

tion which I had received up to that date. The result has now justified the sanguine hopes that every one entertained of the success of operations, carried on under the direction of an officer of the zeal and ability possessed by Captain Adam, of His Majesty's ship *Invincible*. Nothing could be better-timed than the movements of General Freire, who, in consequence of the information I sent to General O'Donnell, made an attack upon the enemy and drove him from Baza on the 13th, the same day on which the force under the command of Captain Adam appeared off Almeria; that officer having judiciously taken time to send on shore, at some distance from the place, to ascertain the strength, position, and movements of the enemy, learned that they were in the place to the number of four or five hundred, including cavalry, and had not as yet made any detachments to assist in opposing General Freire, but early on the 14th instant it appears that the French General had sent three couriers to Almeria (no doubt ignorant of this expedition) to order the garrison to join him immediately, which it proceeded to do accordingly, and as it marched out Captain Adam landed the three hundred Spanish troops he had with him, under the command of Colonel Alveor, and took possession of the place.

The consequence of this has been that Captain Adam has been enabled to take or destroy a privateer and her two prizes; to blow up the castle of San Elmo, which is situated upon an almost inaccessible rock, and all the sea defences and batteries which protected the anchorage of this place, and formed a secure resort for the numerous privateers which have been long an annoyance to the British and Spanish trade on this coast.

Captain Adam has also embarked all the serviceable guns, carriages, and ordnance stores he found in the place, totally destroying the remainder, and was busily employed on these services, and in forwarding the embarkation of a quantity of sulphur and lead from the King's mines, at six leagues from that place, under the direction of a Spanish Intendente, who had joined him with one hundred cavalry from Nijar, when he wrote to me on the 18th instant, in answer to the express I sent to him by a gun-boat, to acquaint him of General Freire's retreat before a superior force of the enemy at Baza. General O'Donnell was with me here two days, when he received dispatches from General Freire and Colonel Alveor, informing him, that the inhabitants of Almeria had received the Spanish troops with the most enthusiastic demonstration of

patriotism on their entering that place on the 14th instant, and as by the destruction of the fortifications, that port can no longer be useful to the enemy, either as a safe rendezvous for privateers, and their prizes, or as a point d'appui to the right flank of their advanced position from whence they have hitherto annoyed General O'Donnell's army, it is to be hoped that these loyal inhabitants will be relieved from any future visits of their tyrannical oppressors, when the Spanish troops are withdrawn.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, July 1, 1812.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been this day received at Lord Bathurst's Office, addressed to the Earl of Liverpool by Lieutenant-General Campbell, commanding at Gibraltar, dated June 8, 1812.

MY LORD, *Gibraltar, June 8, 1812.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that a severe action took place on the 1st instant, between General Ballesteros's force and a division of the enemy, under the command of General Coursoux, in the vicinity of Bornos.

The General has not sent me a detailed account, but his letter is herewith enclosed. This affair has been attended with considerable loss on both sides, that of the Spaniards not less than one thousand in killed, wounded, and missing, including about eighty officers. General Ballesteros retired to his original ground in the vicinity of the field of battle, in which operation the enemy did not venture to interrupt him; his wounded have arrived at Algiziras; the enemy withdrew to his entrenchments.

I have the honour to be, &c.

COLIN CAMPBELL, Lieut.-Gen.

*Head-Quarters, Camp before Hija Ruiz,
June 2, 1812.*

MOST EXCELLENT SIR,

I HASTEN to communicate to your Excellency the intelligence of the severe action which I fought yesterday, with the greater part of the troops under my command, in the plains of Bornos. This action is perhaps the most serious that has been fought since the beginning of our revolution; and an unexpected occurrence has alone deprived me of the glory of a complete victory. I am surrounded by wounded, none of whom, however, received their wounds with the bayonet or sword, although all