

which is now in Possession of His Majesty's Troops under that renowned General Sir David Baird, I consider it unnecessary to trouble their Lordships with a detailed Account of the Proceedings of the Fleet from St. Salvador, which, however will be conveyed in another Dispatch.

On the 3d Instant, we made Table Land; and on the 4th, in the Evening, we reached our preconcerted Anchorage to the Westward of Robben Island; though too late to do any Thing but take a superficial View of Blue Berg Bay, where it was proposed to land the main Body of the Army; making however a Demonstration off Green Point, with the Leda Frigate, and the Transports containing the 24th Regiment, which was certainly well executed by Captain Honyman.

On the 5th, at Three o'Clock in the Morning, the Troops were put in the Boats and assembled alongside of the *Espoir*, but the Surf ran so high, that a Landing was deemed totally impracticable, and consequently the Troops returned to their Ships; and I immediately accompanied the General on board the *Espoir* for the Purpose of making a close Examination of the whole Coast from Craig's Tower to Lospard's Bay; on no Part of which did it appear possible to land a single Boat without extreme Danger.

To the evil Consequences of Delay in commencing Operations on an Enemy's Coast, was to be added the very alarming Possibility that some Reinforcement might arrive by one of the various Squadrons in Motion when we left Europe; and therefore the General and myself were induced to consider that however difficult the Task might be of advancing from Saldanha Bay, yet it was an Object of very great Moment to accomplish a safe and speedy Landing for the Troops; and the instant the Decision was made, the *Diomedæ*, with the Transports of the 38th Regiment, the Cavalry Ships, and a Proportion of Artillery, under the Orders of Brigadier General Beresford sailed for Saldanha, preceded by Captain King in the *Espoir*, having on board Captain Smyth of the Engineers (an Officer well acquainted with the Country) with a View of seizing the Post Moller, and as many Cattle as possible, antecedent to the Arrival of the advanced Division of the Fleet.

Soon after the *Diomedæ* weighed, the Westerly Wind began to abate; and on the 6th in the Morning, the Officers examining the Beach reported that the Surf had considerably subsided during the Night; which indeed was so evident from the Diadem when she stood in Shore, that I requested Sir David Baird to permit General Ferguson, and Colonel Brownrigg, the Quarter Master General, to attend the Officer on his second Examination, that their Feelings might in some Measure be balanced against those of professional Men, and to satisfy the Army that no Measure, in which its Safety was so intimately connected, should be determined on without due and proper Deliberation.

In the mean Time the Diadem, Leda, and Encounter were placed in a Situation to render the most effectual Assistance; and the 71st and 72d Regiments, with Two Field Pieces and a Howitzer ready mounted, in the Boats of the *Raisonable* and *Bellequeux*, rendezvoused alongside the Two former Ships, manifesting the most ardent Desire for the Signal from General Ferguson, at this Moment the Pro-

jector joined the Squadron, and Captain Rowley, who was well acquainted with the Anchorage, volunteered his Services to place her to the Northward, so as to cross the Fire of the Encounter, and more effectually cover the landing of the Troops.

Captain Downman at the same Time went in Shore with a light Transport Brig drawing only six Feet to run her on the Beach as a Break Water, if it would in any Degree facilitate the Debarkation of the Troops.

At Half past Twelve the Encounter conveyed by Signal General Ferguson's Opinion, that a Landing might be effected, and the Joy that was manifest in the Countenance of every Officer, heightened the characteristic Ardour of the Troops, and under an anxiety probably to be first on shore, induced them to urge the Boats to extend their Line of Beach further than was prudent, and occasioned the Loss of One Boat, with a Party of the 93d Regiment.

I report this Event to their Lordships with the most unfeigned Regret; and it is doubly painful to me, because from all the Efforts of an Enemy posted on an advantageous Height, the Army had only Two Men wounded in landing. This Circumstance must fully prove how well the Covering Vessels were placed, and how ably their Guns were served; and I trust my Country will acquit me of having applied every Expedient that could be devised to prevent the Occurrence of an Accident which I so sincerely deplore.

The Surf increased considerably towards the Close of the Evening, and about Eight o'Clock the Landing of any more Troops was stopped, but recommenced in the Morning, when all the Men, and Prisoners which the General judged necessary to take, were disembarked without a Moment's Loss of Time.

Conceiving that a Detachment of the Squadron might be of Service at the Head of the Bay, I proceeded there with the Leda, Encounter, and Protector, and a Division of Transports, and I understand, from firing occasionally that Evening over the Bank towards the Salt Pan, that the Enemy was obliged to move from an eligible Situation which he had before occupied.

On the following Morning we discovered the British Army advancing, with an unparalleled Rapidity, over a heavy Country, defended by a numerous Train of well-served Artillery; and as I conceived a few fresh Troops might be applied to Advantage, I desired Captain Downman to land with the Marines of the Squadron, and Two Field Pieces, to await the Arrival of Sir David Baird at Keit Valley, whom I very soon after had the Pleasure of personally congratulating on the Victory he had obtained over a General of such high Military Fame as General Jansens.

When the Army was in Motion to take up its Position at Craig's Tower, and while I was proceeding up the Bay to anchor in the most convenient Place for landing the Battering Train, a Flag of Truce was discovered coming towards the Diadem, by which I received the Letter No. 1. from the Commandant of the Town and Castle; and the next Day, in Conjunction with Sir David Baird, the Capitulation No. 2. was accepted, and at Six a Royal Salute was fired from the Squadron, on His Majesty's Colours being once more hoisted on the Castle.

