

The Lord Chancellor has also appointed D'Arcy Strangways, of Redall, in the County of York, Gent. to be a Master Extraordinary in the High Court of Chancery.

Admiralty-Office, July 28, 1810.

*Copy of a Letter from Captain Mends, of His Majesty's Ship the Arethusa, addressed to Admiral Lord Gambier, and transmitted by his Lordship to John Wilson Croker, Esq.*

*His Majesty's Ship Arethusa, off Bermeo, July 11, 1810.*

MY LORD,

AFTER a Consultation with the Junta of Asturias on the 24th Ultimo, I consented to receive on board of the Squadron your Lordship has been pleased to place under my Command, the Spanish Brigadier-General Porlier, and Five Hundred of his Soldiers, with the Intention of beating up the Enemy's Quarters along the Coast of Cantabria and Bilcay, in order to make a Diversion of his Troops towards the Sea-Ports in his Possession, and thus afford an Opportunity for a combined Movement of the Spanish Armies in Asturias, by compelling the Enemy to detach more of his Forces to oppose us, and thereby weaken the Interior of that Province and St. Andero, or to suffer his Sea-Defences to be destroyed and his Supplies coastways cut off, the one or other Alternative appearing to me an inevitable Result of such Movements. I have now the Pleasure of informing your Lordship that we have completely succeeded in the Maritime Part of the Expedition without the Loss of a single Man, having destroyed all the Batteries (with the Exception of Castro) from St. Sebalian to St. Andero, on which were found about One Hundred Pieces of heavy Cannon altogether, and laid that whole Extent of Sea-Coast entirely bare of Defence.

Communications are thus opened with these Provinces, and the zealous Attachment of the Inhabitants to the Independence of their Country ascertained, should it hereafter be deemed expedient to act on it.

The strong Port of Santona, and the numerous Batteries round Bermeo, being dismantled, our Ships will have in future two good Anchorages on the Coast in westerly Gales, as it will be a Work of considerable Time and Labour to re mount heavy Cannon on the various Eminences of those Places, which must all be conveyed by Sea, the Country being so extremely mountainous and the Roads so bad that Land Carriage is almost impracticable.

The Brigade of Seamen and Marines from the Squadron being commanded by the Honourable Captain Aylmer, of the Narcissus, his Letter to me of the 9th Instant will inform your Lordship of the Events which took place on their landing at Santona, and during the short Time they occupied it. To the Zeal and Ability of that excellent Officer I am much indebted, as well as to that of Captain Bowles, of the Medusa, who most anxiously solicited to be attached to the Brigade, and acted as second in Command; Mr. Hugh Pearson, my First Lieutenant, and Lieutenant Desbrisay, commanding the Marines, distinguished themselves by their exemplary Conduct, as, in short, did all the other Officers and Men composing the Brigade.

The Disposition of the Boats made by Captain Galway of the Dryad, assisted by Captain Joyce of the Amazon, at our different Landings, was so judicious as to prevent either Confusion or Loss

where the Surf was frequently extremely dangerous to approach; nor were the Services of Captain Digby, of the Cossack, less important in forwarding every Part of the various Duties going on both Night and Day, and I have only to regret that the early Retreat of the Enemy on the 7th deprives me of an Opportunity of announcing to your Lordship his entire Defeat and Surrender.

Having by our landing at Santona induced the Enemy to abandon several Positions in the Interior, as well as on the Sea Coast, in order to collect a sufficient Force to prevent our continuing in Possession of that Place, I shall be happy to find that the Armies of Asturias, and of the Mountains of St. Andero, have been put in Motion, during the Absence of the French, which was the Principle agreed upon between the Junta of Asturias and myself, but as yet I have no Information on that Head.

This Expedition has however cost the Enemy upwards of Two Hundred Men, besides an Infinity of Trouble and Marching, and added nigh 300 Volunteers to General Porlier's little Army. I am also happy in having this Opportunity of bearing Testimony to the Talents of that distinguished Officer, and the Gallantry of his small Band of Officers and Soldiers, who on every Occasion were emulous for their own and Country's Honour.

I am now proceeding Westward, to land the General and his Men at Ribadeo, and shall feel happy if the complete Success of this little Expedition, the Zeal with which it has been executed, and the Principle on which it was undertaken, be honored with your Lordship's Approbation.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

R. MENDES.

*Right Hon. Lord Gambier, Admiral of the Blue, &c.*

SIR,

*Narcissus, July 9, 1810.*

HEREIN I beg leave to detail the Proceedings of the Battalion of Seamen and Royal Marines which you did me the Honour to place under my Command, acting in conjunction with, and under the Orders of Brigadier-General Porlier.

On the Morning of the 5th Instant, we landed with the Spanish Force on the Beach to the Westward of Santona, and immediately went forward to the Town, which we entered without any Loss, the French retiring across the River; our Advanced Guard under Lieutenant Desbrisay, of the Marines of the Amazon, with the Spanish Tirailleurs, succeeded in stopping a Part of the Rear Guard of the French, after killing Two, and wounding a few more, and taking some Prisoners: in the course of the Day, Brigadier-General Porlier sent off some of his Men on the Road to St. Andero, and Lieutenant Pearson, of the Arethusa, was detached with a Party of Seamen to destroy the Guns in the Forts, which was completely effected.

The 6th was employed in examining the Place, in case of being attacked by the French, whom we had Reason to expect would advance in Force from St. Andero.

On the Morning of the 7th, we placed the Boats' Carronades on a Hill which commanded the Isthmus leading to the Town, and posted the Men along the Hedges and Vineyards in Front of the Position, the Spaniards on the Right on a Sand-Hill, and the