



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

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COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, October 17, 1814.

CAPTAIN MACDOUGALL arrived early this morning with a Dispatch, addressed to Earl Bathurst, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, by Colonel Brook, of which the following is a Copy:—

On board H. M. S. Tomant, Chesapeake, My Lord, Sept. 17, 1814.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that the division of troops under the command of Major-General Ross, effected a disembarkation on the morning of the 12th September, near North Point, on the left point of the Patapsco River, distant from Baltimore about thirteen miles, with the view of pushing a reconnoissance, in co-operation with the naval forces, to that town, and acting thereon as the enemy's strength and positions might be found to dictate.

The approach on this side to Baltimore lays through a small peninsula formed by the Patapsco and Back River, and generally from two to three miles broad, while it narrows in some places to less than half a mile.

Three miles from North Point the enemy had entrenched himself quite across this neck of land, towards which (the disembarkation having been completed at an early hour,) the troops advanced.

The enemy was actively employed in the completion of this work, deepening the ditch, and strengthening its front by a low abatis, both which, however, he precipitately abandoned on the approach of our skirmishers, leaving in our hands some few dragoons, being part of his rear-guard.

About two miles beyond this post our advance became engaged; the country was here closely wooded, and the enemy's riflemen were enabled to

conceal themselves. At this moment the gallant General Ross received a wound in his breast, which proved mortal. He only survived to recommend a young and unprovided family to the protection of his King and country.

Thus fell at an early age one of the brightest ornaments of his profession, one who whether at the head of a regiment, a brigade or corps, had alike displayed the talents of command, who was not less beloved in his private, than enthusiastically admired in his public character, and whose only fault, if it may be deemed so, was an excess of gallantry, enterprise, and devotion to the service.

If ever it were permitted to a soldier, to lament those who fall in battle, we may indeed in this instance claim that melancholy privilege.

Thus it is, that the honour of addressing your Lordship, and the command of this army have devolved upon me; duties which, under any other circumstances, might have been embraced as the most enviable gifts of fortune; and here I venture to solicit through your Lordship, his Royal Highness the Prince Regent's consideration to the circumstances of my succeeding, during operations of so much moment, to an officer of such high and established merit.

Our advance continuing to press forward, the enemy's light troops were pushed to within five miles of Baltimore, where a corps of about six thousand men, six pieces of artillery, and some hundred cavalry, were discovered posted under cover of a wood, drawn up in a very dense order, and lining a strong paling, which crossed the main road nearly at right angles. The creeks and inlets of the Patapsco, and Back Rivers, which approach each other at this point, will in some measure account for the contracted nature of the enemy's position