



Edinburgh Gazette.

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FROM TUESDAY, JULY 12, to FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1808.

DOWNING STREET, JULY 9, 1808.

A Dispatch, of which the following is a Copy, together with Inclosures, have been received from Major-General SPENCER, by Viscount CASTLEREAGH, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, dated off Cadiz, June 12, 1808.

*His Majesty's Ship Atlas, off Cadiz,
June 12, 1808.*

MY LORD,

The French squadron, consisting of five sail of the line and a frigate, having placed themselves in a defensive position, in the channel leading to the Caraccas, and out of the reach of the works of Cadiz, and having refused to listen to any terms, I have great satisfaction in reporting that the Spanish gun and mortar boats, and the batteries erected for this purpose, on the Isle of Leon, and near Fort Louis, commenced hostilities against the French ships, at three o'clock in the afternoon of the 9th, and the firing continued without interruption on both sides till night. It was renewed on the part of the Spaniards on the morning of the 10th, and partially continued till two, when a flag of truce was hoisted by the French, but the terms proposed being inadmissible, the Spaniards intend to recommence hostilities with an additional battery, to the eastward of Fort Louis, consisting of thirty twenty-four pounders.

Admiral Purvis and myself wished to have co-operated in this attack, but the Spaniards, feeling themselves confident in their own force, have declined our offers of assistance.

The supreme council of Seville have nominated commissioners, and applied last night for passports and a frigate to convey them to England, and they are also equally anxious to send feluccas with dispatches to South America.

Information having been received that a small French corps was assembling at Tavira,

with a view of entering Spain by the river Guadiana, we have been requested to proceed against this corps, and either to attack them on the coast, or endeavour to prevent the further prosecution of their plans against Spain. I accordingly propose to sail immediately for this object, Lord Collingwood approving of it.

Admiral Purvis had already detached three ships of war off the mouth of the Guadiana, and has offered every other necessary assistance, which Lord Collingwood has since confirmed.

I have the honour to be &c.

B. SPENCER, Major-General.

Right Hon. Lord Castlereagh, &c.

Copy of a Letter from General MORLA, Captain-General of Andalusia, and Governor of Cadiz, addressed to their Excellencies Admiral PURVIS and Major-General SPENCER.

Admiral Rosilly, as your excellencies will observe by the annexed copy, has proposed to disarm, but upon conditions which I thought were inadmissible. Whatever may be his terms of surrender, I shall in no manner deviate from my promise; it is therefore necessary that I should have your consent, as I have already said in my conference with Brigadier-General Smith and Captain Sir John Gore, to whom I have pledged myself with simplicity and good faith.

It will afford me considerable satisfaction to consult with your excellencies on all occurrences, incidents, and circumstances, conducive to our common advantage, and contrary to the interests of the common enemy.

Nothing gives me more real pleasure than the absolute confidence of your excellencies in my candour and sincerity, with which I remain your excellencies most affectionate and devoted servant.

(Signed) THOMAS MORLA.

Cadiz, June 11, 1808.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral ROSSILLY, addressed to General MORLA, dated on board the Admiral's Ship, Hero Bay, off Cadiz, June 11, 1808.

CAPTAIN-GENERAL,

Obliged to defend myself on account of the inquietude inspired into the people of this province by my imposing attitude, I yesterday, in order to tranquillize them, proposed to your excellency to quit the bay. In case the English cannot accede to this proposal, I suggest the idea of disembarking my means of attack, and keeping my ships' companies on board; no colours shall be displayed on my squadron. Hostages shall be given for our security, our sick, and all the French people in the province, with their national and individual property. Hostages will be equally given on my part. The refreshments, water, and provisions necessary for my squadron shall be provided on my paying for them, as has hitherto been done. In short, shall demand no conditions but those which are necessary for my honour and that of the people serving under my orders, and as are compatible with the public tranquillity.

Deprived by my proposal of the means of defence against the exterior army, I demand security against them.

Receive, captain-general, the renewal of my distinguished consideration, with which I am your excellency's most humble servant,

(Signed) ROSSILLY.

Copy of an Answer from General MORLA to Admiral ROSSILLY.

EXCELLENT SIR, ADMIRAL ROSSILLY,

In answer to certain proposals and official demands transmitted by your excellency, which, although dictated by your honour, are unquestionably incompatible with mine, as must be evident to your excellency, I have to acquaint you, that I cannot accept any terms but an unconditional surrender. My honour and charac-

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