

COURT OF INQUIRY.

(Continued from our last.)

DECEMBER 14.

The Court did not commence its proceedings this morning until half past eleven o'clock.

Sir H. Burrard put in several private letters from Lord Callereagh to him. They expressed great anxiety for Sir Harry to set off instantly for Portugal, and desired him, if the horses and artillery were not embarked, to go without them.

Some letters were also read from Sir Harry Burrard to Sir John Moore, dated in Portugal, urging Sir John to come up from Peniche and join the army with all expedition.

Sir Arthur Wellesley was then examined by Sir Harry Burrard.

Q. Did the French cavalry patrol near our posts on the 19th of August? A. I do not recollect that they did on the 19th; but they certainly patrolled very near the British camp early on the morning of the 20th. A division of the British army was detached, at an early hour that morning, under General Spencer, towards Lourinha, to facilitate the junction of General Anstruther's Brigade, which had landed in a bay to the south of Peniche; this division was posted on a height between Lourinha and Vimiera, and the French cavalry patrolled very close to it.

Q. Is it possible for an army of 16 or 17,000 men to march nine miles with the enemy's cavalry patrolling round them, and without the line of march being known to the French army?—A. I think under certain circumstances and conditions of the country, it was possible to march nine miles without an enemy, at the distance of nine miles, knowing any thing of it, in less than two, if not in three hours.

Q. Is not Torres Vedras, where the French were posted, nine miles from Vimiera? A. Between eight and nine miles.

Q. Were there no cross roads by which the French could have opposed the march of the British army before coming to Torres Vedras to attack them?—A. Yes, there are several.

Q. Was not the country between Torres Vedras and Vimiera so mountainous as to impede considerably the march of an army? A. The country between Torres Vedras and Vimiera is certainly mountainous.

Examination of Sir Arthur Wellesley by Sir H. Burrard.

Q. Did the French cavalry patrol round the British Camp on the night of the 19th of August. How near, and when? A. I don't recollect that the French cavalry patrolled very near the British Camp on the night of the 19th of August. They certainly did very early in the morning of the 20th. A division had been dispatched at an early hour that morning, under General Spencer, on the road towards Lourinha, to facilitate the junction of General Anstruther's brigade, which had landed in a bay to the southward of Peniche. That division was posted on the height between Lourinha and Vimiera, and the French cavalry patrolled very close to it.

Q. Do you think it was possible for an army, consisting of 16 or 17,000 men, to march nine miles after part of another army greatly superior in cavalry, without the movement being speedily made known to the main body of the retreating army? A. I think under the circumstances of the country, and of position, it was possible for the army to march at nine miles distance, without that march coming to the knowledge of the other army in less than two or three hours.

Q. What distance was it from the British army to Torres Vedras? A. It was nine miles from Vimiera to Torres Vedras, and the British army was always on its march an hour before day-light.

Q. Is Torres Vedras less distant from Vimiera than Mafra is, and how much? A. I imagine Torres Vedras is 12 miles distant from Mafra—Vimiera is from 17 to 19 miles.

Q. If the French at Torres Vedras had known of the march of the British army, could not they have reached Mafra first, and have gained reinforcements from St. Julien and Cascaes? A. I conceive not, the British would have been at Mafra first, as they would have marched an hour before day-light. The enemy's line of retreat would probably have been by Cabesa and Montelaver. I always estimated the French force in Lisbon, St. Julien, Cascaes, and the batteries, to be about 8000. They were troops in whom much confidence could not be placed for operations in the field, being principally Hanoverians, Italians, and people from Dalmatia; and as the British Admiral was anchored off Cascaes with the fleet, and had with him the Royal Veteran Battalion for the purpose of alarming the enemy upon those points, and as it was settled with him, that as we advanced, he should disembark that battalion and the marines of the fleet in the neighbourhood of the Rock of Lisbon, I conceive the French would not have ventured to weaken the garrisons and the posts on the Tagus to reinforce the army in the field.

Q. If it had been necessary to attack Cascaes and Fort St. Julien, how did you propose to get heavy cannon? A. From the ships. It had been settled before I left England that I should have the use of the heavy cannon I wanted, from the ships of the fleet, and ammunition for 24-pounders and Mortars were sent from England in a store-ship, which joined the fleet before we were in a situation to undertake any siege. I conceived that when the enemy should have been defeated, and I should be in possession of the left Bank of the Tagus, and of the sea-coast as far as the Rock of Lisbon, I should be able to land the artillery I required for the siege of St. Julien, if not of Cascaes, at some of the bays between Cascaes and Cape Rocka.

Q. Could you have made such landing from the ships? A. I cannot be certain whether I could have landed from the ships; because this must have depended on the state of the weather, which was very precarious; but I thought it very probable that the weather would have admitted of landing in one of those bays, and it is now certain that it would, as the horses of the 18th Dragoons were landed at Cascaes Bay. (The remainder in our next.)

LONDON.

