

ticularly indebted to Captain Trollope, and to the officers and seamen serving under him, to whose gallant exertions I owe the preservation of the garrison.

The gallantry and good conduct of the officers and men employed in the defence of Scylla castle merits my highest approbation. More could not be expected from any men than these have performed. Lieutenant-Colonel Robertson, who commanded, I beg leave to recommend in the strongest terms to your Lordship's notice and protection. The ability, zeal, and gallantry displayed by him in the defence of this little fortress, deserves my warmest praise and commendation.

When your Lordship comes to consider what the numbers of the enemy were before Scylla, with a strong supporting army at hand, from which he could draw reinforcements at pleasure, I trust it will appear to your Lordship that prudence would not have warranted my making a diversion in favour of Scylla, by risking a landing on the Calabrian shore.

The only remaining effort therefore that I could make, was to prevent the brave garrison falling into the enemy's hands; and this, with the co-operation and assistance of the naval force under Captain Otway, has been happily effected in open day, under the enemy's fire, with much less loss than might reasonably have been expected.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. C. SHERBROOKE, Maj. Gen.

SIR, *Messina, February 18, 1808.*

In obedience to your orders, I have the honour to report the particulars of what occurred since the first appearance of the enemy before Scylla.

After being invested by General Regnier's army during seven weeks, and battered for six days by fourteen pieces of heavy ordnance, the little castle of Scylla has fallen into his hands: But I have the heartfelt satisfaction to add, that not one of the gallant garrison placed under my orders has become his prisoners.

In the latter end of December, the arrival of troops and ordnance stores at Seminara left me no room to doubt the enemy's intention of besieging Scylla, and parties of the peasantry were accordingly sent out to render the passes of Solano impracticable, and to create obstacles to his advance, by cuts across the various paths which lead from the heights of Milia down to Scylla. This work, as well as the levelling of fences, &c. proceeded rapidly and effectually under the direction of Captain Nicholas, Assistant Quarter-Master-General; when, upon the 31st of December, the advanced workmen, and the out-posts of the masse were driven in by three French battalions, and a detachment of cavalry, under General Millet, which took post upon the heights above us; and on the following day Regnier brought up two more battalions, and spreading his out-posts to Favezzina, Bagnara, &c. completed the investment of the town. At this time the garrison of the castle consisted of about two hundred British, and from four to five hundred masse occupied the town.

The enemy's troops were now incessantly employed in forming the roads necessary for bringing his heavy ordnance from Seminara, while we laboured to render the approach to Scylla difficult, and harassed the French by constant attacks on his out-posts with parties of the masse, and occasionally with boats. In some of these partial actions the enemy suffered severely;

particularly in a night attack at Bagnara, where the Voltigeurs of the 23d light infantry were cut to pieces.

Owing to these checks, the French were retarded until the 6th of February, when they descended the heights in force, and came within a distant range of our guns, and from this day they honoured our little castle with all the detailed precautions of a regular siege, in covering his approaches and communications. The skirmishes between the enemy and the masse became very serious: the latter displayed great gallantry; and enjoying the support of the castle guns, obliged the French to purchase their advance with heavy loss; but, on the 9th, were obliged to yield to the numbers of the enemy, who assailed the town on all sides: our guns, however, covered their retreat; and I had the satisfaction of sending off these brave peasants to Messina without leaving a man in the enemy's hands.

The force which General Regnier had brought to besiege Scylla, consisted of a body of cavalry, the 23d light infantry, the 1st, 62d, and 101st of the line, in all about six thousand men; with five twenty-four-pounders, five eighteens, and four mortars, besides field pieces.

On the morning of the 11th, he opened his batteries, directing his efforts to the destruction of our upper works, and the disabling of our guns; while under cover of this fire, he laboured to establish two breaching batteries, at three and four hundred yards distance. It was not, however, till the 14th, that our parapet and guns were rendered totally useless; nor till then did the slaughter abate to which their parties employed on the breaching batteries were exposed from our grape and shells.

From this time our defence was confined to musketry, as our guns lay buried under the ruins of the parapet, and the close fire from five twenty-four-pounders became incessant. In the meantime we discovered him attempting to mine the right bastion, upon which he continued to work for three nights, but I apprehend without the expected of success.

