

tailed Account of our Operations since that Period ; and which in Justice to the Steadiness, Bravery, and good Conduct of His Majesty's, and the Honourable Company's Troops, I feel it my Duty to enter into minutely ; trusting that the Names of those excellent Officers, whom it has been my particular good Fortune to have had the Honour to command, may be noticed, in proportion to the great national Service which they have performed, and the Honour acquired by His Majesty's and the Honourable Company's Troops, in an Attack upon the Town, Batteries, Posts, and Shipping of St. Paul's.

His Majesty's Ships *La Nereide* and *Otter*, and Honourable Company's *Cruizer Wasp*, with Three Hundred and Sixty eight Officers and Men, who were embarked on the 16th Instant at Fort Duncan, Island of Roderiques, arrived off Port Louis, Isle of France, on the Evening of the 18th, and joined His Majesty's Ship *Raisonné*, Commodore Rowley, and *Sirius* ; early the next Morning, the 19th, the Seamen and Troops destined for the Attack, amounting to Six hundred and Four, were, according to an Arrangement made by Captain Corbett, and approved by the Commodore, put on board the *Nereide*, and towards Evening, the Squadron stood for the Isle of Bourbon ; on the Morning of the 20th being off the East End of the Island.

At Five A. M. on the 23d Instant, the Troops were disembarked to the Southward of Point de Galotte, Seven Miles from St. Paul's, and immediately commenced a forced March, with a View of crossing the Causeways that extend over the Lake, before the Enemy could discover our Debarkation or Approach to the Town, which we were fortunate enough to effect ; nor had they Time to form in any Force until we had passed the strongest Position. By Seven o'Clock we were in Possession of the First and Second Batteries, *Lamboufiere* and *La Centiere* ; when Captain Willoughby of the Royal Navy, who commanded a Detachment of about a Hundred Seamen on Shore, and to whose Zeal, Activity and Exertions I feel much indebted, immediately turned the Guns upon the Enemy's Shipping, from whose Fire, which was chiefly grape and well directed, within Pistol Shot of the Shore, we suffered much, being necessarily exposed to it during our Movements upon the Beach, and through the Town. From the Battery *La Centiere*, Captain Imlack was detached with the Second Column, composed of a Hundred and Forty-Two of the Second Battalion of the 2d Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry and Twelve Europeans, to take Possession of the 3d. or Battery of *La Neuf*, deserted by the Enemy. On his Way thither, he fell in with and was opposed by the entire Force of the French, who had concentrated, and taken up a very strong Position behind a Stone-Wall, with Eight Brads Field Pieces, Six Pounders, upon their Flanks. This Post was instantly charged in the most gallant Manner by that Officer and his Men.

The Enemy however maintained their Position, and Captain Hannon, of the 56th Regiment, was ordered to proceed with the third Column to his Support, who charged, and took Two of the Enemy's Guns. The Action now became warm, but never doubtful. The Enemy being reinforced from the Hills, and having also received One Hundred and Ten Troops of the Line from the French Frigate *La Caroline*, and the Squadron not being able

to stand in to support us, our Movements being endangered by their Fire, except at Intervals which they always took Advantage of, Captain Willoughby was directed to spike the Guns of *Lamboufiere* and *La Centiere*, and with the Seamen to man the third Battery *La Neuf* continuing to fire upon their Shipping. By this Arrangement Captain Forbes, who with the Reserve had covered those Batteries, was enabled to advance against the Enemy, who, after an honourable Resistance, were compelled to give way ; their remaining Guns being carried by that excellent Officer, a sufficient Number of Men were ordered to act as Light Troops, and to pursue the Enemy, whilst the 3d Column, with Part of the Reserve, advanced against the 4th and 5th Batteries, *La Pierre* and *La Caserne*, which fell into our Hands without Opposition, and whose entire Fire was immediately directed against the Enemy's Shipping. By Half-past Eight o'Clock, the Town, Batteries, Magazines, Eight Brads Field-Pieces, One Hundred and Seventeen new and heavy Iron Guns, of different Calibres, and all the Public Stores, were in our Possession, with several Prisoners. The Instant the Squadron perceived that the Object in Landing had succeeded, and that they could, with Safety to the Troops, stand in effectually, they immediately anchored close to the Enemy's Shipping, which after a short Firing surrendered. The Entire of the Batteries being destroyed, and the Town completely commanded by our Squadron, the Troops were re-embarked by Eight o'Clock the same Evening.

Herewith I have the Honour to annex a Return of the Shipping, Guns, and Stores taken and destroyed upon this Occasion. I have also the Honour to inclose a Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing, and though our Loss has been severe, it is not equal to what might have been expected from the Nature of the Attack, the Position and Strength of the Enemy, and the Number of Guns, to which our little Force was exposed at different Times during the Morning.

To the judicious Arrangements of Commodore Rowley, the cordial Co-operation and Support of the rest of the Officers of His Majesty's Navy, and personal Exertions and Assistance of Captain Corbett in landing the entire Force from His Majesty's Ship *La Nereide*, I impute the happy Termination and ultimate Success of this Enterprize.

On the 27d, late in the Evening, the Enemy appeared in some Force upon the Hills, and a heavy Column was observed advancing from St. Denis, which I since understand to have been under the immediate Command of General Des Bruslyes ; the Commodore and myself now agreed upon the Propriety of landing a sufficient Force to destroy all public Property ; and accordingly the Marines, with a few Sailors under Captain Willoughby, were ordered upon this Service, when I had an Opportunity of again witnessing the Steadiness and good Conduct of the Seamen and Royal Marines, who effectually burnt an extensive Government Store of considerable Value : the remaining Stores were only saved from some Doubt existing respecting their being public Property.

On the Morning of the 23d, the entire Force was put in Boats to re-land and attack the Enemy, whose Retreat however to St. Denis during the Night prevented the Necessity of any further Debarkation. The Commandant, St. Michiel, being disposed to

