

LONDON, MAY 7.

A vessel, it is reported, has been spoken with off Plymouth, the master of which is said to have stated, that the *Amelia*, 44, Hon. Captain Irby, had fallen in with a French frigate of the largest class, near the coast of France, and after a severe, well-contested, and bloody action, (both frigates being dismasted, the *Amelia* succeeded in capturing the French frigate. The prize, it is added, was left in tow of the *Christian VIIth*, 74, Capt. Sir J. S. Yorke.

Sir J. Duckworth is appointed Governor of Newfoundland.

A splendid triumphal car, it is said, is building by the friends of Sir F. Burdett, for the purpose of conveying him from the Tower on his liberation.

The embarkations at Portsmouth, last week, consisted of three troops of Light Dragoons King's German Legion, and detachments of the 21st Foot, for Portugal; the second battalion of the 11th and 45th Foot, and the 103d Regiment, for Guernsey, and detachments of the 35th Regiment for the Mediterranean.

Paris Papers to the 20th ult. arrived on Saturday. They are filled with the particulars of a plot, and the explanatory documents relating to it, that was formed for the liberation of Ferdinand VII. from the Castle of Valancay, but which was frustrated by the immediate denunciation of the chief agent. The plan, as a matter of course, was foisted, if not hatched, by the British Government; and the person selected to bring this most delicate affair to a happy conclusion is represented as a British subject. The history of the transaction is briefly this. A person calling himself John Leopold, Baron de Kolli, 32 years of age, a native of Ireland, comes over from France, obtains an introduction to the Duke of Kent, and proposes to his Royal Highness a plan for liberating Ferdinand VII. The Duke mentions it to his Majesty, who it is to be presumed approves of it, as it is afterwards taken up and managed by the Secretary of State for the Foreign Department. This *soldisant* Irish Baron, after obtaining 8000*l.* money, besides diamonds to a considerable value, and the various documents and passports necessary to authenticate his mission and ensure its success, takes leave of his Majesty on the 24th of January, and sets out on the 26th for Plymouth, with Captain Cockburn, who was to command a small squadron, and to obey de Kolli's orders. He is landed at Quiberon on the night of the 9th of March, proceeds to Paris, disposes of some of his diamonds, purchases a couple of horses, and at length gets to Valancay. He contrives, under an assumed character, to insinuate himself into the Castle, and names his proposal to a M. Amezaga, the intendant of Ferdinand VII. The words are hardly out of his mouth, when he is denounced to the French Gaoler, or Governor of the Castle who immediately secures his person and transmits him by a special Messenger to Fouché, by whom he is consigned to the Castle of Vincennes.

MAY 8.

It seems to be admitted on the part of the Ministry, that the Count de Kolli, whose real name now appears to be Kelly, was accredited by the British Government for the purpose of assisting Ferdinand VII. to withdraw from his place of confinement. The merit of the attempt, of course, depends upon the previous probability of success. We cannot easily say what the French Paper mean by designating it as a horrid and atrocious plot. The restoration of this Prince to his subjects even by stealth, if impossible, is unquestionably the duty of us, the allies of the Spanish nation. Some prospects, we oppose, are held out to the captive Monarch, whereby he is induced ostensibly to declare himself desirous of becoming the adopted son of his tyrant. His relationship to the new Empress renders this supposition the more probable.

MAY 10.

Opinions are entertained in Germany that it is the intention of Bonaparte to place the Archduke Charles on the throne of Spain; contingent on which event is supposed to be the annexation of the Spanish territory, Northward of the Ebro, to the Empire of France, and the translation of King Joseph to a third crown in Poland.

Affairs in Portugal are likely to wear a more important aspect than they have done for some time past. The pressure of the war is to be carried into that country, and the army declined to act against it amounts to between 50 and 100,000 men under Masséna. He passed through Bordeaux on the 19th of last month, to take the command of the army.

The Common Council of Dublin have drawn up a Petition, praying for a repeal of the Act of Union.

