

April, at Twelve o'Clock, they attempted to storm the Fort, in which was only at the Time Five and Twenty of the 17th Infantry, with their Officers; commanded by Lieutenant Talbot of the 82d Regiment, and about 20 Colonial Artillery-Men, commanded by Captain Brueil. The Attack was one of the most formidable and determined I ever heard of, they returning to the Charge Three several Times with such increased Vigour, that many of them were killed in the Fort; but, to the immortal Honor of its brave Defenders, they were repulsed with equal Courage and Intrepidity, which gave Time to Colonel Dagrès, with 350 Men of Prince Edward's Black Chasseurs, to gain the Fort from the Bourg below, from whence, indeed, they were obliged to cut their Way. This Reinforcement saved the Place, for it would have been impossible for the English and Cannoneers to have withstood much longer the persevering and reiterated Attacks of the most daring and desperate Enemy, which never ceased until Morning, when they retired (leaving the Fort surrounded with their Dead) to a higher Ground, where they made a Stand, in Spite of a Sortie that was immediately made with some Advantage. Here they continued till the 22d Inst. when they made an Incurfion into the Interior of our Cordon, took and burnt the Bourg Dance Marie, and made an Attack upon the Fort of L'Islet, from whence they were driven with great Loss. In the mean Time they were making every Disposition for a regular Siege of Irois, when, fortunately, the Magicienne Frigate attacked their small Fleet in the Bay des Carcastes, sunk Three of their Barges, and took Two Schooners, all loaded with Cannon and Military Stores for the Siege. The Loss in their various Attacks is generally estimated at 1000 Men; it cannot be less than 800; before Irois alone were found upwards of 200 Bodies, among which were many Whites and Mulattoes. Our Loss was trifling indeed, consisting only of Three Privates killed; but I have to lament Lieutenant Talbot of the 82d Regiment, an Officer of the most extraordinary Bravery and good Conduct, and Lieutenant Colville of the Black Chasseurs, the only Persons wounded, and since dead. My most pleasing Task, Sir, is to bear Testimony of the Courage, Alacrity and Spirit with which all the Troops distinguished themselves in the various Combats, particularly Mons. de Brueil, commanding the Artillery, whom I beg Leave to recommend to your Favor and Protection.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) GEO. CHURCHILL, Brig. Gen.
Lieut. Gen. Simcoe.

S I R, Port au Prince, June 20, 1797.

I DO myself the Honor of informing you, that, on various Considerations of great Military Importance, I determined to re-possess myself of the Post of Mirebalais: In consequence, I collected the Forces, and calling Brigadier-General Churchill from the Grand Anse, gave him the Command, with Directions to execute a Plan that Colonel La Pointe, from whom I have experienced the most friendly and active Assistance, had ably digested.

The Brigadier-General's Letter, which I beg Permission to inclose, will inform you of the Success of this Expedition; but I have to regret, that, from some Delay of the Columns, they did not move with that Exactitude and Concert I had hoped, by which Circumstance a considerable Object of the Expedi-

tion failed of Success; for it was my Intention to accord the Protection of His Majesty's Arms, in the best Manner possible, to the Inhabitants of these Districts, by directing the Troops, in their different Routes, to march with a Secrecy and Rapidity that might ensure on all Sides the Surprizal of the Enemy, compel them to a hasty Retreat, and, driving them before them, might prevent their having an Opportunity of burning the Plantations, as had recently happened at Jeremie, or from carrying off the Negroes and Property beyond the Artibonite, at this Time so swollen by the rainy Season, as to render any Passage over it difficult and precarious. But I have Reason to believe, from the Report of Colonel Depestre, who commands in that Quarter, that many of the Negroes will escape and return to their Plantations; many were left upon them; and I learn with Pleasure that the Enemy had not the Time or Means to remove the Coffee from the Plantations in the Grand Bois, which is daily coming into Port au Prince.

As the Troops were on their March to their destined Cantonments in the Archaye Mountains to protect St. Marc's from an Attack preparing against it at Gonaives, I received Information of that Town's being besieged. The greater Part of the Army assembled under the Command of General Churchill, by forced Marches, proceeded to it's Assistance; and as the retaking the Mirebalais was unexpected by the Enemy, it had not only a Tendency to disconcert their Measures, but, as I had foreseen, gave me an Opportunity of sending a considerable Detachment by Sea from the Plain of the Cul de Sac to the immediate Assistance of St. Marc's, without Hazard.

At the same Time Colonel the Count de Rouvray, with a Detachment of 300 Men, was detached to strike at a Camp of the Brigands in the Mountains on the Side of Leogane. The Energy and Activity of this Officer overcame the Difficulties of the Situation; he effectually burned the Camp and beat the Enemy from their several Posts, killing between 40 and 50; and he returned to Grenier with the Loss of Two Men killed and Seven wounded.

The Enemy, having attacked and carried some of the Out-Posts of St. Marc, began the Siege of that important Place, but were fortunately driven from before it with very considerable Loss. In the successful Defence of St. Marc, the undaunted and active Courage, and the military Conduct of the Marquis de Cocherell, have merited my fullest Approbation.

I have the Honor to be,
With the utmost Respect, &c.

J. G. SIMCOE.

S I R, Mirebalais, June 2, 1797.

I Have the Honor to inform you, that, after giving previous Orders to Colonel Dessources to proceed with his Column, in the Morning of the 30th Ult. to his destined Post of La Selle, where, according to your Excellency's Instruction, he was enabled to take Post, I moved forward with the Centre Column, under Colonel Depestre. We arrived, after Two very hot Days March, at Port Mitchell, not quite completed, and occupied by about 50 of the Enemy, who retired on our Approach. In the Evening we discovered a Column of Troops descending the Hills on our Left, where they encamped.

A Detachment