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DOWNING STREET, SEPTEMBER 16, 1808.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was received yesterday evening from Lieutenant-General Sir Hew Dalrymple, commanding his Majesty's troops in Portugal, addressed to Lord Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, and brought by Captain Dalrymple, military secretary to Sir Hew Dalrymple.

*Head Quarters, Cintra,
Sept. 3, 1808.*

MY LORD,
I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I landed in Portugal, and took the command of the army on Monday the 22d of August, the next day after the battle of Vimiera, and where the enemy sustained a signal defeat, where the valour and discipline of British troops, and the talents of British officers, were eminently displayed.

A few hours after my arrival, General Kellermann came in with a flag of truce from the French general in chief, in order to propose an agreement for a cessation of hostilities, for the purpose of concluding a convention for the evacuation of Portugal by the French troops. The inclosed contains the several articles at first agreed upon and signed by Sir Arthur Wellesley and General Kellermann; but as this was done with a reference to the British admiral, who, when the agreement was communicated to him, objected to the 7th article, which had for its object the disposal of the Russian fleet in the Tagus, it was finally concluded that Lieut. Col. Murray, quarter-master general to the British army, and General Kellermann, should proceed to the discussion of the remaining articles, and finally to conclude a convention for the evacuation of Portugal, subject to the ratification of the French general in chief, and the British commanders by sea and land.

After considerable discussion and repeated reference to me, which rendered it necessary for me to avail myself of the limited period latterly prescribed for the suspension of hostilities in order to move the army forwards, and to place the several columns upon the routs by which they were to advance, the convention was signed, and the ratification exchanged the 30th of last month.

That no time might be lost in obtaining anchorage for the transports and other shipping, which had for some days been exposed to great peril on this dangerous coast, and to insure the communication between the army and the victuallers, which was cut off by the badness of the weather and the surf upon the shore, I sent orders to the Buffs and 42d regiments, which were on board of transports with Sir Charles Cotton's fleet, to land and take possession of the forts on the Tagus whenever the admiral thought it proper to do so. This was accordingly carried into execution yesterday morning, when the forts of Cascais, St. Julien's, and Bugio were evacuated by the french troops, and taken possession of by ours.

As I landed in Portugal entirely unacquainted with the actual state of the French army, and many circumstances of a local and incidental nature, which doubtless had great weight in deciding the question; my own opinion in favour of the expediency of expelling the French army from Portugal by means of the convention the late defeat had induced the French general in chief to solicit, instead of doing so by a continuation of hostilities, was principally founded on the great importance of time, which the season of the year rendered peculiarly valuable, and which the enemy could easily have consumed in the protracted defence of the strong places they occupied, had terms of convention been refused them.

When the suspension of arms was agreed upon, the army under the command of Sir John Moore had not arrived, and doubts were even entertained whether so large a body of men could be landed on an open and a dangerous beach; and that being effected, whether the supply of so large an army with provisions from the ships could be provided for, under all the disadvantages to which the shipping were exposed. During the negotiation, the former difficulty was overcome by the activity, zeal, and intelligence of Captain Malcolm of the Donagal, and the officers and men under his orders, but the possibility of the latter seem to have been at an end, nearly at the moment when it was no longer necessary.

Captain Dalrymple, of the 18th dragoons, my military secretary, will have the honour of delivering to your Lordship this dispatch. He is fully informed of whatever has been done under my orders, relative to the service on which I have been employed, and can give any explanation thereupon that may be required.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) HEW DALRYMPLE,
Lieut.-General.

The Right Hon. Lord Viscount Castlereagh, &c.

DEFINITIVE CONVENTION for the Evacuation of Portugal by the French Army.

The generals commanding in chief the British and French armies in Portugal, having determined to negotiate and conclude a treaty for the evacuation of Portugal by the French troops, on the basis of the agreement entered into on the 22d instant, for a suspension of hostilities, have appointed the under-mentioned officers to negotiate the same in their names, viz.—on the part of the general in chief of the British army, Lieutenant-Colonel Murray, quarter-master-general, and on the part of the general in

Price Sixpence.

