

Before I determined, however, upon this Measure, I deemed it prudent to acquaint Major Misset with the very diminished State of my Force, and I therefore sent in my Aide-de-Camp, Captain A'Court, of the 31st Regiment, with a Flag of Truce to him, with a detailed Account of it, and at the same Time a Manifesto to the Governor and Inhabitants, (a Copy of which I inclose,) which had not the desired Effect, but on the contrary, was treated by the Governor with Contempt.

The Major, however, in Reply, strongly urged my immediately landing; still repeating that we should not meet with any Resistance, and that my doing so would be the only Means of preventing the Garrison being reinforced by the Albanians, who had actually been sent for, and might be expected in the Course of Twenty-four Hours.

These Considerations led me to follow his Advice; and accordingly I landed that Evening (the 17th) as many Troops as our small Number of Boats could convey, a few Miles to the Eastward of Marabout, without Opposition, though I could only take up a Position for the Night; as, before the next Landing could be effected, such a Surf had arisen on the Beach, as totally to prevent the Second Division from approaching the Shore.

The next Morning however, with Infinite Difficulty and Risk they were landed; but finding my Situation now from the increased Height of the Surf and Appearance of the Weather, to be very precarious, both with Respect to getting Provisions or Stores on Shore, or having any Communications with the Transports, I determined at all Hazards to force my Way to the Western Side, where I could receive Supplies from Aboukir Bay, at the same Time resolving to attempt (in passing) to get into the Town even with the small Force I had, and push my Way, if possible, into the Forts that commanded it, a Matter I had reason to believe from Major Misset and others, would not be very difficult to accomplish.

I therefore moved forward about Eight o'Clock in the Evening of the 18th, and in our Way forced a pallisaded Intrenchment, with a deep Ditch in front of it, (that had been thrown up by the Turks, as a Defence against the Mamelukes and Arabs on the Western Side) stretching from Fort des Bains to Lake Mariotis, strengthened by Three Batteries mounting Eight Guns, exclusive of Fort des Bains on its Right Flank, mounting Thirteen Guns.

This we effected with very little Loss, though under a heavy Fire of Cannon and Musketry, and proceeded within a few Yards of Pompey's Gate, where we found the Garrison prepared to receive us, the Gate barricaded, and the Walls lined with Troops and Armed Inhabitants;—this, added to the Smallness of my Force, (not exceeding One Thousand Men of all Descriptions,) led me to think the Risk too great, and I determined to proceed to the Westward, as I had originally intended, where I arrived in the Morning of the 19th, and took up my Position on the Ground the British Troops occupied in the Action of the 21st, immediately sending Detachments to take Possession of Aboukir Castle, and the Cut between the Lakes Maadic and Mariotis, by which Communication the Reinforcement of Albanians was expected in Alexandria; in both these Attempts we succeeded.

The next Day, the 20th, I sent in (by a friendly

Arab that had stolen out of Town and joined us) a Manifesto, addressed to the Inhabitants, warning them of the Danger of implicating Friends and Foes, in the Event of taking the Place by Assault, and urging them to force the Governor to capitulate. This had the desired Effect; a Flag of Truce was sent out; and a Capitulation, (of which I herewith inclosed a Copy) was agreed to and signed.

Although this Service has fortunately not been of long Duration; yet, from the Scantiness of our Numbers, and the Scarcity of all Sorts of Supplies, as well Military Stores as Provisions, (which the boisterous State of the Weather completely prevented our receiving,) our Situation was, for some Time, rather critical; and I am happy to have it in my Power to bear Testimony to the Patience and Cheerfulness with which the Troops bore every Privation, and the Ardour and Spirit they shewed in the Attack of the Enemy's Works, as well as the Inclination and Wish they displayed to have stormed the Place, had I deemed that Step advisable.

To Major-General Wauchope, the Honourable Brigadier General Stuart, and Colonel Oswald, who landed with and accompanied me, I feel myself under great Obligations for their Exertions and Assistance in carrying on the Service; and I am much indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Airey, acting as Deputy Adjutant-General, and Captain Greca, acting as Deputy Quarter-Master-General, for the great Attention and Zeal shewn by them in forwarding and executing the Duties of their respective Departments; and I think it but Justice to Captain Pym, and to the Officers and Men of the Detachment of the Royal Artillery that was with me, to mention the very great Zeal and Alacrity which they displayed on every Occasion, which I am confident would have been equally conspicuous on the Part of Captain Burgoyne and the Officers of the Engineers, had Circumstances permitted them to have acted.

To Captain Hallowell, and the Officers, and Seamen of His Majesty's Ship Tigre, I cannot sufficiently express my Acknowledgements for the Assistance they afforded me, and for the Readiness with which they stood forward on all Occasions. Captain Hallowell landed and marched with me to the Attack of the Enemy's Entrenchments, and to the very Gates of the City, and remained on Shore until the Place surrendered; from his Advice and local Knowledge, I derived much useful Information.

Captain Withers of the Royal Navy, Agent of Transports, is also entitled to Praise, for his Activity in landing the Troops, and for the Exertions he afterwards made for supplying them with Provisions.

I send you herewith a Return of the killed, wounded, and missing, together with Returns of Prisoners made, and of the public Stores of different Descriptions, found in the several Batteries and Magazines.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) A. M. FRASER, Maj. Gen.

To the Rt. Hon. William Windham,  
 &c. &c. &c.

P. S. The Apollo, with the Nineteen missing Transports, came to Anchor in Aboukir Bay, on the Morning of the 20th, and Sir J. Duckworth's Squadron arrived here on the 22d.