

for affording a Degree of Succour to any Point that might be more particularly attacked.

For the complete Defence of the Town and it's extensive Harbour, we had long been obliged to occupy a Circumference of at least Fifteen Miles, by eight principal Posts, with their several intermediate dependent ones; the greatest Part of these were merely of a temporary Nature, such as our Means allowed us to construct; and, of our Force, which never exceeded 12,000 Men bearing Firelocks, and composed of Five different Nations and Languages, near 9000 were placed in or supporting those Posts, and about 3000 remained in the Town.

On the 16th, at Half past Two o'Clock in the Morning, the Enemy, who had before fired from Three Batteries on Fort Malgrave, now opened Two new ones, and continued a very heavy Cannonade and Bombardment on that Post till next Morning. The Works suffered much. The Number of Men killed and disabled was considerable. The Weather was rainy, and the consequent Fatigue great.

At Two o'Clock on the Morning of the 17th the Enemy, who had every Advantage in assembling and suddenly advancing, attacked the Fort in great Force. Although no Part of this temporary Post was such as could well resist determined Troops, yet, for a considerable Time, it was defended; but, on the Enemy entering on the Spanish Side, the British Quarter, commanded by Captain Conolly of the 18th Regiment, could not be much longer maintained, notwithstanding several gallant Efforts were made for that Purpose. It was therefore, at last, carried, and the Remains of the Garrison of 700 Men retired towards the Shore of Balaguier, under the Protection of the other Posts established on those Heights, and which continued to be faintly attacked by the Enemy. As this Position of Balaguier was a most essential one for the Preservation of the Harbour, and as we had no Communication with it but by Water, 2200 Men had been placed there for some Time past. On the Night preceding the Attack 300 more Men had been sent over, and on the Morning of the 17th 400 were embarked still farther to support it.

When the Firing at Balaguier ceased, we remained in anxious Suspence as to the Event till a little before Day-Light, when a new Scene opened, by an Attack on all our Posts, on the Mountain of Pharon. The Enemy were repelled on the East Side, where was our principal Force of about 700 Men, commanded by a most distinguished Officer, the Piedmontese Colonel de Jermagnan, whose Loss we deeply lament; but on the Back of the Mountain, near 1800 Feet high, steep, rocky, deemed almost inaccessible, and which we had laboured much to make so, they found Means, once more, to penetrate between our Posts, which occupied an Extent of above Two Miles, guarded by about 450 Men, and, in a very short Space of Time, we saw, that with great Numbers of Men, they crowded all that Side of the Mountain which overlooks Toulon. The Particulars of this Event I am not yet enabled to ascertain, but I have every Reason to think that they did not enter at a British Post.

Our Line of Defence, which, as I have mentioned, occupied a Circumference of at least 15 Miles, and with Points of which we had only a Water Communication, being thus broken in upon, in it's Two most essential Posts; it became necessary to adopt decisive Measures, arising from the Knowledge of the Whole of our actual Situation. A Council of the Flag and General Officers assembled. They deter-

mined on the Impracticability of restoring the Posts we had lost, and on the consequent Propriety of the speediest Evacuation of the Town, evidently, and by the Report of the Engineers and Artillery Officers, declared untenable. Measures of Execution were taken from that Moment. The Troops were withdrawn from the Heights of Balaguier without much Interruption from the Enemy, and in the Evening such Posts as necessarily depended on the Possession of Pharon were successively evacuated, and the Troops drawn in towards Toulon. The Forts D'Artigues and St. Catherine still remained, together with the Posts of Sablettes, Cape Brun, and Malbouquet, from which last the Spaniards withdrew in the Night, in consequence of the supporting Post of Neapolitians, at Micilly, having left the Battery there established, and abandoned it without Orders. Every Attention was also given to ensure the Tranquillity of the Town. In the Night the Combined Fleets took a new Station in the Outer Road.

Early in the Morning of the 18th the Sick and Wounded, and the British Field Artillery, were sent off. In the Course of the Day the Post of Cape Brun was withdrawn into La Malue, the Post of Sablettes was also retired, and the Men were put on Board. Measures were arranged for the final Embarkation, during the Night, of the British, Piedmontese and Spaniards, who occupied the Town, and of the Troops of the same Nations, who were now at La Malue, amounting in all to about 7,000 Men, for the Neapolitians had, by Mid-Day, embarked.

Having determined with Lieutenant-General Gravina, commanding the Spanish Troops, that, instead of embarking at the Quays and in the Arsenal of the Town, our whole Force should assemble near Fort La Malue, and form on the Peninsula which from thence extends into the Harbour, every previous Disposition was made, and every Care taken to conceal our Intention. The Arsenal and Dock-Yard were strictly guarded. The Troops were ranged accordingly on the Ramparts, and the Tranquillity of the Town was much ensured from the Time the Enemy began to throw Shells and Shot into it; which they did from our late Batteries at Micilly and Malbouquet.

About Ten o'Clock at Night Fire was set to the Ships and Arsenal. We immediately began our March, and the Evacuation of the Town, which it was necessary should be made with Secrecy and Expedition. The Fort of St. Catherine having, without Orders, been quitted in the Course of the Day, and possessed by the Enemy. The consequent early Knowledge of our March, had we taken the common Route, through the Gate of Italy, and within Musquet Shot of that Fort, might have produced great Inconvenience; we therefore, by a Sally Post, gained an advanced Part of the Road, and without Accident were enabled to quit the Town, arrive at Fort La Malue, and form on the rising Ground immediately above the Shore. The Boats were ready, the Weather and the Sea in the highest Degree favourable: The Embarkation began about Eleven o'Clock, and by Day-Break on the 19th the Whole, without Interruption, or the Loss of a Man, were on Board Ship.

The great Fire in the Arsenal, the blowing up of the Powder Ships, and other similar Events which took Place in the Night, certainly tended to keep the Enemy in a State of Suspence and Uncertainty.

As the Security of this Operation depended much on the Protection afforded from the happy Situation of Fort La Malue, which so effectually commands the Neck of the Peninsula, and the judicious Use that should