It is expected that Parliament will rise about the 20th of next month.

An interesting conversation took place, last night, in the House of Commons, upon the subject of the nature of an action served upon the Serjeant at Arms, by Sir F. Burdett's attorney; who, it was suggested, ought to be called to the Bar to answer for his conduct. The Speaker and Serjeant at Arms are not the only persons involved in the legal process. A notice has been served on Earl Moira, as Constable to the Tower, of a prosecution for the detention of Sir Francis.

Accounts from Vienna state, that the Russians have thrown bridges across the Danube; and formed a junction with the Servians near Palencia.

Sir J. S. Yorke and Capt. Hope, it is said, will succeed Admiral Domett and Capt. Moorfom, as Lords of the Admiralty.

Last evening arrived the *Venus* frigate, with 23 sail of merchantmen, from Lisbon; left the *Tagus* the 17th ult. at which time the British and Portuguese army, 72,000 men, were in high health and spirits.

MAY 14.

Our space devoted to Parliamentary intelligence is principally filled with the report of the proceedings in the case of Sir Francis Burdett. The House of Commons appointed a Committee, early in the week, to search for precedents to direct the House on the line of conduct they should pursue. The Committee have made their Report; and the Speaker and the Serjeant are to defend themselves by a

plea to the jurisdiction of the Court of King's Bench, denying the power of that Court to entertain a question concerning the Privileges of Parliament. This is what we thought it would come to.—The Serjeant, however, may still become answerable for the alleged abuse of his power in executing the process of the Speaker.—This forms a distinct question.

Sir Francis Burdett has likewise brought an action against Lord Moira, who intends to defend it, not by a plea to the jurisdiction of the Court of King's Bench, but by pleading the Speaker's Warrant in bar to the action: this we think is the most constitutional method of defence; a defence which admits the authority of the Court, and the dominion of the law, but submits to the interpreters of that law to decide upon the lawfulness of the justification which he pleads.—Lord Moira, we think, has here acted like a fast friend of the people.

*Lord Collingwood's Funeral.*—The remains of this revered and excellent Officer were, on Friday, conveyed to St. Paul's in the following order:

Four Mutes in appropriate black silk dresses, on horseback.

Four men on horseback, in cloaks.

The Banner of England, carried by a man on horseback, and supported by two assistants.

Four men in cloaks.

The coronet, carried on a velvet cushion by a Gentleman on horseback, uncovered, attended by two pages.

Two Mutes on horseback, in black silk dresses.

The hearse, drawn by six horses, ornamented with armorial bearings and trophies emblematic of the victories gained by the deceased.

Pages attending.

Eight mourning coaches, drawn by six horses blazoned with escutcheons.

The procession passed over Blackfriars Bridge, and was accompanied by a considerable number of private carriages belonging to persons of rank and distinction.

A mail from Cadiz arrived yesterday. Since the enemy obtained possession of the ruins of Matagorda, nothing of importance has occurred. Sir C. Cotton arrived in the Bay on the 28th ult. immediately shifted his flag to the *St. Joseph*, and was to proceed to the Mediterranean on the 1st instant.

It will be seen by our extracts from the Spanish papers, that the first half of last month has not been idly passed in Catalonia. The Spanish Commander (O'Donnell) has been most indefatigable in beating up the enemy's quarters in every part of that province. He made a bold attempt to raise the siege of Hostalrich, but it miscarried. It, however, had the effect of obliging the French to concentrate their force for the purpose of bringing on a general engagement—an issue which the Spaniards were prudent and fortunate enough to avoid.

There has been a great influx of Foreign news since our last. The Paris Papers of the 6th inst. contain the official reports of the actions that took place in various parts of Spain during the preceding six weeks. They are, of course, represented as having invariably terminated in favour of the French. The most serious of these was between that part of Romana's army under the command of General Ballasteros, and the French corps that was posted on the left of the Guadiana to cover Seville on that side. The Spaniards were the assailants on the first day, and the battle was a drawn one. The enemy boast of having had the superiority on the next; but admit, that on account of the difficult nature of the country, they could derive no great advantage from their victory. We know from other accounts, the French could not maintain their position, but were forced to fall back upon Seville.

