

of Naples. I accordingly proceeded thither with the Line of Battle Ships named in the Margin\*. The Enemy's Apprehension of Attack occasioned them to convey some of the Battering Train from the Trenches before Gaeta to Naples. The City was illuminated on Account of Joseph Bonaparte proclaiming himself King of the Two Sicilies! The Junction of the Eagle made us Five Sail of the Line, and it would have been easy for their Fire to have interrupted this Ceremony and Shew of Festivity, but I considered that the unfortunate Inhabitants had Evil enough on them; that the Restoration of the Capital to its lawful Sovereign and its fugitive Inhabitants would be no Gratification if it should be found a Heap of Ruins, Ashes, and Bones, and that as I had no Force to land and keep order, in case of the French Army retiring to the Fortresses, I should leave an opulent City a Prey to the licentious Part of the Community, who would not fail to profit by the Confusion the Flames would occasion; not a Gun was fired; but no such Consideration operated on my Mind to prevent me dislodging the French Garrison from the Island of Capri, which, from its Situation, protecting the coasting Communication southward, was a great Object for the Enemy to keep, and by so much one for me to wrest from him. I accordingly summoned the French Commandant to surrender; on his Non-acquiescence (see the annexed Correspondence,) I directed Captain Rowley, in His Majesty's Ship Eagle, to cover the landing of Marines and Boats' Crews, and caused an Attack to be made under his Orders. That brave Officer placed his Ship judiciously, nor did he open his Fire till she was secured, and his Diligence marked by the Effect of Musketry on his Quarter-Deck, where the First Lieutenant, James Crawley, fell wounded, and a Seaman was killed; although Captain Rowley regretted much the Services of that meritorious Officer in such a critical Moment, he has since recovered.

An Hour's Fire from both Decks of the Eagle, (between Nine and Ten o'Clock) with that of Two Neapolitan Mortar Boats under an active Officer, Lieutenant Rivera, drove the Enemy from the Vineyards within their Walls, the Marines were landed, and gallantly led by Captain Bunce, the Seamen in like Manner, under Lieutenant Morrell of the Eagle, and Lieutenant Redding of the Pompée, mounted the Steps; for such was their Road, headed by the Officers, nearest to the narrow Pass by which alone they could ascend.—Lieutenant Carrol had thus an Opportunity of particularly distinguishing himself.—Captain Stannus commanding the Athenien's Marines gallantly pressing forward gained the Heights, and the French Commandant fell by his Hand: this Event being known, the Enemy beat a Parley, a Letter from the second in Command, claimed the Terms offered, but being dated on the 12th after Midnight, some Difficulty occurred, my Limitation as to Time being precise; but on the Assurance that the Drum beat before Twelve, the Capitulation annexed was signed, and the Garrison allowed to march out and pass over to Naples with every Honor of War, after the Interment of their former brave Commander, with due Respect.—We thus became Masters of this important Post. The Enemy not having been allowed Time to bring Two Pieces of

heavy Cannon, with their Ammunition, to Capri, the Boat containing them, together with a Boat loaded with Timber for the Construction of Gun-Boats at Castilamare, took Refuge at Massa, on the Main Land opposite to the Island, where the Guard had hauled the Whole upon the Beach, I detached the Two Mortar Boats, and a Gaeta Privateer, under the Orders of Lieutenants Faliverne and Rivera, to bring them off, sending only Mr. Williams, Midshipman of the Pompée, from the Squadron on purpose to let the Neapolitans have the Credit of the Action, which they fairly obtained; for, after dislodging the Enemy from a strong Tower, they not only brought off the Boats and Two Thirty-five Pounders, but the Powder (Twenty Barrels) from the Magazine of the Tower, before the Enemy assembled in Force.

The projected Sorties took place on the 13th and 15th in the Morning, in a Manner to reflect the highest Credit on the Part of the Garrison and Naval Force employed.—The covering Fire from a Fleet was judiciously directed by Captains Richardson and Vicuna, whose Conduct on this whole Service merits my warmest Approbation. I inclose Captain Richardson's Two Letters as best detailing these Affairs, and a List of the Killed and Wounded on the 12th.

On the 19th Ult. the Boats of the Pompée, under Lieutenant Beaucroft, brought out a Merchant Vessel from Scalvitra, near Salerno, although protected by a heavy Fire of Musketry. That Officer and Mr. Sterling distinguished themselves much. The Enemy are endeavouring to establish a Land Carriage there to Naples.

On the 23d, obtaining Intelligence that the Enemy had Two Thirty-six-Pounders in a small Vessel on the Beach at Sealea, I sent the Pompée's Boats in for them. But the French Troops were too well posted in the Houses of the Town for them to succeed without the Cover of the Ship. I accordingly stood in with the Pompée; sent a Message to the Inhabitants to withdraw; which being done, a few of the Pompée's Lower Deck Guns cleared the Town and neighbouring Hills, while the Launch, commanded by Lieutenant Mouraylian, with Lieutenant Oats, of the Marines, and Mr. Williams, drove the French, with their Armed Adherents, from the Guns, and took Possession of the Castle, and of them. Finding, on my landing, that the Town was tenable against any Force the Enemy could bring against me from the nearest Garrison, in a given Time, I took Post with the Marines; and, under Cover of their Position, by the extreme Exertions of Lieutenant Carrol, Mr. Ives, Master, and the Petty Officers and Boats' Crews, the Guns were conveyed to the Pompée, with Twenty-two Barrels of Powder.

I have the Honor to be, &c.  
(Signed) W. SIDNEY SMITH.

On board His Majesty's Ship La Pompée,  
SIR,  
11th May 1806.

BEFORE I make a regular Attack, which must necessarily reduce an insulated and irregular Fortrefs without Works, I have thought proper, according to the Custom of War, to summon you to evacuate the Post which you occupy. If you refuse, I inform you that you will be forced to yield upon

\* Pompée, Excellent, Athenien, Intrepid.

