



Imperial Majesty's express Commands at my Disposal. The Garrison, animated by the Appearance of such a Reinforcement, was now all on Foot, and there being consequently enough to defend the Breach, I proposed to the Pacha to get rid of the Object of his Jealousy, by opening his Gates to let them make a Sally and take the Assaultants in Flank: he readily complied, and I gave Directions to the Colonel to get Possession of the Enemy's third Parallel or nearest Trench, and there fortify himself by shifting the Parapet outwards. This Order being clearly understood, the Gates were opened, and the Turks rushed out, but they were not equal to such a Movement, and were driven back to the Town with Loss. Mr. Bray, however, as usual, protected the Town-Gate efficaciously with Grape from the Sixty-eight Pounders. The Sortie had this good Effect, that it obliged the Enemy to expose themselves above their Parapets, so that our Flanking Fire brought down Numbers of them, and drew their Force from the Breach, so that the small Number remaining on the Lodgment were killed or dispersed by our few remaining Hand-Grenades thrown by Mr. Savage, Midshipman of the Thefeus. The Enemy began a new Breach by an incessant Fire directed to the Southward of the Lodgment, every Shot knocking down whole Sheets of a Wall much less solid than that of the Tower on which they had expended so much Time and Ammunition.

The Groupe of Generals and Aids-du-Camp which the Shells from the Sixty-eight Pounders had frequently dispersed, was now re-assembled on Richard Cœur de Lion's Mount. Buonaparte was distinguishable in the Centre of a Semicircle; his Gesticulations indicated a Renewal of Attack, and his dispatching an Aid-du-Camp to the Camp, shewed that he waited only for a Reinforcement. I gave Directions for Hassan Bey's Ships to take their Station in the Shoal Water to the Southward, and made the Tigre's Signal to weigh, and join the Thefeus to the Northward. A little before Sunset, a massive Column appeared advancing to the Breach with a solemn Step. The Pasha's Idea was not to defend the Brink this Time, but rather to let a certain Number of the Enemy in, and then close with them, according to the Turkish Mode of War. The Column thus mounted the Breach unmolested, and descended from the Rampart into the Pasha's Garden, where, in a very few Minutes, the bravest and most advanced among them lay headless Corpses, the Sabre, with the Addition of a Dagger in the other Hand, proving more than a Match for the Bayonet; the Rest retreated precipitately; and the Commanding Officer, who was seen manfully encouraging his Men to mount the Breach, and who we have since learnt to be General Lafne, was carried off, wounded by a Musquet Shot. General Rombaud was killed. Much Confusion arose in the Town from the actual Entry of the Enemy, it having been impossible, nay impolitic, to give previous Information to every Body of the Mode of Defence adopted, lest the Enemy should come to a Knowledge of it by means of their numerous Emissaries.

The English Uniform, which had hitherto served as a rallying Point for the old Garrison wherever it appeared, was now in the Dark mistaken for French, the newly-arrived Turks not distinguishing between

One Hat and another in the Crowd, and thus many a severe Blow of a Sabre was parried by our Officers; among which Colonel Douglass, Mr. Ives, and Mr. Jones had nearly lost their Lives, as they were forcing their Way through a Torrent of Fugitives. Calm was restored by the Pasha's Exertions, aided by Mr. Trotte, just arrived with Hassan Bey, and thus the Contest of Twenty-five Hours ended, both Parties being so fatigued as to be unable to move.

Buonaparte will, no Doubt, renew the Attack, the Breach being, as above described, perfectly practicable for Fifty Men a-breast; indeed the Town is not nor ever has been defensible according to the Rules of Art, but according to every other Rule it must and shall be defended, not that it is in itself worth defending, but we feel that it is by this Breach Buonaparte means to march to farther Conquests. 'Tis on the Issue of this Conflict that depends the Opinion of the Multitude of Spectators on the surrounding Hills, who wait only to see how it ends to join the Victor, and with such a Reinforcement for the Execution of his known Projects, Constantinople and even Vienna must feel the Shock.

Be assured, my Lord, the magnitude of our Obligations does but encrease the Energy of our Efforts in the Attempt to discharge our Duty, and though we may, and probably shall be overpowered; I can venture to say that the French Army will be so much farther weakened before it prevails, as to be little able to profit by its dear-bought Victory.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

W. SIDNEY SMITH.

Rear-Admiral Lord Nelson.

*Tigre, at Anchor off Jaffa,*

*May 30, 1799.*

MY LORD;

THE Providence of Almighty God has been wonderfully manifested in the Defeat and precipitate Retreat of the French Army, the Means we had of opposing its gigantic Efforts against us being totally inadequate of themselves to the Production of such a Result. The Measure of their Iniquities seems to have been filled by the Massacre of the Turkish Prisoners at Jaffa in cool Blood Three Days after their Capture; and the Plain of Nazareth has been the Boundary of Buonaparte's extraordinary Career.

He raised the Siege of Acre on the 20th May, leaving all his heavy Artillery behind him, either buried or thrown into the Sea, where however it is visible and can easily be weighed. The Circumstances which led to this Event, subsequent to my last Dispatch of the 9th Instant, are as follows:

Conceiving that the Ideas of the Syrians as to the supposed irresistible Prowess of these Invaders must be changed since they had witnessed the Checks which the besieging Army daily met with in their Operations before the Town of Acre, I wrote a circular Letter to the Princes and Chiefs of the Christians of Mount Lebanon, and also to the Sheiks of the Druses, recalling them to a Sense of their Duty, and engaging them to cut off the Supplies from the French Camp. I sent them at the same Time a Copy of Buonaparte's impious Proclamation, in which he boasts of having overthrown all Christian Establishments, accompanied by a suitable Exhortation, calling upon them to choose between the Friendship of a Christian Knight