

[1656]

I have the Honor to send these Dispatches to your Lordship, by the Deputy Adjutant-General to this Army, Captain Harvey, whose State of Health, I am sorry to say, requires the European Climate; to him I beg to refer you for any Particulars I may have omitted to mention.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) W. GRINFIELD, L.G.

P.S. I herewith enclose the Capitulation granted to the Colonies of Demerara and Essequibo, together with a Return of the Prisoners and Stores taken at these two Settlements, and at Berbice.

W. GRINFIELD.

Rt. Hon. Lord Hobart.

*New Amsterdam, Berbice,
Sept. 25, 1803.*

SIR,

AGREEABLE to your Orders of the 19th Instant, I proceeded with the Troops under my Command, and arrived off the River Berbice on the 23d Instant in the Morning, where the Ships of War and Transports came to Anchor; as it was from thence Captain Bland and myself agreed to send Brigade Major Armstrong and Lieutenant Pardoe, in a Flag of Truce, with a Summons to the Provisional Governments, the Naval and Military Commanders, to surrender the Colony of Berbice to His Majesty's Forces under our Command. The Flag of Truce returned early the next Morning, having on board a Committee of the Provisional Government, a Captain of Artillery, and a Lieutenant of the Batavian Navy, to treat for the Surrender of the Colony, which was done, and the Articles of Capitulation signed; but as the Commandant of the Batavian Troops would not sanction the Surrender, without consulting the Officers under his Command, it was agreed that the Netly Schooner, with the smallest of the Transports, should pass over the Bar, there anchor, and wait until the Flag of Truce returned from the Fort with the Commandant's Answer; which not arriving as soon as was expected, the Netly and the Transports got under weigh, and were proceeding to pass the Forts, when the Flag of Truce returned, with a Captain of Artillery, to signify the Commandant's Approval of the Terms, but requesting the British Troops might not land until this Day, which was complied with, and they remained on board the Vessels, at Anchor off the Town, until Noon this Day, when the Troops landed and took Possession of the Forts, &c; and the Batavian Garrison, consisting of upwards of Six Hundred Men, were made Prisoners.

The steady and active Co-operation of Captain Bland and the Officers, Seamen, and Marines employed on this Service, demand my warmest Acknowledgments; and it is my Duty to report to you how much I am satisfied with the Zeal and active Exertions of Lieutenant-Colonel M^cCreagh of the 7th West India Regiment, and all the Officers and every Individual of all the Corps employed on this Service.

I am engaged in preparing the Returns of Ordnance and Stores of every Description found in the Enemy's Forts and Magazines, which I shall have the Honor of presenting to you on my Return to Demerara, which I expect will be in Three Days from this Date.

Herewith I enclose a Copy of the Summons and Articles of Capitulation, and have the Honor to remain, &c.

(Signed) ROB. NICHOLSON, Lieut.
Col. 1st Battalion Royals.

(A true Copy.) W. TATUM, Military Secretary.
*Lieut. General Grinfield, Commander
of the Forces, &c. &c. &c.*

S U M M O N S.

*On board His Majesty's Ship Heureux, off
Berbice, 23d September 1803.*

By Captain Loftus Otway Bland, Commander of His Britannic Majesty's Ships, &c. &c. and Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Nicholson, Commander of His Britannic Majesty's Land Forces, &c. &c. under the Orders of their Excellencies Lieutenant-General William Grinfield, and Commodore Samuel Hood, Commanders in Chief of His Majesty's Land and Sea Forces in the Windward and Leeward Charibbee Islands, &c. &c.

THESE are requiring you the Governor, and Court of Police, and Military and Naval Forces of the Colony of Berbice and its Dependencies, to surrender the said Colony to His Britannic Majesty's Forces under our Command, and to place the same under His Britannic Majesty's Government.

In which Case the Laws and Usages of the Colony shall remain in force and be respected, the Mode of Taxation now in Use be adhered to, and the Inhabitants shall enjoy the public Exercise of their Religion in the same Manner as heretofore; no new Establishments shall be introduced without the Consent of the Court of Police, as the Legislature of the Colony. The Public Officers, whether in the Civil Law or Church Establishment, as well as the Members of the respective Courts (except the Governor) shall be continued in their respective Offices and Situations until His Majesty's Pleasure shall be known, excepting those who may be attached to French Principles.

The Inhabitants, those who are at present in the Colony, as well as those who may be abroad, shall be protected in their Persons, and have the free Enjoyment of their Properties, without being troubled or molested for any Acts whatsoever, other than such as they might commit subsequent to the Capitulation, and in Violation of the Oath of Fidelity they shall be required to take.

The Sea and Land Forces of the Batavian Republic stationed in the Colony shall surrender themselves Prisoners of War, and proper Vessels will be provided at the Expence of His Britannic Majesty to convey them with the most convenient Speed to one of the Ports of the Batavian Republic; but they are not to bear Arms against Great Britain or her Allies, until regularly exchanged or released.

The Officers shall retain their Arms, and the whole of their Baggage; and the Non-commissioned Officers and Privates, their Baggage only.

With regard to the Military Forces, the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the same, may, if agreeably to themselves, enter into the British Service, and receive Pay, and every Advantage and Emolument enjoyed by those of the same Rank in His Britannic Majesty's Service.