



THE
Edinburgh Gazette.

Published by Authority.

FROM FRIDAY, MARCH 28. TO TUESDAY, APRIL 1. 1800.

Camp of the Grand Vizier, near Al Erich, Jan. 24, 1800.

THIS day a convention has been signed here, by Moustapha Raschid Effendi and Moustapha Rellichi Effendi, Commissioners appointed on the part of the Grand Vizir; and by General Defaix and Monsieur Pouffielgue, Commissioners appointed on the part of General Kleber, by which it has been agreed, that the French troops now in Egypt should evacuate that country, and should be allowed to return to France.

The forts of Salahich and Catihe are to be surrendered by the French troops within eight days after the ratification of this capitulation by the Grand Vizir and General Kleber, and the other places and towns in Egypt at the different periods specified for that purpose.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE—March 27.

Major Douglas, late commander of the party of marines serving on board his Majesty's ship the Tigre, arrived this morning with dispatches from Sir Sidney Smith, Knight, Captain of that ship, and senior officer of the Squadron employed on the coast of Egypt, containing an account of the capture of the fort of El Arish, by an advanced body of the army of the Grand Vizir, assisted by a detachment of marines from his Majesty's ships under the orders of the Major. By this account it appears, that the Grand Vizir moved from Gaza to El Arish on the 20th December last, and that the French commandant having refused to capitulate, the fort was reconnoitred by Major Douglas, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Bromley and Captain Winter: that batteries were erected on the 24th, and the following days, the fire of which was attended with complete success; and that on the 29th in the morning, the enemy having ceased firing, Major Douglas ascended the wall of the fort, by means of a rope which was let down for him, and received the sword of the French commandant; but that it having been found impossible in the first moments to restrain the impetuosity of the Turkish troops, 300 of the French garrison were put to the sword, the remainder were, however, by his exertions, and those of the Turkish commanding officer, placed in security, and the sick and wounded taken care of.

The Major acknowledges himself highly indebted to the assistance of Lieutenant-Colonel Bromley, and commends the

good conduct of Captains Winter and Trotte, and the gallant behaviour of Mr Thomas Smith, midshipman, belonging to the Tigre, and represents that the cheerful manner in which the whole detachment performed their duty, exposed as they were in the Desert without tents, very ill fed, and with only brackish water to drink, gained them the admiration of the whole Ottoman army.

MARCH 29.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Sir William Sidney Smith, Captain of his Majesty's ship Tigre, to Ewan Nepean, Esq dated of Jaffa, the 28th of November 1799.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose a copy of my letter to the Right Hon. Lord Nelson, (of this date,) for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.

W. SIDNEY SMITH.

*Tigre, off Jaffa, 28th
 November 1799.*

MY LORD,

I LAMENT to have to inform your Lordship of the melancholy death of Patrona Bey, the Turkish Vice-Admiral, who was assassinated at Cyprus in a mutiny of the Janissaries on the 18th of October; the command devolved on Scid Ali Bey, who had just joined me with the troops from Constantinople, composing the second maritime expedition destined for the recovery of Egypt. As soon as our joint exertions had restored order, we proceeded to the mouth of the Damietta branch of the Nile to make an attack thereon, as combined with the Supreme Vizir, in order to draw the attention of the enemy that way, and leave his Highness more at liberty to advance with the grand army on the side of the Desert. The attack begun by the Tigre's boats taking possession of a ruined castle situated on the eastern side of the Bogaz, or entrance of the Channel, which the inundation of the Nile had insulated from the main land, leaving a fordable passage. The Turkish flag displayed on the tower of this castle, was at once the signal for the Turkish gun-boats to advance, and for the enemy to open their fire in order to dislodge us; their nearest post being a redoubt on the main land with two 32 pounders, and an

[Price Sixpence.]

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