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THE  
LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.  
SATURDAY NIGHT, SEPT. 3. 1806.

DOWNING-STREET, SEPT. 13.  
Dispatches, of which the following are copies and extracts, have this day been received at the Office of the Right Hon. W. WINDHAM, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Major-General BERESFORD, commanding a detachment of his Majesty's troops in South America.  
*Fort of Buenos Ayres, July 2. 1806.*

SIR,  
I had the honour to communicate to you, by my letter, dated the 30th April, the circumstances of my arrival at St Helena, and the result of the application to the Hon. the Governor of that place for troops.—The fleet sailed thence the 2d of May, and after a most unexpected long passage made Cape St Mary on the 8th of June. The *Narcissus* had been dispatched from the fleet on the 27th of May, and Sir Home Popham thought it right to proceed in her for the purpose of making himself acquainted with the navigation of the river, that no delay might occur in proceeding immediately on the arrival of the troops to such place as our information should induce us first to attack. I had sent Captain Kennet of the royal engineers (not liking myself to leave the troops) in the *Narcissus*, to make such reconnoitring of the enemy's places on the river as circumstances would admit; and to collect every possible information concerning them, and the strength of the enemy at the several places.

From fogs and baffling winds we did not meet the *Narcissus* until the sixth day after our arrival in the river, and I had the satisfaction to see in company with her the *Ocean* transport, which had parted from us previous to our going to St Helena. Sir Home Popham and myself immediately consulted whether it would be better first to attack the town of St Philip of Monte-Video,

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or Buenos Ayres, the capital of the province; and, after much reasoning, we determined to proceed against Buenos Ayres, which made it necessary to remove from the line of battle ships the troops and marines, and such seamen as were incorporated with the latter, and others that had been practised to arms during the passage, into the transports, and his Majesty's ship *Narcissus*, which was effected on the 16th ultimo, and though then only about 90 miles from Buenos Ayres; still, though to his skill Sir Home Popham added the most persevering zeal and assiduity, yet, from fogs, the intricacy of the navigation, and continual opposing winds, it was not until the 24th, at night, that we reached opposite to it. We found ourselves the next morning about eight miles from the Point of Quilmes, where I proposed landing, having been informed by an Englishman, who was pilot for the river, and who had been taken by the *Narcissus* out of a Portuguese vessel, that it was an excellent place, and an easy access from it into the country. As soon as the wind would permit, on the 25th, Sir Home Popham took the shipping as near as it was possible for them to go, and at a convenient distance for disembarking, which was effected in the course of the afternoon and night, and without any opposition, the enemy remaining at the village of Reduction, on a height about two miles from us in our front; the whole intermediate space, as well as to the right and left, being a perfect flat; but my guide informed me, that though in winter it was impassable, it was then very practicable, and easy for guns to pass.

It was eleven o'clock in the morning of the 26th before I could move off my ground, and the enemy could, from his position, have counted every man I had; the numbers as per margin\*.

\* See the "Actual state of the troop, &c." at this letter.

hill, on which was the village of Reduction, which covered his left flank, and his force consisted principally of cavalry (I have been since informed 2000), with eight field pieces. The nature of the ground was such, that I was under the necessity of going directly to his front; and to make my line as much as I could equal to his, I formed all the troops into one line, except the St Helena infantry, of 150 men, which I formed 120 yards in the rear, with two field pieces, with orders to make face to the right or left, as either of our flanks should be threatened by his cavalry. I had two six-pounders on each flank, and two howitzers in the centre of the first line. In this order, I advanced against the enemy, and after we had got within range of his guns, a tongue of swamp crossed our front, and obliged me to halt whilst the guns took a small circuit to cross, and which was scarcely performed, when the enemy opened their field pieces on us, at first well pointed, but as we advanced at a very quick rate, in spite of the boggy ground, that very soon obliged us to leave our guns behind, his fire did us but little injury. The 71st regiment reaching the bottom of the heights in a pretty good line, seconded by the marine battalion, the enemy would not wait their nearer approach, but retired from the brow of the hill, which our troops gaining, and commencing a fire of small arms, he fled with precipitation, leaving to us four field pieces and one tumbril, and we saw nothing more of him that day.

I halted two hours on the field to rest the troops, and to make arrangements for taking with us the enemy's guns and our own, which had now, by the exertions of Captain Donnelly, of the *Narcissus*, been extricated from the bog. He had accidentally landed, and accompanied the troops, on seeing them advance to the enemy, and I am much indebted to him for his voluntary assistance. I then marched, in hopes of preventing the de-

