

numbers of five to one; an intelligent black man gave us information of two hundred militia being encamped behind a wood, distant half a mile from the beach, and described their situation, so as to give us the strongest hopes of cutting off and securing the largest part as our prisoners, destroying the camp, field-pieces, &c. and possessing also certain information that one man out of every five had been levied as a requisition on the eastern shore, for the purpose of being sent over for the protection of Baltimore, and who are now only prevented crossing the bay by the activity and vigilance of the tender and ships' boats. One hundred and four bayonets, with twenty pikes, were landed at eleven o'clock at night, under the immediate direction of Captain Sir Peter Parker, Bart. the first division headed by myself, and the second division by Lieutenant Pearce. On arriving at the ground we discovered the enemy had shifted his position, as we were then informed, to the distance of a mile farther; having taken the look-out picket immediately on our landing, we were in assurance our motions had not been discovered, and with the deepest silence followed on for the camp. After a march of between four and five miles in the country, we found the enemy posted on a plain, surrounded by woods, with the camp in their rear; they were drawn up in line, and perfectly ready to receive us; a single moment was not to be lost; by a smart fire, and instant charge, we commenced the attack, forced them from their position, putting them before us, in full retreat to the rear of their artillery, where they again made a stand, shewing a disposition to outflank us on the right; a movement was instantly made by Lieutenant Pearce's division to force them from that quarter; and it was at this time, while animating his men in the most heroic manner, that Sir Peter Parker received his mortal wound, which obliged him to quit the field, and he expired in a few minutes. Lieutenant Pearce, with his division, soon routed the enemy, while that under my command gained and passed the camp. One of the field pieces was momentarily in our possession, but obliged to quit it from superior numbers.

The marines, under Lieutenants Beynon and Poe, formed our centre, and never was bravery more conspicuous. Finding it impossible to close on the enemy from the rapidity of their retreat, having pursued them upwards of a mile, I deemed it prudent to retire towards the beach, which was effected in the best possible order, taking with us from the field twenty-five of our wounded, the whole we could find, the enemy not even attempting to regain the ground they had lost; from three prisoners (cavalry) taken by us, we learnt their force amounted to five hundred militia, a troop of horse and five pieces of artillery, and since by flags of truce, I am led to believe their number much greater.

Repelling a force of such magnitude with so small a body as we opposed to them, will, I trust, speak for itself; and although our loss has been severe, I hope the lustre acquired to our arms will compensate for it. Permit me, Sir, to offer to your notice the conduct of Mr. James Stopford Hore, Master's-Mate of this ship, who on this as well as on other trying occasions, evinced the greatest zeal and gallantry. In justice to Sub-Lieutenant John-

son, commanding the Jane Tender, I must beg to notice the handsome manner in which he has at all times volunteered his services.

Herewith I beg leave to enclose you a list of the killed, wounded, and missing in this affair.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) HEN. CREASE, Act. Com.

List of Officers, Seamen, and Marines, killed, wounded, &c. belonging to His Majesty's Ship Menelaus, on the Morning of the 31st of August 1814, Henry Crease, Esq. Acting Commander.

Killed.

Sir Peter Parker, Bart. Captain.
J. T. Sandes, midshipman.
Robert Friar, quarter-master.
Rowland Robinson, quarter-master.
James Perren, swabber.
Thomas Doris, sail-maker.
George Hall, ordinary seaman.
John Evans, serjeant of marines.
William Hooper, private marine.
William Davis, private marine.
Robert Johnson, private marine.
William Rogers, private marine.
William Powell, private marine.
Robert Jones, private marine.

Wounded.

Thomas Fitzmaurice, boatswain's-mate, severely.
John M'Allister, able seaman, severely.
Joseph Daley, able seaman, severely.
John Willson, able seaman, severely.
James Mooney, ordinary seaman, severely.
Michael Cullin, ordinary seaman, slightly.
John Bath, ordinary seaman, severely.
John Samuel, captain of the mast, slightly.
James Cooper, able seaman, severely.
John Malcolm, ordinary seaman, severely.
Archibald M'Arthur, captain of the fore-castle, severely.
William Nol, ordinary seaman, slightly.
Thomas Toffield, quarter-master's-mate, severely.
Michael Halligan, quarter gunner, slightly.
B. G. Bayman, first lieutenant of marines, severely.
George Poe, second lieutenant of marines, slightly.
James Listt, private marine, slightly.
William Harvey, private marine, slightly.
John Schriber, private marine, slightly.
William Pritchard, private marine, severely.
George Morrell, private marine, slightly.
William Golatham, private marine, severely.
Edmund Turner, private marine, severely.
William Smith, private marine, slightly.
James Manderson, ordinary seaman, severely.
John Rowe, landman, severely.
George Hobbs, captain of the foretop, severely.

Total—14 killed; 27 wounded.

(Signed) HENRY CREASE, Act. Com.
A. S. MERRINGS, Surgeon.

Admiralty-Office, September 27, 1814.

REAR-ADMIRAL Lord Torrington has transmitted to John Wilson Croker, Esq. a letter from Captain Somerville, of His Majesty's ship