

MY LORD, *Messina, February 16, 1813.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that since the attack of the 21st of July the enemy had thrown up new works at Pietra Nera, and felt such confidence in their protection, that a convoy of fifty sail of armed vessels had assembled within a few days past to transport to Naples timber and other Government property. Conceiving it necessary to destroy this confidence, I submitted a proposal, which having gained your Lordship's sanction, I proceeded on the night of the 14th with two divisions of the flotilla, and four companies of the 75th, under the command of Major Stewart. Light and contrary winds prevented the boats arriving until nearly daylight, when about one hundred and fifty men, with an auxiliary party of seamen, under the command of Lieutenant Hunte, were landed; and Major Stewart, without waiting the arrival of the rest, pushed up immediately to the height, which we had previously concerted to occupy, and which a complete battalion, with two troops of cavalry, and two pieces of artillery, were prepared to dispute. Aware of the enemy having cavalry, I landed a detachment of the rocket corps, under the direction of Corporal Barenbach, the fire of which threw the enemy into confusion, and facilitated the approach of our troops, which charged the height in a most determined way. The enemy, however, did not abandon it until the Colonel-Commandant Roche, and most of his officers, were killed or made prisoners, and the height was literally covered with their dead. The division of the flotilla under Captain Imbert had now commenced a most destructive cannonade on the batteries, which held out with such obstinacy, that I was obliged to order them to be successively stormed. This service was performed by Lieutenant Le Hunte, with a party of seamen, in a very gallant style. At eight o'clock every thing was in our possession, the most valuable of the enemy's vessels and timber launched, and the rest on fire. Upwards of one hundred and fifty of the enemy killed and wounded, one hundred and sixty-three prisoners, amongst whom is the Colonel of the regiment, three of his Captains, two Captains of cavalry and one of artillery, with his two guns (six-pounders), afford the best proofs of the manner in which both services did their work: very few of the enemy's cavalry escaped.

The determined manner in which Major Stewart led his men to the attack of the enemy's position,

did him infinite honour, and the army will share my regret at the loss of this brave officer, who fell by a musket shot, while with me, pushing off from the shore, after the troops were embarked. Lieutenant Campbell, of the 75th, who commanded the advanced, was particularly and generally noticed; I cannot sufficiently express my admiration of the very exemplary conduct of Lieutenant Le Hunte, who was the observation of sailors and soldiers.

Colonel Robinson superintended the debarkation, and was very active. The army flotilla officer, Don Luigi Muallo, is always distinguished on these occasions: Captain Imbert, of the Neapolitan navy, placed his division of gun-boats in a manner that did him much credit. I solicit your Lordship's recommendation of this officer, with Don Gesolmino Patella and Don Pietri Trapani, to the notice of His Royal Highness the Hereditary Prince. I have the honour to annex a list of our killed and wounded on this occasion, which your Lordship will observe is very trifling, compared with the enormous loss of the enemy. This of itself speaks more for the discipline of the 75th than any eulogium, which as an officer of a different service, I can presume to bestow.

(Signed) R. HALL, Captain and Brigadier.

1 boatswain, 1 seaman, killed; 7 seamen wounded.

(Signed) R. HALL.

*His Excellency Lord W. C. Bentinck,
&c. &c. &c. Palermo.*

Admiralty-Office, April 13, 1813.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Dench, of His Majesty's Sloop Nautilus, addressed to Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Bart. and transmitted by the Vice-Admiral to John Wilson Croker, Esq.

His Majesty's Sloop Nautilus, off the Esquerques, February 7, 1813.

SIR,

I BEG leave to inform you, His Majesty's sloop under my command this day captured the French privateer brig La Leonilde, mounting fourteen guns (two long eighteen-pounders, two short twelves, two twelve-pounder cannonades, and eight short sixes), with a complement of eighty-three men. Three men were wounded, one of whom died shortly after she struck.

I have the honour to be, &c.

THOS. DENCH, Captain.

Admiralty-Office, April 13, 1813.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Flin, of His Majesty's Sloop the Cephalus, addressed to Vice-Admiral