

Judged might be used against St. Joseph's Fort. Captain Knowles had with him the Captains Watfon, Cotes, Dennis, Cleland, and Broderick. They got to the Fascine-Battery, and landed and drew their Men together before the Time of our Forces marching to the Attack of Bocca-chica Castle, which must have contributed to throw the Enemy into some Confusion. Our Grenadiers at the Time Brigadier Wentworth had appointed, moved in very good Order to the Assault, expecting a vigorous Resistance; but to his great Surprize, as soon as our Grenadiers began to mount the Breach, the Enemy fled out of the Castle, without firing one Musket Shot.

Immediately after this the Enemy began to set Fire to one of their Ships, whereupon our Men observing the Consternation they were in, resolved to row in their Boats close under the Lee Shore and storm St. Joseph's Fort from their Boats, which they did accordingly, and found only three drunken Spaniards there. Flush'd with this Success, and finding the Enemy were upon sinking their other Ships, they rowed up to those Ships, as they were now got within the Boom, and boarded the Admiral Don Blas's own Ship the Galicia, in which they took Prisoners the Captain of the Ship, the Captain of the Marines, an Ensign, and 60 Men, who not having had Boats to escape in, had delayed sinking the Ship till they could have got off. This done, our Men went and cut the Boom, to make all clear for us the next Day (leaving Officers and Men on board the Galicia, where they had found both Flag and Colours flying) and an Officer in St. Joseph's Fort.

On the 26th the Admiral hastened into the Harbour to make proper Dispositions, but though he had nothing to do but to get in, he found it Matter of Difficulty, especially as the Enemy had sunk the San Carlos and Africa in the best of the Channel, and the St. Philip which they had burnt and blown up was yet burning on the Lee Shore, so that the Admiral was above three Hours warping through, after he anchored in the Narrows, before he could get to sail up the Harbour, which he did about two Leagues the same Evening. And our getting in now was the more providential, as we have had very blowing Weather ever since. The same Evening, there got in with the Admiral the Burford and Orford of his Division.

The 27th the Admiral gave Orders to Capt. Griffin in the Burford, with Lord Augustus Fitzroy in the Orford, to advance as fast as the Wind would let them, for posting themselves across the Harbour, as near as they could just without Gun-shot of Castillo Grande, for cutting it off from all Communication by Water as soon as might be; which they could move but slowly in, the Wind blowing right down the Harbour. The same Day the Worcester got up to the Admiral, who sent her to anchor close to a Wharf where there was a good Crane and a Spring of Water, which he thought necessary to secure for the Service of the Fleet. The Weymouth with Capt. Knowles getting in the same Afternoon, the Admiral sent him with the Cruizer Sloop to destroy the Enemy's Batteries at Passo Cavallos, and to seize what Hulks were there, which he executed the 28th, having destroyed two Batteries of eight Guns on each Side the Entrance into Passo Cavallos, and rendred those Guns unserviceable, by spiking them up and knocking off their Trunnions, and brought out four large Hulks that may be very useful to us for our second Descent, and the Watering our Ships.

Sir Chaloner Ogle got in with his Ship the 27th at Night, and the 28th work'd up between the Admiral and his two advanced Guards, but there are only got up to him yet of his Division the Rippon, Jersey, and the Experiment.

The Torbay and two Fireships of the Admiral's Division got up to him the 30th in the Morning, as did the Evening of the same Day the Chichester of his Division, and two Bomb Ketches.

The Enemy are acting in a Sort of Despondency, having sunk all their Galleons and other Ships across the Mouth of the upper Part of their Harbour above Castillo Grande, except the Conquistador and Dragon, the two remaining Men of War of the King of Spain's, and a Ship wearing French Colours, in order intirely to choke-up that Channel into the Harbour.

On the 30th in the Evening, the Admiral ordered his Engineer, Capt. Knowles, in the Weymouth to discover what he could of the Enemy: He getting that Night a little above the Admiral's advanced Guards, observed the Enemy were very busy in moving about with 13 Launches; and the next Morning he discovered, that they had sunk their two remaining Men of War, the Conquistador and Dragon, both of 60 Guns, and were removing Things out of Castillo Grande; of which he immediately gave Notice to Sir Chaloner Ogle, who lay between the Admiral and his advanced Guards, the Burford and Orford: He ordered Capt. Knowles to advance with his Ship and fire on the Castle, to see if they would return it; which he observing they did not, immediately made the Signal for the Boats mann'd and arm'd, who row'd up directly to the Castle, and took Possession of it without Opposition. The Admiral has made Captain Knowles Governor of it, he being well qualified to make his Remarks from it, how we may take our Advantages to push on still successfully.

We hope soon to get in all our Bomb Ketches to play upon the Town, and we shall now be able to land our Forces within a League of the Town, which could not have been done nearer than three Leagues, without our being Masters of Castillo Grande.

And now we are in full Possession, we may truly say it was as narrow a Channel, as difficult of Access, and as good a Disposition made to defend it, as we can apprehend to be any where in the World; for the Enemy had above two hundred Pieces of Cannon, from Forts, Batteries, and Ships, that lay all to play upon any thing coming in, within the Compass of a Mile round.

The first of April in the Morning, the Admiral got to an Anchor in his own Ship, close by Castillo Grande; and is getting some of his Ships at work, to try to heave the Masts out of the sunk Ships, to make a Channel over those sunk in deepest Water, that his Ships may get in to secure a safe Descent to the Army, under the Fire of our Guns; it being resolved in a Council of War to use all possible Expedition to cut off the Communication of the Town on the Land Side, and to make a Descent at the most convenient Place nearest the Town.

Some of our Officers were killed by the Enemy's Cannon, amongst whom are Colonel Douglas, Colonel Watfson of the Train, Lieutenant Colonel Sandford, Mr. Moor the chief Engineer, and Lieutenant Irwing.

Since we wrote last from Jamaica, Capt. Douglas has taken two Spanish Prizes coming from St. Jago for this Port; Capt. Trevor, who was cruising off Santa Martha, has taken a Register Ship, and an Aviso, both from Cadiz, bound to this Port, with Letters of the 2d of February,