

the Patapsto, on the 11th instant, where the frigates and smaller vessels entered at a convenient distance for landing the troops.

At an early hour the next morning, the disembarkation of the army was effected without opposition, having attached to it a brigade of six hundred seamen, under Captain Edward Crofton (late of the Leopard); the second battalion of marines; the marines of the squadron, and the colonial black marines. Rear-Admiral Cockburn accompanied the General, to advise and arrange as might be deemed necessary for our combined efforts.

So soon as the army moved forward, I hoisted my flag in the Surprise, and with the remainder of the frigates, bombs, sloops, and the rocket ship, passed further up the river, to render what co-operation could be found practicable.

While the bomb-vessels were working up, in order that we might open our fire upon the enemy's fort at day-break next morning, an account was brought to me, that Major-General Ross, when reconnoitring the enemy, had received a mortal wound by a musket ball, which closed his glorious career before he could be brought off to the ship.

It is a tribute due to the memory of this gallant and respected Officer, to pause in my relation, while I lament the loss that His Majesty's service and the army, of which he was one of the brightest ornaments, have sustained by his death. The unanimity, the zeal which he manifested on every occasion, while I had the honour of serving with him, gave life and ease to the most arduous undertakings. Too heedless of his personal security when in the field, his devotion to the care and honour of his army, has caused the termination of his valuable life. The Major-General has left a wife and family, for whom I am confident his grateful country will provide.

The skirmish which had deprived the army of its brave General was a prelude to a most decisive victory over the flower of the enemy's troops. Colonel Brook, on whom the command devolved, having pushed forward our force to within five miles of Baltimore, where the enemy, about six or seven thousand, had taken up an advanced position, strengthened by field-pieces, and where he had disposed himself, apparently with the intention of making a determined resistance, fell upon the enemy with such impetuosity, that he was obliged soon to give way, and fly in every direction, leaving on the field of battle a considerable number of killed and wounded, and two pieces of cannon.

For the particulars of this brilliant affair, I beg leave to refer their Lordships to Rear-Admiral Cockburn's dispatch, transmitted herewith.

At day break the next morning, the bombs having taken their stations within shell range, supported by the Surprise, with the other frigates and sloops, opened their fire upon the fort that protected the entrance of the harbour, and I had now an opportunity of observing the strength and the preparations of the enemy.

The approach to the town on the land-side was defended by commanding heights, upon which was constructed a chain of redoubts connected by a breast-work, with a ditch in front, an extensive train of artillery, and a shew of force that was reported to be from fifteen to twenty thousand men.

The entrance by sea, within which the Town is retired nearly three miles, was entirely obstructed by a barrier of vessels sunk at the mouth of the harbour, defended inside by gun-boats, flanked on the right by a strong and regular fortification, and on the left by a battery of several heavy guns.

These preparations rendering it impracticable to afford any essential co-operation by sea, I considered that an attack on the enemy's strong position by the army only, with such disparity of force, though confident of success, might risk a greater loss than the possession of the town would compensate for, while holding in view the ulterior operations of this force in the contemplation of His Majesty's Government; and, therefore, as the primary object of our movement had been already fully accomplished, I communicated my observations to Colonel Brook, who coinciding with me in opinion, it was mutually agreed that we should withdraw.

The following morning the army began leisurely to retire; and so salutary was the effect produced on the enemy by the defeat he had experienced, that notwithstanding every opportunity was offered for his repeating the conflict, with an infinite superiority, our troops re-embarked without molestation, the ships of war dropped down as the army retired.

The result of this demonstration has been the defeat of the army of the enemy, the destruction, by themselves, of a quantity of shipping, the burning of an extensive rope-walk, and other public erections, the causing of them to remove their property from the city, and above all, the collecting and harassing of his armed inhabitants from the surrounding country; producing a total stagnation of their commerce, and heaping upon them considerable expences, at the same time effectually drawing off their attention and support from other important quarters.

It has been a source of the greatest gratification to me, the continuance of that unanimity existing between the two services, which I have before noticed to their Lordships; and I have reason to assure them, that the command of the army has fallen upon a most zealous and able Officer in Colonel Brook, who has followed up the system of cordiality that had been so beneficially adopted by his much-lamented chief.

Rear-Admiral Cockburn, to whom I had confided that part of the naval service which was connected with the army, evinced his usual zeal and ability, and executed his important trust to my entire satisfaction.

Rear-Admiral Malcolm, who regulated the collection, debarkation, and re-embarkation of the troops, and the supplies they required, has merited my best thanks for his indefatigable exertions; and I have to express my acknowledgments for the counsel and assistance which, in all our operations, I have received from Rear-Admiral Codrington, the Captain of the fleet.

The Captains of the squadron who were employed in the various duties afloat, were all emulous to promote the service in which they were engaged, and, with the officers acting under them, are entitled to my fullest approbation.

I beg leave to call the attention of their Lord-