A Dutch paper of the 6th states, that King Louis set out from Amsterdam on the morning of the 4th, to meet the Emperor, who had arrived on the frontiers of Holland.

The accounts from various parts of Germany concur as to the probability of a combined attack by Austria and France on the Turkish provinces. Russia is also mentioned, but with less confidence, as likely to co-operate in this plan.

A Lisbon Mail arrived on Saturday. Neither the papers nor letters contain any occurrences of much importance.

#### FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

DOWNING-STREET, MAY 11.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was received on the 10th inst. at Lord Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship, by Lieut. General Graham, commanding his Majesty's forces at Cadiz, dated 10th, April 22, 1810.

MY LORD,—From the information your Lordship already had of the miserable state of the fort of Matagorda, (never to be considered free from the danger of assault) it will not be matter of surprise, that after holding it two months it should now be abandoned. I have the honor to inclose Capt. Maclaine's (of the 94th) report to me. It would be an injustice to the service not to recommend him in the warmest manner to your Lordship's notice, as well as the Officers who continued with him to the last of this arduous duty: Lieut. Brereton, of the Royal Artillery, Ensign Cannon and Scott, of the 24th, and Mr. Dobson, Midshipman of his Majesty's ship *Invincible*. The defence of Matagorda has been witnessed by every body with admiration, and I should not have been justified in allowing it to be continued so long, but from the expectation of the possibility of some diversions being made in its favor, which, however was found to be impracticable. It is impossible that I should not endeavour to express to your Lordship the feelings of universal and deep regret excited by the untimely fall of that distinguished officer Major Lefebvre, of the Royal Engineers, whose zeal carried him from the Admiral's ship to be bearer of my orders for the evacuation of the fort, that he might be satisfied that it was no longer tenable. The chief direction of that important department now devolves on Capt. Birch. Your Lordship is well acquainted with my opinion of his merits and talents, so well calculated to inspire confidence under this misfortune.

I have, &c.

THOMAS GRAHAM.

P. S. The original garrison of the fort of Matagorda consisted of Capt. Maclaine and Ensigns Cannon and Scott, 94th Regiment; 25 Royal Artillery under Lieut. Brereton;

25 Royal Marines; 25 seamen, under Mr. Dobson; and 67 non-commissioned officers and privates of the 94th Regiment. Reinforcements were sent in the evening of the 21st, and reliefs of the whole were offered, but declined.

