

three sail of transports and hired vessels, with five thousand men, a corps of artillery, and the usual appendages to the army, and proceeded to the weathermost landing place, Sainte Sauveur, (it had been proposed to have landed in three divisions at the same time, but the want of boats put that out of our power,) where, from the admirable position taken up by Lieutenant George Tupman, Acting Captain of the Chanticleer, who swept the beach of the few troops that made their appearance, and the troops being covered by the Fairy and Espeigle, the debarkation was soon effected.

We then dropped down to the next landing-place, Grand Ance, where we found a large body of troops and a battery, commanded by the Comte de Linois and General Boyer. I ordered Captain Baker, of the Fairy; Captain Chads, of the Columbia; and Captain Fleming, of the Barbadoes, to cover the landing of the troops, and from their well-directed fire, the battery was soon silenced, and the enemy drove back to a respectable distance; two thousand men were then landed, under the command of their gallant Commander in Chief, without the loss of a man. It being now dark and late, and the boats not yet returned, I postponed the third landing until the following morning, when it was accomplished with equal success on the lee part of the island, near Baillif, under cover of the Columbia, Chanticleer, and Muros, in the face of a very large force, who retreated to the heights, and there capitulated on the morning of the 10th instant (a copy of the terms I herewith inclose for their Lordships information*); a few ships and the floating property that remained were immediately taken possession of.

It may be presumption in me to risk an opinion respecting the conduct of the army after they were on shore, but I trust, having witnessed the gallant manner in which they immediately advanced and drove back the enemy, as well as the general plan of attack, I may be permitted to express my admiration.

* See Sir James Leith's dispatches.

The Commander in Chief of the Forces, Sir James Leith, having frequently of late honoured me with his company on board the Venerable, I should not do justice to my feelings were I not to express to their Lordships how much the country is indebted to his zeal, ability, and indefatigable exertions in forwarding the King's service.

I need not state to their Lordships the great exertions and fatigues which the Officers, seamen, and marines, of this small squadron have experienced, in collecting, embarking, and disembarking troops, &c. &c.; but I can assure their Lordships, that every man most cheerfully exerted himself to his utmost, and I beg leave to recommend them to their Lordships notice. The Captains employed on this service are all Commanders.

I feel very much indebted to His Excellency the Comte de Vaugiraud, for the assistance he rendered the service in sending the two corvettes and a schooner, as per margin*, with troops from Martinique.

I trust I shall not be doing an injustice to the squadron by particularly expressing my gratitude to the few Officers of the Venerable who have so long followed my fortune, and supported me with their most active exertions in forwarding the service at all times, particularly Lieutenant Parr, who has done the duty of First Lieutenant ever since I have been in this country.

This dispatch will be delivered by my Flag Lieutenant, Francis Wemyss, an intelligent and zealous officer, who will give their Lordships any further particulars; and I beg leave to recommend him to their Lordships' protection.

I have the honour to be, &c.

P. C. DURHAM, Rear-Admiral,
Commander in Chief.

To John Wilson Croker, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

* Acteon, Monsieur de Venancourt, Capitaine de Fregate; Diligent, Monsieur de Pontever, Lieutenant de Vaisseau; Le Messenger, schooner, Monsieur D'Ozouville, Capitaine de Fregate.