

Flanks, and disperse the Enemy, who were beginning to assemble in great Numbers both Horse and Foot, to oppose our Descent. This Cannonade had the desired Effect. They retired, and left us a clear Coast; but a violent Surf arose, many Boats were dashed to Pieces, our Arms and Ammunition much damaged; providentially no Lives were lost. We formed upon the Beach, marched, and took Possession of the Malata, fixed our Out-Posts, and passed the whole Night under Arms. The Spaniards were employed in burning Part of their Suburbs.

The 25th we seized a Fort which the Spaniards had abandoned, named the Polverista, that proved a most excellent Place of Arms for covering the Landing of our Stores, and securing our Communication with the Squadron. Colonel Monson, who was detached with 200 Men to view the Roads and Approaches to Manila, occupied the Hermita Church, large and commodious, about 900 Yards from the City. We made the Priest's House the Head Quarters; sent Orders to Major More to march up with the 79th Regiment to secure and maintain this Post, which was of the utmost Consequence, both from its Strength, and the great Cover it afforded us from the Rains that had deluged the Country, and made it impossible to encamp; for we too soon found, that the Monsoon had broke upon us. The Surf continued dangerous; the Rains increased; the Landing of our Artillery, and Stores, became very hazardous; our remaining Troops were put on Shore with much Peril, and some Loss; Lieutenant Hardwick was drowned: But the Courage and Activity of the Seamen surmounted all Obstacles; they got on Shore Part of the Seapoys, some Provisions, and such Stores as were first wanted, and by Signals demanded from the Squadron; the Officers of which were indefatigable in giving us all possible Assistance; and Captain Jocelyn, who was entrusted with the Care of the Disembarkation, did every Thing that could be wished or expected from a diligent good Officer. We left the Marines at our first Post, the Malata, to be near the Polverista, preserve our Communication, and guard our Stores and Park of Artillery. The Men, from the good Conduct and Example of their Officers, behaved very well, and were of great Use upon all Occasions. As the Rains had forced us to seek the Protection of the Houses that were under the Fire of the Bastions, the Spaniards cannonaded our Quarters, which were much nearer the Walls than the usual Rules of War prescribe. They attempted likewise to burn more of their Suburbs, but were prevented by the great Activity and good Conduct of Captain Fletcher, Major of Brigade; and Captains Stevenson and Cotsford, the Engineers; who having advanced under Cover of the Houses to St. Jago's Church, near the Sea, and within 300 Yards of the Town, reported its Importance so sensibly, that we posted a Body of Men there, notwithstanding its Contiguity to their Bastions. The Enemy soon fired upon us, but not with Perseverance or Effect enough to dislodge us. We had some few Men killed and wounded.

26th. The Admiral sent on Shore the Battalion of Seamen under the Command of the Captains Collins of the Weymouth, Pitchford of the America, and George Ourry from the Panther. They were cantoned between the 79th Regiment and the Marines. The rest of the Company's Troops of all Sorts were likewise landed, and put under Cover. The Spaniards advanced out of the Garrison, under the Command of the Chevalier Fayette, with 400 Men, and 2 Field Pieces; and from a Church, about 200 Yards to the Right of that we Yesterday took Possession of, near the Sea, begun a Cannonade upon the Right Flank of our Post. Some Seapoys, under

Ensign Carty, who behaved very well, were first sent to skirmish with them, supported by three Picquets of the 79th Regiment, and 160 Seamen, all under the Command of Colonel Monson, who soon drove the Enemy back into the Town. In their precipitate Flight, one of the Field Pieces was left upon the Glacis.

The superior Skill and Bravery of our People were so evident from this Affair, that it occasioned a second Summons to the Governor, but to no Purpose; the Answer was much more spirited than their Conduct had been. Colonel Monson had Orders to keep Possession of this second Church, (if he found it tenable) for as we had not Men enough, or dry Ground to make regular Approaches, we were forced into these Measures, rash as they seem, and contrary to all Rules of our Profession, by our critical Situation. From the Top of this Post, which we called N^o 2, we had a perfect View of the Enemies Works. The Front, we were obliged to attack, was defended by the Bastions of St. Diego and St. Andrew, with Orillons and retired Flanks; a Ravelin which covered the Royal Gate, a wet Ditch, Covered Way, and Glacis. The Bastions were in excellent Order, lined with a great Number of fine Brass Cannon; but their Ravelin was not armed, the Covered Way out of Repair, the Glacis by much too low, and the Ditch was not produced round the Capital of the Bastion of St. Diego, which determined us to attack it, and make our Dispositions accordingly. The Negligence and Omission of the Enemy to post Centries in the Covered Way, gave us an Opportunity of founding the Ditch; which perilous Enterprize was effected by a small Party of the 79th Regiment, under Capt. Fletcher, who begged Leave to undertake it: The Spaniards fired from their Bastion, and killed or wounded three of our People; The Depth of the Water was only five Feet, the Breadth about 30 Yards. As the great Extent of this populous City made it impossible to invest it with our Handful of Men, two Sides were constantly open to the Spaniards to introduce Supplies of Men and Provisions, and carry out their Effects. They availed themselves of our Weakness. Their own Garrison of 800 Men of the Royal Regiment, under the Command of the Marquis of Villa Mediana, Brigadier General, was augmented by a Body of 10000 Indians from the Province of Pampanga, a fierce and barbarous People. These Disadvantages were not to be remedied, as we could not take Possession of Minondo, Tondo, and La Vera Cruz, the Posts which commanded the River, and Communication with the Country. The Inundations had secured their Parian Suburb; but no Difficulties could check the Ardor of the Troops, who laboured incessantly in making Fascines and Gabions, and preparing every Thing for the Construction and Opening of our Batteries. One for small Shells was completed this Night, and played upon the Bastion of St. Diego. Its Position was behind the Church, nearest the Sea, called N^o 1. The Officers of the Artillery and Engineers exerted themselves in a Manner, that nothing but their Zeal for the publick Service could have inspired.

27th. The Governor sent out a Flag of Truce, to apologize for some Barbarities committed by the Savages lately mentioned, who had murdered some stragling Seamen; and to request, that a Nephew of his, taken in the Bay, might be sent on Shore. This Gentleman had been dispatched from the Philippina Galeon just arrived on the Coast from Acapulco, with the first Advices of the War. Hostilities ceased till Eleven at Night, when we recommenced our Fire from the Mortars, increased them to four, and placed a 6 Pounder on our Left Flank, as a further Security for our Post at St. Jago's Church.