

the Volunteer Seamen from the India Ships dragging the Cannon through a deep Sand; the Country being difficult to proceed on, they were considerably galled by the Enemy during a fatiguing March performed in not Weather.

“ At Wyneberg the Bulk of the Dutch made a Strand, but were soon dislodged by His Majesty’s Forces; and nearly at the same Moment Commodore Blankett, whom I had previously detached for the express Purpose of alarming the Enemy, and giving them a Diversion on the Cape Town Side, appeared off Camps Bay with the America, Echo, Rattlesnake, and Bombay Castle India Ship, and performed that Service in the completest Manner. At Eleven P. M. the Commissary Sluykin sent in a Flag of Truce to demand a Cessation of Arms for Forty-eight Hours; and on the following Morning the Colony was surrendered to His Majesty.

“ I cannot conclude this Letter without acknowledging the Consolation I have derived from the friendly Assistance and Advice of Major-General Craig during a tedious Sojournment before this Place, under many distressing Circumstances; and it is a real Pleasure to add, that, with him, and also since the Arrival of General Clarké, the same Sentiments seem to have actuated the Minds of the Officers to whom His Majesty has been pleased to entrust the Conduct of the Expedition.

“ I beg Leave to notice the eminent Services of Captains Hardy and Spranger; the Conduct of the Officers, and of the Sea and Marine Corps, is also truly Praise-worthy, and will be acceptable to His Majesty: The Readiness with which the Seamen of the India Ships, under the Command of Captain Acland, of the Brunswick, offered their Service, gave me the highest Satisfaction; indeed all Ranks of Men bore this long Service, during bad Weather, with the utmost Chearfulness, though often unavoidably ill fed, and attended with great Fatigue.

“ My Anxiety to dispatch the Orpheus, and the short Time since our obtaining Possession, will, I hope, plead my Excuse for not transmitting, by this Opportunity, a Return of the Naval Stores taken, which I understand are considerable; but the Variety of other Circumstances at present occupying my Mind, have hitherto prevented my attending to that Point.”

*Admiralty-Office, November 23, 1795.*

A DISPATCH, of which the following is an Extract, has been this Day received from Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir George Keith Elphinstone; K. B. dated on Board His Majesty’s Ship Monarch, in Table Bay, September 23, 1795.

“ I Have the Honor to acquaint you, for the Information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that on the 16th Instant the Colony and Castle of the Cape of Good Hope surrendered by Capitulation to the British Arms, in consequence of which I proceed in the Monarch to this Bay, whether I had previously dispatched Commodore Blankett in the America, with the Two Sloops and an India Ship, for the Purpose of raising an Alarm on the Cape Town Side, in which he succeeded admirably.

“ This Event has given me great Satisfaction, not only from the fortunate Termination, but also from the Relief it affords to the Officers, Seamen and Marines of the Fleet under my Command, after a laborious Service for a Length of Time, wherein they were continually fatigued, and often unavoidably ill fed. They merit my warmest Thanks, to which the Volunteer Seamen from the East India Company’s Ships are also entitled; for their Readiness in undertaking to draw the Cannon, and the Chearfulness with which they performed that Duty; and I must more particularly beg Leave to notice the eminent Services of Captains Hardy and Spranger, which, however, are more fully described in a Letter from Major-General Craig to me, a Copy of which I have the Honor to enclose, together with a List of Promotions, wherein you will perceive I had given the Command of the Princess to Captain Hardy, whose acknowledged Merit will, I trust, justify my Election, and recommend him to their Lordships Confirmation. This Ship is one of those found in Simon’s Bay, called by the Dutch Wilhemstadt and Boetzlaar, of 1000 Tons Burthen, mounting Twenty-six Guns, and most completely found, with Copper in the Hold sufficient to sheath her.

“ The Ship Castor and Star Armed Brig, late belonging to the Dutch East India Company, were found at Anchor in this Bay; the latter, being fit for His Majesty’s Service and much wanted, I have also presumed to commission.”