifting about in all directions; and I have the satisfaction to inform you of the total destruction of the French flotilla that was stationed at Cuxhaven, which were twenty large gun schuyts: the timely appearance of His Majesty's brig prevented the escape of two, and I firmly believe, led to the destruction of the rest by their own hands: the Hamburg flag is displayed on the batteries and castle of Ritzbittel, and I intend to gain a communication with the shore.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. BANKS.

*Blazer, at anchor off Cuxhaven, March 17, 1813.*

SIR,

I BEG leave to acquaint you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that having had communication with the Civil Authorities of Ritzbittel, they expressed a desire that I would take possession of the batteries that had been lately evacuated by the French. I accordingly this morning disembarked the sma detachment of thirty-two of the Royal Veteran Battalion from Heligoland, and took possession of Cuxhaven battery. Fort Napoleon, which is half a mile higher up the river, I shall order to be destroyed. Every

thing in these forts is in disorder, the guns dismounted, the carriages and stores destroyed. From what I have been able to observe this day, all is anarchy and confusion among the inhabitants, but they rejoiced much at a few English being landed. No Senate as yet is formed at Hamburg, nor do I hear of the Russian army having entered that city; whenever that can be ascertained, I shall communicate this event to the commanding officer there.

The French withdrew from this place yesterday morning at five o'clock; their collective force was about twelve hundred; they made their retreat by Bederkesa to Bremen.

I enclose a copy of the articles concluded on between the Civil Authorities and myself; I shall forward a list of military and other stores the moment I am able.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) F. BANKS.

ARTICLES concluded between the Civil Authorities of Ritzbittel, and Lieutenant F. Banks, commanding His Majesty's Forces in the River Elbe.

THE Hamburg flag shall be hoisted in conjunction with the British, at the French batteries near Cuxhaven, until His Britannic Majesty's pleasure is known. All military and other stores belonging to the French shall be delivered up to the English.

The British troops shall take immediate possession of the batteries, and garrison the same.

Executed on board His Majesty's brig the Blazer, this 17th March 1813.

Admiralty-Office, March 30, 1813.

*Copy of a Letter from Admiral Young, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the North Sea, to John Wilson Croker, Esq. dated in Town the 29th instant.*

SIR,

I TRANSMIT, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a letter which I have received through Lieutenant Banks, commanding the Blazer gun-brig, off Cuxhaven, from Lieutenant Devon, of the Brevdageren, stating the capture of two Danish gun-boats in the River Elbe, in a very gallant manner, by two boats belonging to the Brevdageren and Blazer.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) W. YOUNG.

*His Majesty's Brig Brevdageren, River Elbe, March 21, 1813.*

SIR,

AGREEABLY to your arrangement, I proceeded with the galley of the Brevdageren, and cutter of the Blazer, in search of the Danish privateer said to infest the upper part of the river. At day-light this morning we discovered two galliots, which were at first supposed to be merchant vessels; but on approaching them they hailed, and instantly opened a fire. In this critical situation there was no safety but in resolutely boarding, and I took advantage of the cheerful readiness of our