

He was on this account enabled to dispose of his killed and wounded, and I cannot state his loss. That on the part of the allied army is inconsiderable. I have much satisfaction in acquainting your Lordship, that trifling as these affairs have proved, they are sufficient to give me great confidence in the troops which were engaged; and it is with peculiar pleasure I have noticed the state of Major-General Whittingham's division of the Spanish army.

*Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Sir J. Murray to General the Marquess of Wellington, dated Castalla, March 23, 1813.*

IN my dispatch of the 10th instant, I had the honour to inform your Lordship, that I had found it expedient to drive the enemy from Alcoy, and to occupy that place with a strong division of the allied army.

In consequence of this movement, Marshal Suchet quitted Valencia, and has assumed the command, in person, of the troops on the right bank of the Xucar. He appears to have drawn to this division of his army nearly all the disposable force which he has in the neighbourhood of Valencia.

Finding that the enemy was concentrating his force, I assembled the allied army at Castalla on the 20th. In consequence of this concentration of the allied army, Marshal Suchet has reinforced his right, and has now a strong force at Onteniente, Mogente, and Fuente del Higuera. Since I had last the honour of addressing your Lordship, there have been several trifling affairs with the enemy. General Whittingham has forced him to retire beyond the Puerto de Albayda, with a very considerable loss.

In this affair, which General Whittingham conducted with great judgment, and in which the Spanish troops behaved with great gallantry and order, the General was slightly wounded, as were an officer and seven men.

In a reconnoitring party on the same day, conducted by Major-General Donkin, Captain Jacks, and the foreign troop of light cavalry, Captain Waldron, and the grenadiers of the 2d 27th, and Lieutenant M'Dougall, of the Adjutant-General's Department, had an opportunity of making a spirited attack on an enemy's post, which was carried in the presence of a battalion drawn up as spectators.

We suffered no loss on this occasion, but killed some of the enemy, and took a few prisoners.

Before I conclude this letter I beg to add, that, since I have been in co-operation with General Elio, I have found his Excellency most anxious to forward every object I have in view: it is impossible too highly to extol his zeal, or the readiness with which he meets my wishes.

Admiralty-Office, April 20, 1813.

*Letters, of which the following are Copies and Extract, have been transmitted to this Office by Rear-Admiral Dixon, addressed to John Wilson Croker, Esq. by Lieutenant Chads, late First Lieutenant of His Majesty's Ship Java.*

*United States' Frigate Constitution, off St. Salvador, Dec. 31, 1812.*

SIR,

IT is with deep regret that I write you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that His Majesty's ship Java is no more, after sustaining an action on the 29th instant, for several hours, with the American frigate Constitution, which resulted in the capture and ultimate destruction of His Majesty's ship. Captain Lambert being dangerously wounded in the height of the action, the melancholy task of writing the detail devolves on me.

On the morning of the 29th instant, at eight A. M. off St. Salvador (coast of Brazil), the wind at N. E. we perceived a strange sail; made all sail in chase, and soon made her out to be a large frigate; at noon prepared for action, the chase not answering our private signals, and tacking towards us under easy sail; when about four miles distant she made a signal, and immediately tacked and made all sail away upon the wind. We soon found we had the advantage of her in sailing, and came up with her fast, when she hoisted American colours; she then bore about three points on our lee bow. At fifty minutes past one P. M. the enemy shortened sail, upon which we bore down upon her; at ten minutes past two, when about half a mile distant, she opened her fire, giving us her larboard broadside, which was not returned till we were close on her weather bow. Both ships now manœuvred to obtain advantageous positions, our opponent evidently avoiding close action, and firing high to disable our masts, in which he succeeded too well, having shot away the head of our bowsprit with the jib-boom, and our running rigging so much cut as to prevent our preserving the weather gage.

At five minutes past three, finding the enemy's raking fire extremely heavy, Captain Lambert ordered the ship to be laid on board, in which we should have succeeded, had not our fore-mast been shot away at this moment, the remains of our bowsprit passing over his taffrail; shortly after this the maintop-mast went, leaving the ship totally unmanageable, with most of our starboard guns rendered useless from the wreck lying over them.

At half past three our gallant Captain received a dangerous wound in the breast, and was carried below; from this time we could not fire more than two or three guns until a quarter past four, when our mizen-mast was shot away; the ship then fell off