

tercourse between the two countries: And whereas it may happen that places wherein such persons may be resident may have fallen, or may fall, under the possession and usurpation of France, and that in consequence thereof doubts may arise upon the national character of the said persons, to the prejudice of them and of their partners and houses of trade in any part of the United Kingdom:

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, acting in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, is pleased, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Privy Council, to declare, and it is hereby declared, that all persons, natives of Spain, being partners in any house of trade in any part of the United Kingdom; and resident in Spain, or in any island in Europe dependent thereon, for the purpose of transacting the business of their respective houses; shall be considered as stranger friends, and shall in no case be treated as alien enemies; and that persons, being British subjects, and resident in Spain, or in any island in Europe dependent thereon, for the purpose of transacting the business of any house of trade in which they are partners in any part of the United Kingdom, shall be considered, and are hereby declared to be so resident as aforesaid under His Majesty's licence, and without prejudice to their character of British subjects, or to any of the rights or privileges belonging thereto;

Provided that the names of all persons claiming the benefit of this Order shall, within six months from the date hereof, or from the time of their going henceforth to reside in Spain, or in any island in Europe dependent thereon, be given in, together with the names of their respective houses of trade in the United Kingdom, and the usual place of their abode in Spain, or in any island as aforesaid dependent thereon, to the Clerk of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council: And it is further ordered, that this Order shall be of no effect for the benefit or protection of any person that shall not duly comply with the said provision.

And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, and the Judges of the Courts of Vice-Admiralty, are to take the necessary measures herein as to them may respectively appertain.

Chetwynd.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, April 2, 1812.

DISPATCHEs, of which the following are extracts, have been received from the Earl of Wellington, addressed to the Earl of Liverpool.

Elvas, March 13, 1812.

IMOVED the head-quarters from Frenada on the 6th, and arrived here on the 11th instant.

There are none of the enemy's troops in the field in Estremadura, excepting that part of the 6th corps not in the garrison of Badajoz, the head-quarters of which are at Villa Franca, and a

detachment, consisting of about a division, under General Darican, whose head-quarters are at La Serena.

The enemy have made no movement, and I have heard of no operation of importance since I addressed your Lordship last. According to the last accounts, Marshal Soult was in the lines before Cadiz.

Camp before Badajoz, March 20, 1812.

ACCORDING to the intention which I announced to your Lordship, I broke up the cantonments of the army on the 15th and 16th instant, and invested Badajoz, on the left of the River Guadiana, on the 16th, with the 3d, 4th, and light divisions of infantry; and with a brigade of Lieutenant-General Hamilton's division on the right. These troops are under the command of Marshal Sir William Beresford and Lieutenant-General Picton. We broke ground on the following day, and have established a parallel within two hundred yards of the outwork called the Picurina, which embraces the whole of the south east angle of the fort. The work has continued ever since with great celerity, notwithstanding the very bad weather which we have had since the 17th.

The enemy made a sortie yesterday from the gate called La Trinidad, on the right of our attack, with about two thousand men. They were almost immediately driven in without effecting any object, with considerable loss, by Major-General Bowes, who commanded the guard in the trenches. We lost upon this occasion a very promising officer, Captain Cuthbert, Aide-de-Camp to Lieutenant-General Picton, killed; and Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher was slightly wounded, but I hope that he will soon be able to resume his duties. I have not yet got the returns, but I believe that our loss since the commencement of these operations, amounts to one hundred and twenty men killed and wounded.

On the same day that Badajoz was invested; Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Graham crossed the Guadiana with the 1st, 6th, and 7th divisions of infantry, and General Slade's and General Le Marchant's brigades of cavalry, and directed his march upon Valverde and Santa Martha, and thence towards Llerena; while Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill, with the 2d and Lieutenant-General Hamilton's divisions, and Major-General Long's cavalry, marched from his cantonments near Albuquerque upon Merida, and thence upon Almen-