

Commodore Duckworth's Zeal and Exertions to forward from Addaya and Fornelles such Supplies of Provisions and Ordnance Stores as might favour subsequent Operations.

To effect this Object, Colonel Graham was sent with Six Hundred Men, and by great Exertion arrived at Mercadal a very few Hours after the Main Force of the Enemy had marched towards Ciudadella, making several Officers and Soldiers Prisoners, seizing various small Magazines, and establishing his Corps in Front of the Village.

The persevering Labour of Two Hundred and Fifty Seamen, under the Direction of Lieutenant Buchanan, during the Night, having greatly assisted the Artillery in forwarding the Battalion Guns, the Army arrived at Mercadal on the 9th, where, learning that Mahon was nearly evacuated, a Disposition was instantly made to operate with the whole Force in that Direction, and Colonel Paget detached under this Movement with Three Hundred Men to take Possession of the Town: Upon his Arrival, he summoned Fort Charles to surrender, and made the Lieutenant-Governor of the Island, a Colonel of Artillery, and One Hundred and Sixty Men, Prisoners of War, removed the Boom obstructing the Entrance of the Harbour, and gave Free Passage to the Cormorant and Aurora Frigates, which were previously sent by Commodore Duckworth to make a Diversion off that Port. But these were not the only Advantages immediately resulting from this Movement; it favoured Desertion, intercepted all Stragglers, and enabled the different Departments of the Army to procure Beasts of Burthen for the further Progress of His Majesty's Arms.

Having ascertained that the Enemy's Troops were throwing up Works and entrenching themselves in Front of Ciudadella, it was resolved to force their Position on the Night of the 13th Instant; and, preparatory to this Attempt, Colonel Paget with Two Hundred Men was withdrawn from Mahon; Colonel Moncrief sent forward with a Detachment to Ferarias; Three Light Twelve Pounders and Five and a Half Inch Howitzers, and Ninety Marines landed from the Fleet; when, in Consequence of its having been communicated to Commodore Duckworth, that Four Ships, supposed of the Line, were seen between Majorca and Minorca steering towards the last-mentioned Island, he decided to pursue them, requested that the Seamen and Marines might reembark, and signified his Determination of proceeding with all the armed Transports to Sea: But weighing the serious Consequences which would

result to the Army from the smallest Delay on the one Hand, and the Advantages to be reasonably expected from a spirited Attack on the other, it was thought adviseable to retain them with the Army; and, on the 12th Instant, the whole Force marched to Alpiuz, and from thence proceeded on the 13th to Jupet, Colonel Moncrief's Detachment moving in a parallel Line on the Ferarias Road to Mala Garaba. These Precautions, and the Appearance of Two Columns approaching the Town, induced the Enemy to retire from their half-constructed Defences within the Walls of Ciudadella; and in the Evening of the same Day, a small Detachment, under Captain Muter, was sent to take Possession of the Torre den Quart, whereby the Army was enabled to advance on the 14th, apparently in Three Columns, upon Kane's, the Ferarias, and Fornelles Roads, to the Investment of the Town at Day-break, occupying Ground covered by the Position the Enemy had relinquished: Thus stationed, in Want of heavy Artillery, and every Article necessary for a Siege, it was judged expedient to summon the Governor of Minorca to surrender; and the Preliminary Articles were immediately considered; but Doubts arising on the Part of the Enemy, whether the investing Force was superior in Number to the Garrison, Two Batteries of Three Twelve Pounders, and Three Five and a Half Inch Howitzers were erected in the Course of the following Night within Eight Hundred Yards of the Place, and, at Day-break, the Main Body of the Troops formed in Order of Battle considerably to the Right of Kane's Road, leaving the Picquets to communicate between them and Colonel Moncrief's Post. This Line, partly real and partly imaginary, extended Four Miles in Front of the Enemy's Batteries, from whence Two Eighteen Pound Shot were immediately fired at the Troops; but a timely Parley, and the distant Appearance of the Squadron, occasioned the Cessation of Hostilities, and renewed a Negotiation, which, through the Address of Major General Sir James St. Clair Erskine, terminated in the annexed Capitulation.

Four Weeks Salt Provisions for the Garrison, besides the enclosed List of Ordnance Stores, were found in the Town of Ciudadella.

The Assistance received from Commodore Duckworth, in forwarding the Light Artillery and Provisions, greatly facilitated the rapid Movements of the Army; and I am happy in the Opportunity of declaring my Obligations to Lord Mark Kerr and Captain Caulfield, for the Supplies they sent from Mahon, and their Exertions to land Two Mortars,