

ceiving it would annoy us considerably, from its situation, I desired Mr Yeo to push on shore and spike the guns, reminding the men of its being the anniversary of their Sovereign's birth, and that, for his sake, as well as their own credit, their utmost exertions must be used. Though such an injunction was unnecessary, it had a great effect in animating and raising the spirits of the people. As the ship drew in, and more fully opened the bay, I perceived a very long corvette, of twenty-six ports, apparently nearly ready for sea, and a large brig, of twenty ports, in a state of fitting; but neither of them firing, led me to conclude they had not their guns on board, and left no other object to occupy my attention but a heavy fort, which at this moment opened to our view, within less than a quarter of a mile, and began a wonderfully well directed fire, almost every shot taking place in the hull. Perceiving that, by standing further on, more guns would be brought to bear upon us, without our being enabled to near the fort so much as I wished, I ordered the helm to be put down, and when, from the way she had, we had gained an advantageous position, anchored with a spring, and commenced firing. Although we had but little doubt that, before long, we should have silenced the fort, yet from the specimen they gave us, and being completely embrazed, it must have cost us many lives, and great injury to the ship, had not Mr Yeo's gallantry and great conduct soon put an end to their fire.

I must now revert to him and the party under his command: Having landed under the small battery on the point, it was instantly abandoned, but hardly had he time to spike the guns, when, at the distance of a quarter of a mile, he perceived a regular fort, ditched, and with a glacis, which the enemy (fortunately never suspecting our landing) had neglected to secure, open a fire upon the ship. Without waiting for orders, he pushed forward, and was opposed at the inner gate by the Governor, with such troops as were in the town, and the crews of the French privateers. From the testimony of the prisoners as well as our own men, it appears that Mr Yeo was the first that entered the fort, with one blow laid the Governor dead at his feet, and broke his own sabre in two; the other officers were dispatched by such officers and men of ours as were most advanced, and the narrowness of the gate would permit to push forward; the remainder instantly fled to the further end of the fort, where from the ship we could perceive many of them leap from the embrasures upon the rocks (a height of above twenty-five feet); such as laid down their arms received quarter. For a more particular account of the proceedings of Mr Yeo and his party, I beg leave to refer you to his letter inclosed herewith, and have to request you will be pleased to recommend him to the notice of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty; being a very old officer, and in the two late instances has displayed as much gallantry as ever fell to the lot of any man; he speaks in the strongest language of the officers and men under his command on shore, and I feel it but justice to attribute our success wholly to their exertions; for although the fire from the ship was admirably directed, the enemy were so completely covered by their embrasures, as to render the grape almost ineffectual.

The instant the union was displayed at the fort I sent and took possession of the enemy's vessels in the road, consisting of the Confiance French ship privateer, pierced for twenty-six twelves and nines, none of which were however on board; the Belier, a French privateer brig, pierced for twenty eighteen-pound carronades; and a Spanish merchant brig in ballast. I then hoisted a flag of truce, and sent to inform the inhabitants of the town, that, if they would deliver up such stores of the ship as were on shore, there would be no further molesta-

tion; the proposal was thankfully agreed to. I did not, however, think it advisable to allow the people to remain long enough to embark the guns, there being a large body of troops in the vicinity. A great many small vessels are in the bay and hauled up on the beach, none of them having cargoes of any value, I conceive it an act of inhumanity to deprive the poorer inhabitants of the means of gaining their livelihood, and shall not molest them. On inspecting the brig, as she had only the lower rigging over head, and was not in a state of forwardness, I found it impracticable to bring her away, and therefore set fire to her: She is now burnt to the water's edge. I cannot conclude my letter without giving the portion of credit that is their due to the officers and men on board the ship. They conducted themselves with the greatest steadiness and coolness; and, although under a heavy fire, pointed their guns with the utmost precision, there being hardly a shot that did not take effect. To Lieutenants Lawe and Bertram I feel much indebted, as well as to Mr Shea the purser (who volunteered his services, and to whom I gave the charge of the quarter deck carronades in Mr Yeo's absence), for the precision and coolness displayed by the men under their command in pointing the guns, as well as the exact attention paid to my orders, and ceasing fire the instant the union jack made its appearance on the walls, by which, in all probability, the lives of several of our men were saved. Mr Cleverly, the master, brought the broadside to bear with much quickness and nicety, by means of the spring. I send you herewith a list of our wounded on board, and on shore, with one of the enemy's killed and wounded; and an account of their force at the commencement of the action.

I have been under the necessity of being more detailed than I could wish, but it is out of my power, in a smaller compass, to do justice to the exertions and conduct of the officers and men employed on the different services. It is but fair at the same time to state that, much to the credit of the ship's company, the Bishop and one of the principal inhabitants of the town came off to express their gratitude for the orderly behaviour of the people (there not being one instance of pillage), and to make offer of every refreshment the place affords.

I am now waiting for the land breeze to carry us out, having already recalled the officers and men from the fort, the guns being spiked and thrown over the parapet, the carriages rendered unserviceable, and the embrasures, with part of the fort, blown up.

I have the honour to be, &c.

