

ships to the report Rear-Admiral Cockburn has made of the meritorious and gallant conduct of the Naval Brigade; as well as to the accompanying letter from Colonel Brook, expressing his obligations to Captain Edward Crofton, who commanded, and Captains T. B. Sullivan, Rowland, Money, and Robert Ramsay, who had charge of divisions; and I have to recommend these officers, together with those who are particularly noticed by the Rear-Admiral, to their Lordships' favourable consideration.

Captain Robyns of the Royal Marines, who commanded the marines of the squadron on this occasion, and in the operations against Washington, being severely wounded, I beg leave to bring him to their Lordships' recollection, as having been frequently noticed for his gallant conduct during the services on the Chesapeake, and to recommend him, with Lieutenant Sampson Marshall, of the Diadem, who is dangerously wounded, to their Lordships' favour and protection.

First Lieutenant John Lawrence of the royal maine artillery, who commanded the rocket brigade, has again rendered essential service, and is highly spoken of by Colonel Brook.

Captain Edward Crofton, who will have the honour of delivering this dispatch, is competent to explain any further particulars; and I beg leave to recommend him to their Lordships' protection, as a most zealous and intelligent officer.

I have the honour to be, &c.

ALEXANDER COCHRANE,

Vice-Admiral, and Commander-in-Chief.

To John Wilson Cruker, Esq.

&c., &c., &c.

*His Majesty's Ship Severn, in the Patapsco, 15th Sept. 1814.*

SIR,

IN furtherance of the instructions I had the honour to receive from you on the 11th instant, I landed at day light of the 12th with Major-General Ross and the force under his command, at a place the General and myself had previously fixed upon, near to North Point, at the entrance of the Patapsco, and in conformity with his wishes, I determined on remaining on shore, and accompanying the army to render him every assistance within my power during the contemplated movements and operations; therefore so soon as our landing was completed, I directed Captain Nonrse, of this ship, to advance up the Patapsco with the frigates, sloops, and bomb ships, to bombard the fort and threaten the water-approach to Baltimore, and I moved on with the army and seamen (under Captain Edward Crofton) attached to it, on the direct road leading to the abovementioned town.

We had advanced about five miles (without other occurrence than taking prisoners a few light horsemen) when the General and myself, being with the advanced guard, observed a division of the enemy posted at a turning of the road, extending into a wood on our left; a sharp fire was almost immediately opened upon us from it, and as quickly returned with considerable effect by our advanced guard, which pressing steadily forward, soon obliged the enemy to run off with the utmost precipitation, leaving behind him several men killed and wounded; but it is with the most heartfelt

sorrow I have to add, that in this short and desultory skirmish, my gallant and highly valued friend the Major-General, received a musket ball through his arm into his breast, which proved fatal to him on his way to the water-side for re-embarkation.

Our country, Sir, has lost in him one of its best and bravest soldiers, and those who knew him, as I did, a friend most honoured and beloved; and I trust, Sir, I may be forgiven for considering it a sacred duty I owe to him to mention here, that whilst his wounds were binding up, and we were placing him on the bearer, which was to carry him off the field, he assured me the wounds he had received in the performance of his duty to his country caused him not a pang; but he felt alone, anxiety for a wife and family dearer to him than his life, whom, in the event of the fatal termination he foresaw, he recommended to the protection and notice of his Majesty's Government, and the country.

Colonel Brook, on whom the command of the army now devolved, having come up, and the body of our troops having closed with the advance, the whole proceeded forward about two miles further, where we observed the enemy in force drawn up before us (apparently about six or seven thousand strong); on perceiving our army he filed off into a large and extensive wood on his right, from which he commenced a cannonade on us from his field pieces, and drew up his men behind a thick paling, where he appeared determined to make his stand. Our field guns answered his with evident advantage, and so soon as Colonel Brook had made the necessary dispositions the attack was ordered, and executed in the highest style possible. The enemy opened his musketry on us from his whole line, immediately we approached within reach of it, and kept up his fire till we reached and entered the wood, when he gave way in every direction, and was chased by us a considerable distance with great slaughter, abandoning his post of the Meeting House, situated in this wood, and leaving all his wounded and two of his field guns in our possession.

An advance of this description against superior numbers of an enemy so posted, could not be effected without loss. I have the honour to enclose a return of what has been suffered by those of the naval department, acting with the army on this occasion; and it is, Sir, with the greatest pride and pleasure, I report to you that the brigade of Seamen with small arms commanded by Captain Edward Crofton, assisted by Captains Sullivan, Money and Ramsey, (the three senior commanders with the fleet) who commanded divisions under him, behaved with a gallantry and steadiness which would have done honour to the oldest troops, and which attracted the admiration of the army. The seamen under Mr. Jackson, master's mate of the Tonnant, attached to the rocket brigade, commanded by the first lieutenant Lawrence of the marines, behaved also with equal skill and bravery. The marines landed from the ships under the command of Captain Robyns, the senior officer of that corps, belonging to the fleet, behaved with their usual gallantry.

Although, Sir, in making to you my report of this action, I know it is right I should confine my