

I am convinced that had it been necessary to have called for the Exertions of the Sea and Land Forces employed upon this Expedition, that they would have added another Laurel to the many already acquired by British Valour and Discipline.

Copies of the two Letters of Summons, with the Answers of the respective Governors, are herewith transmitted, together with a Return of Ordnance, and Ordnance Stores taken Possession of, both at St. Thomas's and Santa Cruz.

This Dispatch will be presented to your Lordship by Captain Berkeley of the 16th Infantry, an intelligent Officer, who will answer any Question you may be pleased to ask him, and I beg Leave to recommend him to your Lordship's Notice.

Captain Berkeley is my first Aid de-Camp.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

HENRY BOWYER,
General and Commander of the Forces.

*On board His Majesty's Ship Bellisle, off
St. Thomas, Dec. 20, 1807.*

SIR,
WE, His Britannic Majesty's Commanders in Chief by Land and by Sea in these Colonies, in Obedience to our Sovereign's Orders, do summon you to surrender the Island of St. Thomas and its Dependencies to the Forces under our Command.

We are well aware, Sir, that your Bravery and Loyalty to your Sovereign may induce you to make Resistance, which can avail but little against the Forces now opposed to you. We therefore trust, that to prevent the Effusion of Blood, and probably the Confiscation of all Property, that you will accept of such Terms as may be proper for us to grant, and honourable for you to receive.

We think it necessary to add, that we will certainly resent and retaliate for any injurious Treatment that may be offered unjustly to any one of our Nation under your Government, by forcing them to take up Arms against their lawful Sovereign.

We have the Honour to be, &c.

HENRY BOWYER, General and Commander of the Forces.

ALEX. COCHRANE, Rear Admiral and Commander in Chief of the Naval Forces.

To His Excellency Colonel Van Scholten, Commandant, &c. &c. &c. St. Thomas.

SIRS, *St. Thomas, Dec. 21, 1807.*

It cannot be presumed under any Circumstances, that I can think of capitulating, until I am vanquished; or at least until I know the Strength of the Sea and Land Forces, by which I am menaced to be attacked. I therefore send out Three Officers, in order to obtain this Information, and Your Excellencies' permission to count the Troops. The Gentlemen which Your Excellencies have sent on Shore, have given me their Word of Honour, that no Hostilities of any kind shall be committed, before my Officers are again landed at St. Thomas, and then I shall immediately acquaint Your Excellencies of my Determination, through any Signal which may be agreed upon on board.

If I should be induced to wish to capitulate, I request that Persons may be sent on Shore, for the Purpose with full Authority to sign a Capitulation, on the Basis of the one concluded in 1801, and

with such Alterations as Circumstances may require.

I have the Honour to be &c.

(Signed) W. V. SCHOLTEN.

To their Excellencies the Commanders in Chief of His Britannic Majesty's Naval and Land Forces off St. Thomas.

ARTICLES of CAPITULATION for the Surrender of the Danish Islands of St. Thomas and St. John's, together with their Dependencies, entered into between General Henry Bowyer, the Commander of the Land Forces, and Rear-Admiral the Honourable Sir Alexander Cochrane, Knight of the Bath, and Commander in Chief of the Naval Forces employed at Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, on the Part of His Britannic Majesty, and Colonel Van Scholten, Commandant of the said Danish Islands, on the Part of His Majesty the King of Denmark.

Art. I. The Islands of St. Thomas and St. John's, and their Dependencies, are hereby placed under the Protection of His Britannic Majesty.

Answer.—War being declared between the two Nations, the Islands of St. Thomas and St. John's, and their Dependencies, must be surrendered to the Forces of His Britannic Majesty.

Art. II. Military Honours are to be shewn at the Surrender: The Officers keep and continue to carry their Swords.

Answer.—Agreed to.

Art. III. All the Inhabitants of the said Island are to enjoy the fullest Security for their Persons, Property, and other Rights, as well as a free Exercise of their Religion.

Answer.—All bonâ fide Danish Inhabitants shall enjoy the fullest Security for their Persons and Properties, as well as a free Exercise of their Religion, provided they do not in any measure cover, or attempt to cover, the Property of the Enemies of Great Britain and Ireland. By Property is to be understood, all Goods and Merchandise, now on Shore. And to render any farther Explanation on this head unnecessary, it is required, that all Danish Inhabitants, and those of other Nations, not at War with Great Britain, shall give in, when called upon, and if demanded, on Oath, a strict and impartial Account of all Property belonging to the Enemies of Great Britain, either in their own Possession, or within their Knowledge, thereby fully securing the intention of this Article.

Art. IV. Arms and Ammunition to be delivered by a Commission composed of Officers of both Parties; also the Magazines and Provisions, and what else may be found in the Forts, as it shall be found to day, according to Returns to be drawn up.

Answer.—Agreed to.

Art. V. All Danish Officers, and the Garrison, to be conveniently and safely conducted to their Native Country; and those that might desire to proceed via America or elsewhere, to be provided with proper Passports, or to remain in this Country if they wish.

Answer.—The Garrison must be considered as Prisoners of War, and conveyed to Europe as speedily as possible, and every Indulgence shewn them.

Art. VI. No Military to be quartered in Houses, but in Barracks and proper Rooms to be assigned by