FRED. MAITLAND.

Rear-Admiral Drury, &c. &c. &c. Cove.

His Majesty's ship Loire, Muros, June 4, 1805.

SIR,

I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that I proceeded on shore with the party you did me the honour to place under my command, for the purpose of storming the fort on the point agreeable to your orders, which, on our approach, the soldiers quitted. On my arrival, I observed a strong fort at the entrance of the town, opening a heavy fire on the ship; and, judging it practicable to carry it by storm, from a thorough knowledge I had of the determined bravery of all the officers and men, I ordered them to follow me for that purpose, which was obeyed with all that energy and gallantry which British seamen and marines are so well known to possess on such an occasion, and, in a very short time, reached the outer gate, when the French sentinel fired, and retreated into the fort, which we instantly entered, and were met by the Governor and all the garrison, &c. when, after a dreadful slaughter on the part of the enemy, the remainder surrendered, and I instantly ordered the British colours to be hoisted.

I feel it my duty, as well as the greatest pleasure, to mention the great support I received

from Lieutenant Mallock of the royal marines, and Mr Charles Clinch master's mate, as, from their being near me all the time of the action, I was enabled to observe their very cool and gallant behaviour, as also of Lieutenant Douglas, of the royal marines, who, though engaged at different parts of the fort, I have no less reason to be highly pleased with.

I must now beg leave to say how much I am indebted to every seaman and marine of the party, who behaved so unanimously brave nothing could withstand them; and to their credit as Englishmen as well as their profession, the instant the fort was in our possession, they seemed to try who could be the first to relieve and assist the poor wounded prisoners, who were lying in numbers in different parts of the fort; and I had the pleasure to see their humanity amply repaid by the gratitude the unfortunate men's friends expressed when they came to take them away.

I have the honour to be, &c.

JAMES LUCAS YEO.

To Captain Frederick Maitland, &c.

A list of wounded on shore belonging to his Majesty's ship Loire, at Muros, the 4th of June 1805.

Lieutenant J. L. Yeo, slightly—Mr Clinch, master's mate, ditto—Henry Gray, seaman, ditto—Martin Hendrickson, seaman, ditto—John Payne, seaman, ditto—John Leonard, marine, ditto.

On board.

James Caldwell, seaman, dangerously—Magnus Johnson, seaman, lost his right leg above the knee—Christian Wilson, seaman, calf of his leg shot off—John Whitecomb, seaman, severely—John Plumber, seaman, slightly—Mark Archer, seaman, ditto—Thomas Lloyd, seaman, ditto—John Moulds, seaman, ditto—James Gillett, seaman, ditto.—Total.—2 officers, 12 seamen, and 1 marine.

Spaniards killed and wounded.

The Governor of the fort, and a Spanish Gentleman who had volunteered; the second Captain of the Confiance, and nine others, killed.

Thirty amongst which were most of the officers of the Confiance, wounded.

Total.—12 killed and 30 wounded.

(Signed) FRED. L. MAITLAND.

Enemy's force at the commencement of the action when opposed to his Majesty's ship Loire, in Muros Bay, June 4, 1805.

A fort of 12 Spanish eighteen-pounders, mounted on traveling carriages, 22 Spanish soldiers, several Spanish gentlemen and townsmen volunteers, and about 100 of the Confiance's ship's company.

The small battery on the point, 2 Spanish eighteen-pounders, one mounted as above, the other on a ship carriage, manned by eight artillery men and ten other Spaniards.

In the Bay.

La Confiance of Bourdeaux, pierced for 26 guns, twelves and nines, (not on board), 116 feet long on the main-deck, 30 feet wide, measures about 450 tons, is in good order, and a very fit ship for his Majesty's service; is reckoned to sail exceedingly fast; was to have gone to sea in a few days, bound to India, with a complement of 300 men: Brought away.

Le Belier, of Bourdeaux, pierced for twenty guns; also fitted for sea; was to have carried eighteen-pounder carronades, and 180 men; supposed to be destined to cruise to the westward of Cape Clear: Burnt.

The guns on the fort and battery spiked, and thrown over the parapet. The carriages broke, and rendered unserviceable. The embrasures blown up. Forty barrels of powder brought on board, with two small brass cannons, and 50 stand of arms.

(Signed) FRED. MAITLAND.

Copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral DACRES, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels at Jamaica, to WILLIAM MARSDEN, Esq. dated on board the Hercule, at sea, the 2d May 1805.

SIR,

I have the honour to inclose, for their Lordships information, the copy of a letter from Captain Coghlan, of his Majesty's sloop Renard, acquainting me of his having brought to action the General Erneuf privateer, late his Majesty's sloop Lilly, which, after a close action of thirty five minutes, took fire and exploded. It is an additional proof of the steady and decisive conduct of Captain Coghlan, who speaks in high terms of his officers and ship's company, all of whom I am sure, meet the approbation of their Lordships.

I am, &c. J. R. DACRES.

His Majesty's sloop Renard, Port Royal,

SIR,

Jamaica, April 27, 1805.

Having escorted the Chesterfield packet to the latitude directed in your order of the 15th.