

ROYAL OAK.

Wounded.

John M'Carthy, able seaman, severely.

(Signed) EDWARD CODRINGTON,
Rear-Admiral and Captain
of the Fleet.Total—3 midshipmen, 13 seamen, 1 private marine,
killed; 1 captain, 4 lieutenants, 1 lieutenant of
marines, 3 master's-mates, 7 midshipmen, 50 sea-
men, 11 marines, wounded.

Grand Total—17 killed; 77 wounded. E. C.

Armide, off Isle au Chat, January
18, 1815.

SIR,

AN unsuccessful attempt to gain possession of the enemy's lines near New Orleans on the 8th instant, having left me to deplore the fall of Major General the Honourable Sir Edward Pakenham, and Major-General Gibbs; and deprived the service of the present assistance of Major-General Keane, who is severely wounded, I send the Plantagenet to England to convey a Dispatch from Major-General Lambert, upon whom the command of the army has devolved, and to inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of the operations of the combined forces since my arrival upon this coast.

The accompanying Letters, Nos. 163 and 169, of the 7th and 16th ultimo, will acquaint their Lordships of the proceedings of the squadron to the 15th December.

The great distance from the anchorage of the frigates and troop ships to the Bayou Catalan, which from the best information we could gain appeared to offer the most secure, and was indeed the only unprotected spot whereat to effect a disembarkation, and our means, even with the addition of the captured enemy's gun vessels, only affording us transport for half the army, exclusive of the supplies that were required, it became necessary, in order to have support for the division that would first land, to assemble the whole at some intermediate position, from whence the second division could be re-embarked in vessels brought light into the Lake, as near the Bayou as might be practicable, and remain there until the boats could land the first division and return.

Upon the 16th therefore the advance, commanded by Colonel Thornton of the 85th regiment, was put into the gun vessels and boats, and Captain Gordon of the Seahorse proceeded with them, and took post upon the Isle aux Poix, a small swampy spot at the mouth of the Pearl river, about thirty miles from the anchorage, and nearly the same distance from the Bayou, where Major-General Keane, Rear-Admiral Codrington, and myself joined them on the following day; meeting the gun vessels and boats returning to the shipping for troops, and supplies of stores and provisions.

The Honourable Captain Spencer, of the Carron, and Lieutenant Paddy, of the Quarter-Master-General's department, who were sent to reconnoitre the Bayou Catalan, now returned with a favourable report of its position for disembarking the army; having, with their guide, pulled up in a

canoe to the head of the Bayou, a distance of eight miles, and landed within a mile and a half of the high road to, and about six miles below New Orleans, where they crossed the road without meeting with any interruption, or perceiving the least preparation on the part of the enemy.

The severe changes of the weather, from rain to fresh gales and hard frost, retarding the boats in their repeated passages to and from the shipping, it was not until the 21st that (leaving on board the greater part of the two black regiments and the dragoons,) we could assemble troops and supplies sufficient to admit of our proceeding; and on that day we commenced the embarkation of the second division in the gun-vessels, such of the hired craft as could be brought into the Lakes, and the Anaconda, which by the greatest exertions had been got over the shoal passages.

On the 22d these vessels being filled with about two thousand four hundred men, the advance, consisting of about sixteen hundred, got into the boats, and at eleven o'clock the whole started, with a fair wind, to cross Lac Borgne. We had not, however, proceeded above two miles when the Anaconda grounded, and the hired craft and gun-vessels taking the ground in succession before they had got within ten miles of the Bayou; the advance pushed on, and at about midnight reached the entrance.

A picquet, which the enemy had taken the precaution to place there, being surprised and cut off, Major-General Keane, with Rear-Admiral Malcolm and the advance, moved up the Bayou, and having effected a landing at daybreak, in the course of the day was enabled to take up a position across the main road to New Orleans, between the river Mississippi and the Bayou.

In this situation, about an hour after sunset, and before the boats could return with the second division, an enemy's schooner of fourteen guns, and an armed ship of sixteen guns, having dropped down the Mississippi, the former commenced a brisk cannonading, which was followed up by an attack of the whole of the American army. Their troops were, however, beaten back, and obliged to retire with considerable loss, and Major-General Keane advanced somewhat beyond his former position. As soon as the second division was brought up, the gun-vessels and boats returned for the remainder of the troops, the small-armed seamen and marines of the squadron, and such supplies as were required.

On the 25th, Major-General Sir E. Pakenham and Major-General Gibbs arrived at head-quarters, when the former took command of the army.

The schooner which had continued at intervals to annoy the troops having been burnt on the 27th by hot shot from our artillery, and the ship having warped farther up the river, the following day the General moved forward to within gun-shot of an entrenchment which the enemy had newly thrown up, extending across the cultivated ground from the Mississippi to an impassable swampy wood on his left, a distance of about one thousand yards.

It being thought necessary to bring heavy artillery against this work, and also against the ship which had cannonaded the army when advancing, guns were brought up from the shipping, and on the 1st instant batteries were opened; but our fire not