

have experienced from him on former occasions.— To Lord Craven, who begged to attend the expedition, I am indebted for great zeal and exertion.

Lieut. Colonel Soter, who is intimately acquainted with this country, has been, and continues to be of very great use to me. I should not do justice to his general character, if I did not take this opportunity to express it. My Aide-de-Camp, Capt. Drew, of the 45th regiment, will have the honour to deliver this letter; he has served long in this country, and is capable to give such further information as may be required. I humbly beg leave to recommend him to his Majesty's favour.

I have the honour to be, &c.

RA. ABERCROMBY, K. B.

Articles of capitulation for the surrender of the island of Trinidad, between his Excellency Sir RALPH ABERCROMBY, K. B. Commander in Chief of his Britannic Majesty's Land Forces; his Excellency HENRY HARVEY, Esq. Rear-Admiral of the Red, and Commander in Chief of his Britannic Majesty's ships and vessels of war; and his Excellency Don JOSEF MARIA CHACON, Knight of the Order of Calatrava, Brigadier of the Royal Navy, Governor and Commander in Chief of the island of Trinidad and its dependencies, Inspector-General of the Troops of its Garrison, &c. &c.

Art. I. The officers and troops of his Catholic Majesty and his allies in the island of Trinidad, are to surrender themselves prisoners of war, and are to deliver up the territory, forts, buildings, arms, ammunition, money, effects, plans, and stores, with exact inventories thereof, belonging to his Catholic Majesty; and they are thereby transferred to his Britannic Majesty, in the same manner and possession as has been held heretofore by his said Catholic Majesty.

II. The troops of his Catholic Majesty are to march out with the honours of war, and to lay down their arms at the distance of three hundred paces, from the forts they occupy, at five o'clock this evening, the 18th of February.

III. All the officers and troops aforesaid of his Catholic Majesty are allowed to keep their private effects, and the officers are allowed to wear their swords.

IV. Admiral Don Sebastien Ruiz de Apodaca, being on shore in the island, after having burnt and abandoned his ships, he, with the officers and men belonging to the Squadron under his command, are included in this capitulation, under the same terms as are granted to his Catholic Majesty's troops.

V. As soon as ships can be conveniently provided for the purpose, the prisoners are to be conveyed to Old Spain, they remaining prisoners of war until exchanged by a cartel between the two nations, or until the peace; it being clearly understood that they shall not serve against Great Britain or her allies until exchanged.

VI. There being some officers among his Catholic Majesty's troops, whose private affairs require their presence at different places on the continent of America, such officers are permitted to go upon their parole to the said places for six months, more or less; after which period they are to return to Europe: But as the number receiving this indulgence must be limited, his Excellency Don Chacon will previously deliver to the British Commanders a list of their names, rank, and places which they are going to.

VII. The officers of the Royal Administration, upon the delivery of the stores with which they are charged, to such officers as may be appointed by the British Commanders, will receive receipts, according to the custom in like cases, from the officers so appointed to receive the stores.

VIII. All the private property of the inhabitants, as well Spaniards as such as may have been naturalized, is preserved to them.

IX. All public records are to be preserved in such courts or offices as they are now in; and all contracts or purchases between individuals, which have been done according to the laws of Spain, are to be held binding and valid by the British Government.

X. The Spanish Officers of Administration, who are possessed of landed property in Trinidad, are allowed to remain in the island, they taking the oaths of allegiance to his Britannic Majesty; and they are farther allowed, should they please, to sell or dispose of their property, and to retire elsewhere.

XI. The free exercise of their religion is allowed to the inhabitants.

XII. The free coloured people, who have been acknowledged as such by the laws of Spain, shall be protected in their

liberty, persons, and property, like other inhabitants; they taking the oath of allegiance, and demeaning themselves as become good and peaceable subjects of his Britannic Majesty.

XIII. The sailors and soldiers of his Catholic Majesty are, from the time of their laying down their arms, to be fed by the British Government, leaving the expence to be regulated by the cartel between the two nations.

XIV. The sick of the Spanish troops will be taken care of, but to be attended, and to be under the inspection of their own surgeons.

XV. All the inhabitants of Trinidad shall, within thirty days from the date hereof, take the oath of allegiance to his Britannic Majesty, to demean themselves quietly and faithfully to his Government; upon pain, in case of non-compliance, of being sent away from the island.

Done at Port d'Espagne, in the island of Trinidad, the 18th day of February 1797.

RALPH ABERCROMBY.

HENRY HARVEY.

JOSEF MARIA CHACON.

[Then follows a return of the Spanish garrison of the island of Trinidad, made prisoners of war, consisting of 557 Spanish Officers and men—7 French Officers, and 50 men sick in the hospital.

Of the naval Officers, seamen, and marines, consisting of 91 Officers, including 1 Brigadier, 8 Captains, 5 of line-of-battle ships, and 3 of frigates; 1032 seamen, 581 marines. Total 1704.

Of the stores and tools in the arsenal; of the ordnance, ammunition, and stores, consisting of brass and iron ordnance, loose round shot, canvas cartridges, spare travelling carriages, and the provisions found in the stores in the island. Of the stores the most remarkable are about 20,000 iron bars, and intrenching tools for 500 men—Of the ordnance, 43 pieces are brass, from 26 pounders to 4 pounders, and eight 12-inch mortars, on brass beds—46 pieces are iron—A vast quantity of loose round shot, from 26 pounders to 4 oz.—50,000 of 1 lb. and a half each, and 18,600 of 4 oz.—about 16,000 in the whole of other proportions. Gunpowder, in barrels and in casks, about 14,000 lb. besides 70,800 musquet cartridges (filled), in barrels, and 7700 ditto in boxes—3225 musquets, with steel ramrods and bayonets, and several other articles of value.]

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, *March 27. 1797.*

Captain HARVEY, of his MAJESTY'S ship Prince of Wales, arrived at the Admiralty this morning, with a dispatch from Rear-Admiral HENRY HARVEY, Commander in Chief of his MAJESTY'S ships and vessels at Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, dated off Port d'Espagne, in the gulph of Paria, February 21. 1797, to Mr NEPEAN, Secretary of the Admiralty, of which the following is a copy:

SIR,

I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of their Lordships, that it having been determined an attack should be made on the island of Trinidad, both with a view to that colony, and to the Spanish Squadron which had been there for some time past, the troops intended for this expedition from Martinique were accordingly embarked in the ships of war and transports, and I sailed from Fort Royal Bay the 12th instant, with the ships and vessels of his Majesty's Squadron under my command, as per margin\*. Lieutenant-General Sir Ralph Abercromby embarked with me in the Prince of Wales.

The Invincible had previously sailed for Barbadoes, with two transports, to embark a part of the 14th regiment, and the Thorn and Zebra were ordered to receive the detachment from Tobago. The Favourite was sent to St Vincent to collect some troops from that island, and the whole were ordered to rendezvous at the island of Cariacou, one of the Grenadines, on or before the 13th; and, on my arrival at that island, the 14th, I found all the ships and transports were assembled.

On the 15th in the morning, I sailed with the Squadron and transports, passing between Cariacou and Grenada; and on the 16th arrived off Trinidad, and stood toward the gulph of Paria, when, having

\* Prince of Wales, Bellona, Vengeance, Scipio, Favourite, Zephyr, Terror Bomb.