

assembled our force off the island of Flores, a descent was effected on the 16th ultimo, near Carretta Point, which is about seven miles to the eastward of the town. The enemy had assembled in considerable numbers; and with several pieces of artillery seemed determined to oppose our progress.

The navigation of the Rio de la Plata, with the strong breezes which we have experienced for several weeks, rendered the landing of troops, and assisting their operations, very difficult, but the place chosen was happily adapted to allow the covering vessels, under the direction of Captain Hardyman, to approach so close as to command the beach, and notwithstanding the weather threatened, and was unfavourable, the soldiers got all on shore without a single accident of any kind, and were in possession of the heights before six o'clock, with such things as the general wanted.

On the 19th the army moved forwards, and as an attempt to harass the rear was expected, I directed boats to proceed close along shore to look out for and bring off any wounded men, whilst the covering vessels were placed to prevent the enemy from giving annoyance, and I had the happiness to hear that all the sufferers were brought off, in despite of well directed efforts to destroy them. In the evening I dropped, with the fleet, off Chico Bay, near which the army encamped, within two miles of the city.

I had landed about eight hundred seamen and royal marines, under the orders of Captain Donnelly, to act with the troops; and as I saw no advantage could result from any efforts of ships against a strong fortress, well defended at all points, and which, from the shallowness of the water, could not be approached within a distance to allow shot to be of any use, I disposed the squadron so as to prevent any escape from the harbour, as well as to impede a communication between Colonna and Buenos Ayres, and confined my whole attention to give every possible assistance in forwarding the siege, by landing guns from the line of battle ships, with ammunition, stores, provisions, and every thing required by the commander of the forces.

The distance which the ships lay from the shore, with the almost constant high winds and swell we had, and the great way every thing was to be dragged by the seamen, up a heavy sandy road, made the duty excessively laborious. The squadron had almost daily fourteen hundred men on shore, and this ship was often left with only thirty men on board.

The defence made by the enemy protracted the siege longer than was expected, and reduced our stock of powder so low, that the king's ships, with all the transports, and what a fleet of merchantmen had for sale, could not have furnished a further consumption for more than two days, when a practicable breach was fortunately made, and on the 3d instant, early in the morning, the town and citadel were most gallantly carried by storm.

In a conversation with the general on the preceding day, I had made such disposition of the smaller vessels and armed boats, as appeared most likely to answer a desired purpose, and so soon as fort Saint Philip was in possession of the British troops, Lieutenant William Milne, with the armed launches, took possession of the island of Ratonnes; mounting ten guns and garrisoned by seventy men, which surrendered without any resistance, although it is well adapted for defence, and might have given considerable annoyance. A very fine frigate mounting twenty-eight guns was set fire to by the crew, and blew up with an awful explosion; as also three gun boats, but the other vessels in the harbour were saved by the exertion of our people.

It has been much the custom to speak slightly of the resistance to be expected from the Spaniards in this country; and with confidence of the facility which has been given to naval operations; by a prior knowledge of the river, but the battles lately fought prove the former opinion to be erroneous, and experience evinces that all the information hitherto acquired has not prevented the most formidable difficulties.

The conduct of the captains, officers, seamen, and royal marines of the ships and vessels, which I kept with me for this service, has met with my entire approbation, and I feel persuaded that I should have had occasion to express my satisfaction with the exertions of the officers and crews of the Diomedé and Protector, if I had not been obliged to detach them on other service.

I am much indebted to the able assistance which Captain Warren has afforded me; and I admire the zeal, the patience, and diligence of every individual in the fleet during the incessant fatigue which I have daily witnessed.

Captain Donnelly will have the honour to deliver this dispatch, and is fully able to give their Lordships further particulars.

Inclosed is a list of men belonging to the navy who were killed or wounded in the batteries; and also a list of the enemy's ships and vessels found in the harbour, with a return of ordnance, &c. on the island of Ratonnes.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CHARLES STIRLING.

A List of the seamen and marines belonging to the squadron, who were killed and wounded at the capture of Monte Video, February 3, 1807.

*Diadem*—Ralph Blair, seaman, killed; John Francis, ditto; Thornton Purke, seaman, badly wounded; John Crang, marine, slightly wounded.

*Reasonable*—Michael Miller, seaman, badly wounded; Edward Roach, seaman, slightly wounded.

*Ardent*—Honourable C. L. Irby, midshipman, slightly wounded; John Doak, seaman, slightly wounded; Michael Burne, seaman, ditto; John Levan, seaman, ditto; William Jeffs, seaman, dangerously wounded; William Hart, seaman, missing; James Webster, seaman, ditto; Lawrence Plunket, seamen, killed.

*Unicorn*—John James, ordinary, badly wounded; Henry Smith, midshipman, ditto.

*Medusa*—William Garey, able, dangerously wounded.

*Lancaster*—Josiah Smith, ordinary, slightly wounded; Andrew Sweden, able, ditto.

*Daphne*—Timothy Conner, landman, slightly wounded.

*Howe*—William M'Cromick, landman, missing; William Burges, landman, slightly wounded; George Markham, captain of the fore-castle, ditto; Edward Hill, ordinary, ditto; Francis Bonifast, able, ditto.

*Charwell*—Oliver Luke, seaman, killed; John Murphy, missing.

*Pheasant*—None killed nor wounded.

*Encounter*—Richard Mann, able, badly wounded.