In the night of the 15th, the French pushed round the foot of the rock, with the intention of destroying the sea staircase, but we happily discovered them, and beat them off with the slaughter to which their desperate situation exposed them.

The fire from the breaching batteries had been variously directed till the evening of the 16th, when they bent their undivided fury against the left bastion with such success, that the breach would probably have been practicable by the following evening. It was under these circumstances that I received your orders to evacuate the castle; and have the great satisfaction of reporting, that we accomplished this yesterday morning, in full view of the enemy, and without leaving an individual behind. The approach of the boats from Faro gave the French full intimation of our design; but the tempestuous state of the weather obliged us to seize the short opportunity of an hour's lull. Every battery poured its utmost fire upon the castle, and subsequently upon the boats; while infantry, with field pieces, tried the breach on every side.

The garrison was drawn off in succession, and the embarkation effected with the greatest order, notwithstanding the tremendous fire of grape, shells, &c. Our loss in the operation was small; and before we were a musket-shot distant, the French were in the fort.

The masterly arrangement of the transport

boats and men of war launches upon this occasion, does high honour to Captain Trollope, of his Majesty's ship *Electra*, who personally superintended this service; and the conduct of the officers and men under him was marked with all the coolness and dexterity of British seamen. I regret to add, that one of them was killed in the operation, and ten wounded, some of them dangerously. The uniform good conduct of the garrison, which I have had the good fortune to command, demands my warmest gratitude; and their intrepid spirit during the siege, is hardly more commendable than the zeal with which they went through the heavy fatigues that preceded it.

The detachment of the Royal Artillery was highly conspicuous; the excellence of their gunnery was proved by the severe losses which the enemy has sustained; and I cannot too strongly express my sense of the skill and indefatigable zeal which Lieutenant Dunn has displayed throughout the siege.

I feel highly indebted to the exertions of Captains Cruikshanks of the 62d, Jordan of the 27th, and Pringle of the 21st, as well as to the officers and men under them.

From Lieutenant Dickons, of the Engineers, I received every assistance; and my Adjutant, Lieutenant Hadfield, of the 35th, has been throughout indefatigably zealous.

I cannot conclude, Sir, without expressing my particular thanks to Captain Nicholas, Assistant Quartermaster-General, whose abilities and activity rendered him eminently useful. And I have the satisfaction of reflecting, that the support I have received from all ranks, has enabled me to sell Scylla dear; and that General Regnier has obtained possession of this little heap of ruins with the loss of several hundreds of his best troops.

A return of our killed and wounded is annexed. We have lost some gallant men; but considering the weight of the enemy's fire, the number is by no means great.

I have the honour to be, &c.

G. D. ROBERTSON, Lieut.-Col.
Commandant Scylla Castle.

To Major-General Sherbrooke, Commanding his
British Majesty's Troops in Sicily.

Return of the Killed and Wounded of the Detachments forming the British Garrison of the Castle of Scylla, in Calabria, from the 4th to the 17th of February 1808, viz.

Royal Artillery—3 gunners, killed; 1 bombardier, 8 gunners, wounded.

27th Regiment, 1st Batt.—3 rank and file, killed; 14 rank and file, wounded.

58th—3 rank and file, killed; 6 rank and file, wounded.

62d—2 rank and file, killed; 2 rank and file, wounded.

Total—3 gunners, 8 rank and file, killed; 1 bombardier, 8 gunners, 22 rank and file, wounded.

(Signed) J. CAMPBELL, Brig.-Gen.
Adjutant-General.

Messina, 20th February 1808.

WAR-OFFICE, APRIL 9, 1808.

5th West India Regiment—Brevet Major Edward Sebright, from the 1st Foot Guards, to be Major, by purchase, vice M'Donnell, who retires. Captain Thomas Arbuthnot, from the Royal Staff Corps, to be Major, without purchase, vice Stuart, appointed to the 69th foot.

New South Wales Corps—Lieut. Duncan M'Arthur, from the 72d foot, to be Captain of a company, without purchase, vice Lamb, appointed to the 66th foot.

Royal West India Rangers—Lieut. Thomas Martyn to be Captain of a company, vice Mockler, deceased.

3d Garrison Battalion—Captain Samuel Pocke,