Cadiz, April 23, 1810.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you, that at two o'clock on the morning of the 21st, the enemy opened upon the 74-gun ship *St. Paulo*, and gun-boats stationed near Fort Matagorda, with red hot shot, and succeeded in forcing them to abandon their position. Immediately after this, they opened upon Fort Matagorda a very heavy cannonade of guns and mortars, but as it would have been impossible to direct our fire with a certainty, I ordered Lieut. Brereton, of the Royal Artillery, to delay our fire until day break. The morning discovered three batteries opposed to us, in the Trocadero, 21 guns, and from the flight of their shells we judged they had eight mortars in three other batteries. From the time they commenced firing at the fort they kept up a most tremendous cannonade with shot and shells, with great effect, until night, when the enemy and the fort both discontinued. That day's fire made a very large breach in the escarp of the rampart, on which was the principal part of our guns, and completely laying open our magazine. We were from the manner the enemy placed his batteries, and which they had contrived to do under mask of the houses in the village of Trocadero, (distant from the above fort 900 yards) only able to bring seven guns to bear on them; yet with these we contrived to silence, and, as I conceive, dismount the guns of one of their batteries, in which were six 32-pounders. The whole of the night of the 21st, and morning of the 22d, I employed in endeavouring to repair the parapet of the south east face, composed of sand-bags, and which, from the very heavy fire of 21 pieces of cannon (most of them 32-pounders,) the enemy had totally demolished, so that the men at the guns were perfectly exposed. We continued to replace the sand-bags and fill up the breach, so as to put ourselves in a tolerable state of defence, and at day-break, in the morning, the enemy opened with a salvo from all his batteries. We returned the fire with the same spirit and success as yesterday, but the fort soon became a complete ruin, and no where afforded any shelter for the reliefs. The evacuation, however, only took place in consequence of your order; we left the fort at ten A. M. Captain Stockpole, of the Royal Navy, having been sent by the Admiral to complete its destruction. I cannot sufficiently express to you the gallantry and coolness with which every individual officer, seaman, marine and soldier, conducted himself during the two months we maintained this post, particularly during the last two days. I beg, in a particular manner, to mention the service of that most excellent officer Lieut. Brereton, of the Royal Artillery, for his unremitting attention to his duty, and the masterly style in which he kept up his fire on the enemy; as likewise Ensigns Cannon and Scott, of the 94th grenadiers. And I request, Sir, you will state to the Admiral how sensible I am of the handsomest manner in which Lieut. Chapman and M<sup>r</sup> Pherson, of the Royal Navy, and one or two others, whose names I cannot now recollect, volunteered their services during the heaviest of our fire. Mr. George Dobson, Midshipman of the *Invincible*, had charge of the seamen under my command during the whole time, and I beg you, Sir, to recommend him to the Admiral, as a very excellent and brave officer. Herewith I send a list of killed and wounded; and among the former I am sorry to return Major Lefebvre, of the Royal Engineers; he was killed close to me by a cannon ball: the loss of such an excellent officer is deeply to be lamented.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

M. MACLAINE.

Captain 94th Regiment, late commander at Fort Matagorda.

N. B. Hospital-mate Bennett, attached to the 94th regiment, and who was the Surgeon attended the garrison, I beg to recommend to your notice, as a most attentive and excellent professional man; he wishes much to be appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the 94th regiment. I have omitted to mention Lieutenant Wright, of the Royal Artillery, who succeeded to the command of the Artillery in the batteries on the morning of the 22d, after Lieutenant Brereton was wounded.

A. MACLAINE, Captain 94th Regt.

List of Killed and Wounded at Fort Matagorda, on the 21st and 22d April.

Royal Engineers, 1 Major killed.—Royal Artillery, 1 Lieut. 1 Sergeant, 8 privates wounded.—Royal Marines, 2 privates killed, 10 wounded.—88th Regiment 2 privates killed.—94th Regiment, 1 corporal, 3 privates killed, 25 wounded.—Seamen, 7 killed, 2 midshipmen, 10 seamen wounded.

Total, 1 Major, 15 seamen, marines, and soldiers killed, 1 Lieutenant, 2 midshipmen, 1 sergeant, 53 seamen and privates wounded.

(Signed)

A. MACLAINE.

NEW-YORK, JUNE 2.

On Wednesday arrived at Philadelphia, the schooner *Adventure*, Armstrong, 24 days from Lagaira, and informs, that on or about the 20th April, a schooner arrived at that port from Spain, bearing dispatches to the Governor of Carraccas, with information that all Spain was in the hands of the French, except Cadiz. This news flew before the messenger. The people of Carraccas, the metropolis of that part of South America, (no doubt prepared for the contingency) rose, and a body of them met the messenger, seized his dispatches, and carried him to gaol. They immediately after seized the Governor and Commander in Chief at Carraccas, brought him down under a guard of 100 men, and put him on board a Spanish brig lying in port, on board of which they put a few other officers, and sent her off. At the same time they took up the Lieutenant-Governor of Carraccas, and the commandant of Lagaira, and eight days after shipped them off also. The Spaniards of Carraccas and Lagaira, with the country round it, also Barcelona, and some other towns, it was said, had declared themselves independent of all the world, with the proviso, that if F &c.