

rected to detach the 38th Regiment to possess itself of the Plaza de Toros, and the adjacent strong Ground, and there take Post: the 87th, 5th, 36th, and 88th Regiments were each divided into Wings; and each Wing ordered to penetrate into the Street directly in its Front. The Light Battalion divided into Wings, and each followed by a Wing of the 95th Regiment, and a Three Pounder, was ordered to proceed down the Two Streets on the Right of the central One, and the 45th Regiment down the Two adjoining: and after clearing the Streets of the Enemy, this latter Regiment was to take Post at the Residencia. Two Six Pounders were ordered along the central Street, covered by the Carabineers and Three Troops of the 9th Light Dragoons, the Remainder of which was posted as a Reserve in the Centre. Each Division was ordered to proceed along the Street directly in its Front, till it arrived at the last Square of Houses next the River Plata: of which it was to possess itself, forming on the flat Roofs, and there wait for further Orders. The 95th Regiment was to occupy Two of the most commanding Situations, from which it could annoy the Enemy. Two Corporals with Tools were ordered to march at the Head of each Column for the Purpose of breaking open the Doors; the Whole were unloaded, and no Firing was to be permitted until the Columns had reached their final Points and formed; a Cannonade in the central Streets was the Signal for the Whole to come forward.

In conformity to this Arrangement, at Half-past Six o'Clock of the Morning of the 5th Instant, the 38th Regiment moving towards its Left, and the 87th straight to its Front, approached the strong Post of the Retiro and Plaza de Toros, and after a most vigorous and spirited Attack, in which these Regiments suffered much from Grape-Shot and Musketry, their gallant Commander, Brigadier-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty, possessed himself of the Post, taking Thirty-two Pieces of Cannon, an immense Quantity of Ammunition, and Six Hundred Prisoners. The 5th Regiment meeting with but little Opposition, proceeded to the River, and took Possession of the Church and Convent of St. Catalina. The 36th and 88th Regiments, under Brigadier-General Lumley, moving in the appointed Order, were soon opposed by a heavy and continued Fire of Musketry from the Tops and Windows of the Houses; the Doors of which were barricaded in so strong a Manner, as to render them almost impossible to force. The Streets were intersected by deep Ditches, in the Inside of which were planted Cannon, pouring Showers of Grape on the advancing Columns. In Defiance, however, of this Opposition, the 36th Regiment, headed by the gallant General, reached its final Destination; but the 88th being nearer to the Fort and principal Defences of the Enemy, were so weakened by his Fire as to be totally overpowered and taken. The Flank of the 36th being thus exposed, this Regiment, together with the 5th, retired upon Sir Samuel Auchmuty's Post at the Plaza de Toros; not, however, before Lieutenant-Colonel Burne, and the Grenadier Company of the 36th Regiment, had an Opportunity of distinguishing themselves, by charging about Eight Hundred of the Enemy, and taking and spiking Two Guns. The Two Six Pounders moving up the central Streets meeting with a very superior Fire, the Four Troops of the Carabineers, led on

by Lieutenant-Colonel Kingston, advanced to take the Battery opposed to them, but this gallant Officer being unfortunately wounded, as well as Captain Burrell, next in Command, and the Fire both from the Battery and Houses proving very destructive, they retreated to a short Distance, but continued to occupy a Position in Front of the Enemy's principal Defences, and considerably in Advance of that which they had taken in the Morning.

The Left Division of Brigadier-General Craufurd's Brigade, under Lieutenant-Colonel Pack passed on nearly to the River, and turning to the Left, approached the Great-Square with the Intention of possessing itself of the Jesuits' College, a Situation which commanded the Enemy's principal Line of Defence. But from the very destructive Nature of his Fire, this was found impracticable, and after sustaining a heavy Loss, One Part of the Division throwing itself into a House which was afterwards not found tenable, was shortly obliged to surrender, whilst the remaining Part, after enduring a dreadful Fire with the greatest Intrepidity, Lieutenant-Colonel Pack its Commander being wounded, retired upon the Right Division commanded by Brigadier General Craufurd himself. This Division having passed quite through to the River Plata, turned also to the Left to approach the Great Square and Fort from the North-East Ballion, of which it was distant about Four Hundred Yards, when Brigadier-General Craufurd, leaving the Fate of his Left Division, thought it most advisable to take Possession of the Convent of St. Domingo, near which he then was, intending to proceed onwards to the Franciscan Church which lay still nearer the Fort, if the Attack or Success of any other of our Columns should free him in some Measure from the Host of Enemies which surrounded him. The 45th Regiment being further from the Enemy's Centre, had gained the Residencia without much Opposition, and Lieutenant-Colonel Guard having it in Possession of his Battalion Companies, moved down with the Grenadier Company towards the Centre of the Town, and joined Brigadier General Craufurd.

The Enemy, who now surrounded the Convent on all Sides, attempting to take a Three Pounder which lay in the Street, the Lieutenant-Colonel with his Company, and a few Light Infantry under Major Trotter, charged them with great Spirit. In an Instant, the greater Part of his Company and Major Trotter (an Officer of great Merit) were killed, but the Gun was saved. The Brigadier-General was now obliged to confine himself to the Defence of the Convent, from which the Rifle Men kept up a well directed Fire upon such of the Enemy as approached the Post; but the Quantity of Round Shot, Grape, and Musketry to which they were exposed, at last obliged them to quit the Top of the Building, and the Enemy, to the Number of Six Thousand, bringing up Cannon to force the Wooden Gates which fronted the Fort, the Brigadier-General having no Communication with any other Columns, and judging from the Cessation of Firing that those next him had not been successful, surrendered at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon.

The Result of this Day's Action had left me in Possession of the Plaza de Toros, a strong Post on the Enemy's Right, and the Residencia, another strong Post on his Left, whilst I occupied an advanced Position opposite his Centre; but these Ad-