*Staunch*—George Stewart, Sub-Lieutenant, slightly wounded; Thomas Start, alias Joseph Dickens, landman, killed; John Fryar, captain of the fore-top, slightly wounded; Patrick Mooney, landman, ditto; Thomas H. Olden, able, ditto; Richard Walker, ordinary, killed; Peter Rees, captain of the fore-castle, slightly wounded; John Morrison, midshipman, ditto; David Miller, ordinary, ditto; John Moore, landman, ditto.

Total—6 killed, 28 wounded, 4 missing.

(Signed) CHARLES STIRLING.

List of Prizes taken at Monte Video, 3d of February 1807.

La Paula, a king's ship, of 22 guns, very old, and badly stored.

El Principe de la Paz, an Indiaman, mounting 20 guns, very old, unrigged, has a few stores. Fit for a prison-ship. 650 tons.

La Princesa, an Indiaman, of 650 tons, pierced for 20 guns, no rigging over head.

La Fuerte, a king's ship, pierced for 28 guns, about 6 years old, has been hove down on one side, and is ready to be hove down on the other, tolerably well found.

La Hero, a brig of war, of 20 guns, about 6 years old, well fitted, and in tolerably good condition, her sails and rigging on shore.

Los Dolores, a king's schooner, pierced for 10 guns, is about 5 years old, and tolerably well found.

La Paz, a king's schooner, pierced for 10 guns, about

3 years old, sails on shore, is coppered, and pretty well found.

Name unknown, a merchant snow, about 300 tons.

Name unknown, a merchant brig, about 180 tons.

Nelly, a ship of about 400 tons, nearly new.

Jolly Tar, a brig of war, pierced for 14 guns.

Name unknown, stout built snow, of about 200 tons, laden with salt.

Merchant schooner, new, of about 60 tons, laden with spirits and sundry merchandize.

Name unknown, ship of 22 guns, new, of about 400 tons.

Name unknown, ship of 24 guns, of about 350 tons.

Name unknown, ship of about 350 tons, 3 years old, well found.

Prince of Manilla, ship of about 1000 tons, very old.

La Flor del Mayo, merchant ship, about 270 tons.

La Mana Paula, ship of about 280 tons.

Name unknown, merchant ship of about 270 tons.

Name unknown, ship about 200 tons.

Name unknown, a brig of 160 tons, 5 or 6 years old.

Anson Jose de Bilbas, ship of about 240 tons, new, and well found.

Name unknown, ship about 300 tons, 5 or 6 years old, well found in sails and rigging.

La Reyna Louisa, man of war sloop, pierced for 26 guns, well found, a good ship, with brass 12 pounders.

Minerva, ship, 6 years old, about 180 tons.

Name unknown, brig about 180 tons, about ten years old.

A ship sunk.

Smack of 120 tons.

El Pilar, sunk, of about 120 tons.

Name unknown, brig, about 180 tons, very good.

Santa Louisa Polana, ship of 150 tons, very good.

Name unknown, ship almost new, 350 tons, well found.

Name unknown, ship, very good, of 300 tons.

Polacca ship, very good, of 130 tons.

Name unknown, ship of 350 tons, quite new.

Name unknown, a ship of 460 tons.

Name unknown, a ship of 350 tons, about 6 years old, a fine ship.

Santissima Trinidad, very fine ship, well found, of 240 tons.

La Providencia, a ship of 200 tons, in good condition.

Name unknown, ship of 180 tons, about 10 years old, with new sails and rigging.

Name unknown, ship of about 230 tons, good state.

Santa Rosa, a ship of 3 years old, of about 200 tons.

Neptuno brig, a brig of 200 tons, good state, well found.

Name unknown, brig, quite new, of 150 tons.

Name unknown, ship, very old, of 150 tons.

La Virgin de la Villa, ship of 170 tons, in good condition, well found.

Chantas, polacca brig, of 220 tons, a good vessel.

Name unknown, a brig, of 150 tons, a good vessel, well found in sails and rigging.

La Maria Antonio, a ship of about 200 tons, good vessel.

Name unknown, a ship of 300 tons, new and well found.

Name unknown, a brig of 150 tons, a good vessel, well found.

Name unknown, a ship of 240 tons, well found in rigging, spars on board.

Name unknown, ship of 16 guns, almost new, well found in rigging, coppered, about 260 tons.

Name unknown, a brig of about 220 tons, good vessel, well found, some hides and tallow on board.

Name unknown, a brig, of about 120 tons, coppered and good.

Name unknown, polacca brig, of 100 tons, old.

Total—57.

Fifteen sloop-rigged gun boats.

Six row boats, with guns.

(Signed) CHARLES STIRLING.

A return of Ordnance, &c. found on and near the Isle of Ratonnes, February 3, 1807.

Long guns—4 twenty-four-pounders—3 eighteen-pounders—3 twelve pounders.

1 Gun-boat long twenty-four pounder.

2 Launches with twelve-pounder carronades.

1 Launch with a long brass six-pounder.

1 Pinnace fitted for swivel guns.

1 Large decked launch.

5 Unarmed launches.

25 Small boats.

50 Powder barrels, stove, with side arms, &c. &c.

71 Prisoners.

(Signed) CHARLES STIRLING.

DOWNING STREET, April 10, 1807.

The King has been pleased to appoint John Holloway, Esq. Vice-Admiral of the red squadron of His Majesty's fleet, to be Governor and Commander in Chief of the island of Newfoundland, in North America.