

the peaceable and moderate Part of the King's Subjects, which was likewise accomplished without any Loss.

The Morning following I got under Weigh with all the Vessels, and came down here with the Cornwallis Galley and Two of the Armed Sloops; the Greenwich having again got aground in her Way down, has obliged me to leave the Dependence Galley at some Distance from here, for her Protection.

I shall take the most early Opportunity of the Wind to leave this Place, and (if the Weather proves so favourable as to admit of it) we have it in View to employ ourselves, on our Return to New-York, in looking into Barnegat and Cranbury Inlets, and to destroy or bring off any Vessels that may happen to be there, and demolish the Salt-Works, which are very considerable, on the Shores of those Recesses.

I think it my particular Duty to inform you, the Officers and Seamen I have had the Honor to command on this Service, have manifested their best Endeavours in their Duty. I should also think myself wanting, if I omitted to acquaint you, that Captain Ferguson, the Commanding Officer of the Detachment of the Army, as well as every Officer and Man under his Command, have shewn the utmost Zeal and Forwardness to co-operate in every Thing for the Advancement and Benefit of His Majesty's Service.

I have the Honor to be,

With great Respect,

S I R,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

HENRY COLINS.

P. S. This will be delivered by Lieutenant Quarre of the Halifax Brig, who, being on a Cruise on this Station, and thinking his Vessel might prove useful, I took the Liberty to bring on with me. Besides the Vessels I have before had the Honour to inform you were destroyed at Chestnut Neck, we have taken a Brig here, laden with Lumber; but as she is stripped of the most material of her Rigging, and all her Sails, and being besides very old and unfit to bring round, I have ordered her Cargo to be put on Board the Two Transports, knowing how serviceable such a Supply will prove to the Dock Yard.

*Zebra, Little Egg-Harbour, October 15, 1778.*

S I R,

SINCE closing my Letter of the 9th Instant, I have had the Honor to receive your Orders of the 10th, by a Sloop from New-York, to which I shall not fail to pay due Attention. The Weather having proved exceedingly bad since that Time, and the Wind having been continually foul, has prevented me dispatching the Halifax, as I first intended; and put it totally out of my Power attempting any Movement from hence with the Fleet, which cannot be undertaken but with a good Opportunity to pass the Bar which is dangerous and difficult. This Delay of the Vessels has given Captain Ferguson and his Detachment an Opportunity of performing a very gallant and meritorious Piece of Service. A Captain, Serjeant, and four Men came down to us, the Evening before last, from the Rebels, and gave us some very satisfactory Intelligence of the Legion of Polacki (to which they belonged) being posted about ten Miles from hence; and Captain Ferguson being of Opinion with myself, that a safe Attempt might be made to surprize them, an Arrangement was accordingly determined on last Evening, and a Detachment of two hundred and fifty Men, partly Marines, were embarked with him in the Flat Boats, Gun Boats, &c. under the Command of Captain Christian, of the Vigilant: They arrived at the Place of Landing about Four in the Morning, and the Troops making a quick Movement towards the Enemy, got into their Quarters almost undiscovered: They made their Attack with the Bayonet, and killed about Fifty of the Legion of Polacki, among whom was a Lieutenant-Colonel, and three other Officers, and brought off Four Prisoners. Our Loss on this Occasion, I have the Satisfaction to tell you, is very inconsiderable. This Morning a small Privateer appearing off here, and it being calm, I sent out the

Boats of the Fleet, and brought her in; she is one of the little piratical Crew that infest these Inlets, mounts only six Swivels and one Two-Pounder; her People made their Escape in their Boat.

I have the Honor to be,

With great Respect,

S I R,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

HENRY COLINS.

REAR-Admiral Gambier, in a subsequent Letter to Mr. Stephens, dated October 25, mentions that Vice-Admiral Byron, with his Squadron, sailed the 18th of that Month, from Sandy-Hook for Boston, in Search of Count D'Estaing's Fleet; and that Commodore Hotham, with the Ships and Transports under his Command, would sail the 20th to join Rear Admiral Barrington at the Leeward Islands.

Whitehall, December 1, 1778.

*Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant Governor Stuart to Lord George Germain, dated Dominica, Sept. 29, 1778. Received Nov. 28.*

I AM exceedingly sorry, that so soon after closing my Dispatches, I have the Mortification to acquaint your Lordship, that this Island is in Possession of the French King.

In the Morning of the 7th Instant, at Half past Four, upon hearing a Gun from our Battery and Signal Post at Casnacrou, or Scott's Head, and observing the Signal for an Enemy, I ordered Young's Battery at Roseau, being near me, to repeat it, in Conformity to Instructions for taking up Signals; about a Quarter of an Hour afterwards, a Second Gun was fired, and the Signal still continued; and Day light shortly after appearing, I discovered some Vessels coming round the Point, and soon perceived, instead of ours, a White Flag flying on the Battery. These Observations, and the increasing Number of Vessel which came in Sight, soon convinced me that they were Enemies, who had forced the Battery and were coming to attack the Island. I instantly ordered the Alarm to be given for assembling our Forces: In the mean Time the Ships and Vessels stood for a Place named Point Michel, Two Miles South of Roseau, and, as they approached, I discovered that they consisted of 4 Frigates, 10 Armed Sloops and Schooners, with about 20 others, being Transports with Troops. About Six o'Clock Boats were seen going on Shore at Point Michel, and Men landing from them in great Numbers. As they were beyond the Reach of our Guns, they effected their Landing without Opposition.

I had at this Time made the best Disposition I could with our small Force to impede their Approach to the Town. I had detached Lieutenant Ross, the only Officer of Artillery we had in Garrison, with 6 Matrosses, and Lieutenant Jones, of the 48th Regiment, an Officer of Militia, and a Volunteer of the 48th Regiment Mr. Warner, with 24 Men, Half Regulars of the 48th and Half Militia, to defend the Battery at Loubiere, which was about Half Way between Roseau and the Place where the Enemy were landing. Captain Grove, commanding the Detachment of the 48th Regiment, was posted in Young's Battery in the Town of Roseau, our most important Post, with Lieutenant Fenton, and 29 Men of the 48th Regiment, and 40 Militia; 30 Militia, with some Matrosses, were thrown into Melville's Battery: A Detachment of Artillery, Militia, with others, were placed with 2 Field Pieces on Jolly's Hill, to oppose their March towards Charlotte Town, and Captain Man, the Chief Engineer, commanded the Remainder of the Militia, a few Volunteer Troopers and others, on the New Battery at Guey's Hill.

The Landing of the Enemy, amounting at least to 2000 Men, was in Three Divisions; the first of which we could pretty nearly distinguish on their Way to be about 600 in Number, marching towards us, as soon as they were landed, under a very brisk Fire from all our Batteries on that Side: And on their being within 200 Yards of Loubiere Battery, all the Artillery Ammunition being expended, which had been carried there, as