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Whitehall, April 1, 1780.

*Extract of a Letter from Major-General Campbell to Lord George Germain, dated Pensacola, December 15, 1779.*

**W**HAT a grievous Mortification must it be to me to have to relate to your Lordship, for my Sovereign's Information, the Conquest of the Western Part of this Province, by the Arms of Spain, in consequence of their early Intelligence of the Commencement of Hostilities. Having in my Dispatches of the 14th of September, prepared your Lordship for the Events which have followed, I shall refer for Particulars to Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson's Letter to me of the 20th of October from New Orleans, to the Articles of Capitulation between him and his Excellency Don Bernardo de Galvez, Governor of Louisiana, at Baton Rouge, the 21st Day of September, to the List he furnishes of the Killed, Wounded and Prisoners, and to a Paper containing the Reasons assigned by him for preferring Baton Rouge for a Post whereat to make a Stand, as comprising all the additional Intelligence that appears to be requisite, of this unfortunate Disaster.

I cannot help observing, that Facts have demonstrated, that Spain had predetermined on a Rupture with Great Britain long before the Declaration made on the 16th Day of June last by their Ambassador at the Court of London; had laid their Plans, and prepared all their Governors Abroad for such an Event; and it would appear, had even fixed on the Day, or at least nearly the Time, on which it was to take Place; for we are here informed, that War was declared at Porto-Rico in a few Days after the 16th of June. English Vessels are known to have been carried into the Havannah as Prizes in the Beginning of August last. And from New Orleans I have the Governor's own Acknowledgment of his being apprized of the Commencement of Hostilities on the 9th Day of August last: But how much earlier his Intelligence of that Event really was, is uncertain. However that be, it is now uncontroversibly known, that he has long ago been secretly preparing for War. That having previously collected the whole Force of the Province of Louisiana, the Independency of America was publicly recognized by Beat of Drum at New Orleans on the 19th Day of August; and every Thing being in Readiness for that Purpose, he immediately marched against our Forces on the Mississippi; and he so effectually succeeded by the Capture, by Stratagem, of a King's Sloop in Lake Pontchartrain, by the Seizure of a Schooner in the River Mississippi on her Way with Rum and Provisions for Manchack, and of Six other small Vessels on the Lakes and in the River Amit. One of these last with Troops of the Regiment of Waldeck, and another with Provisions, and by preventive Pre-

cautions in stopping any Communication of Intelligence of his Movements, being sent to this Place; that he had nearly effected the Reduction of the Western Part of this Province, before we at Pensacola were apprized, or had the smallest Communication of his having commenced Hostilities; the Information of that Event having only reached me on the 14th of September, as intimated to your Lordship in my Letter of that Date; and Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson, it appears, was forced to capitulate on the 21st Day of that same Month.

*Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson to Major-General Campbell, dated New Orleans, October 20, 1779.*

S I R,

**I** SEND by Lieutenant Wilson, for your Information, a Copy of a Journal which I kept ever since the Commencement of Hostilities with the Spaniards. The dangerous and disagreeable Situation I was in ever since that Period will be fully related to you by him, and I hope will in every Particular justify me, by convincing you that I have used my utmost Efforts, even to the last Minute, against a great Superiority of Forces, with every other Advantage an Enemy could desire. I send by Lieutenant Wilson the Capitulation in English, as proposed by me to his Excellency Don Bernardo de Galvez, and the original one in the French Language, as finally concluded on between us. The Terms are honorable to the Troops and favorable to the Inhabitants, and I hope will meet with your full Approbation. Engineer Graham, who has obtained Leave from his Excellency Don Bernardo de Galvez to go to Pensacola on private Business, was very useful to me in drawing up the Terms of Capitulation, and since our Arrival here, on many Occasions, from his perfect Knowledge of the French Language.

It is with Pleasure I assure you, that all the Officers and Men under my Command behaved exceedingly well, and did every Duty they were ordered with great Chearfulness and Exactness. Lieutenant Wilson and the Detachment of the Royal Artillery, as well as the additional Gunners, distinguished particularly, the Day the Enemy offered their Batteries against the Redoubt.

I must, in Justice to his Excellency Don Bernardo de Galvez, say, that the Officers and Soldiers, who are Prisoners of War at this Place, are treated with the greatest Generosity and Attention, not only by the Officers, but even the Spanish Soldiers seem to take Pleasure in being civil and kind to the Prisoners in general.

I am, &c.

(Signed) *Alex. Dickson*, Lieutenant-Colonel  
16th Regiment of Foot.

*Article*

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