MARCH 21.—We yesterday announced the arrival of dispatches from Gottenburgh, said to be of importance.—It was reported that they announce movements in Sweden, which strongly menace a revolution in that country. The province of Weirmland has been the chief scene of these revolutionary measures, and many thousands of the people of that province were on their march from Carlstad to Stockholm, for the purpose of forcing their Monarch to convene a Diet. A Manifesto had been circulated, severely arraigning the War, the burdens on the people, &c. and demanding an entire change of system.

We understand that these accounts are false. The foundation upon which they were built is simply this, that the deficiencies in the Royal treasury had occasioned some delay in the payment of the troops. The arrears, however, have been since paid, and the Government has also proceeded with great activity to recruit its navy. Letters from Gottenburgh, of the 11th instant, warrant this explanation of the disturbances.

Letters from Holland, of the 18th inst. state, that hostilities have actually commenced between Austria and France. A large French Corps, under General Mermont, had advanced towards Trielle, to take possession of that city.—The Austrian troops advanced to prevent them, and an engagement took place. It was contended with obstinacy, but the French were at length defeated. It is also said that an Austrian Corps had taken possession of Dresden.

Dutch papers to the 18th, containing Paris news to the 19th, have been also received. They are silent as to the actual renewal of hostilities, but abound with accounts of preparations for war, and military movements on the part of both France and Austria.

The Dutch Papers, as well as the private letters from Holland, state the capture of His Majesty's frigate *Proserpine*, in the Mediterranean, by two French frigates, *La Penelope* and *La Palinure*; from Toulon. From the French official accounts, it appears that the *Proserpine* had been very audacious, frequently standing so close to the shore as to look into the port of Toulon. This provoked the French Admiral, who sent out against her the two above-mentioned frigates. Once she escaped by flight, but on a second occasion her pursuers came up with her about half-past four o'clock in the morning. An engagement ensued, which was fought close alongside for three quarters of an hour; at length the *Proserpine* struck her two opponents. The enemy states the *Proserpine* to have had 12 men killed, and 15 wounded; and that both the French frigates came out of the Action, without the loss of a man killed or wounded.

Accounts have been received of the Spaniards having forced the French to evacuate Vigo. The spirit of resistance, it is said, has revived in the North of Spain. And we understand that an immediate embarkation of cavalry has been ordered by our government. The 16th Dragoons are under orders for foreign service.

General Sir David Dundas has since Saturday performed the duty of Commander-in-Chief at the War Office.—We understand, however, that he is only *locum tenens* for the gallant Sir David Baird.

On Sunday, Sir David Dundas transacted business at the Commander-in-Chief's Office in the Horse Guards. The Duke of York went there about three o'clock, and remained with Sir David about an hour; yesterday Sir David transacted business at the office during the morning.

SPAIN.

MARCH 22.—Some of the letters from the Northern coast of Spain, whence we have already announced the accounts received are to the 7th inst. state that the entire French force in Gallacia, from the desfiles of Villatranca to Cape Ortega, and from the borders of Asturias to the confines of Portugal, did not exceed 20,000 men; and these were so much exhausted by fatigue, and oppressed by want, that they were in no respect formidable to the natives; who indignant at the wrongs they endured, have, by secret stratagem and open violence, swept off one quarter of their numbers. At Betanzos 200 French soldiers were massacred.—The brave Asturias occupy the passes of their mountains, and bid defiance to the legions of Bonaparte, which remain inactive on the extended plains of Leon.

RUSSIA.

Letters from Rotterdam, dated the 17th instant, state that in consequence of the rumours circulated concerning the part the Emperor Alexander was disposed to act in the approaching conflict between France and Austria the Russian Minister at the Court of Holland had formally declared, that his Master was unalterably determined to adhere to the Treaty of Erfurth. No one will of course be influenced much by a declaration of this kind; and other letters from Holland, of the same date, advise, that the Emperor of Russia had made peace with the Ottoman Porte.

FRANCE AND AUSTRIA.

The intelligence which we announced yesterday and on Monday, of hostilities having commenced between France and Austria, receives considerable credit in the best informed circles. This is so confidently stated to us, that we are inclined to think some fresh accounts have arrived, though we have not been able to ascertain the fact.—The report is, that the Austrians have had a successful action with the French, near Trielle, and another in Bavaria.

THE ARMY.

Our Correspondent's account of the capture of Martinique, which is brief (and he was himself employed there,) presents us with detailed accounts on which our Readers may rely, when we lay them before them, which we hope soon to do.

The conduct and gallantry of Sir ALEXANDER COCHRANE, and the Commander in Chief Lieutenant-General BECKWITH, were the theme of admiration throughout both Navy and Army; these officers exerted themselves much and had each of them the most narrow escapes. The dispositions of the army made by General BECKWITH evinced the highest military talent. In no part of the world have British troops acted with more gallantry.

Report says, that his Excellency Lieutenant General BECKWITH is to be elevated to the peerage with the ti-

tle of Baron; Sir GEORGE PREVOST to have a red ribbon; and the gallant Generals DANIEL HOGGTON, J. MAITLAND, and Sir CHARLES SHIPLEY to be made Barons.

The change of Commander in Chief is not the only one mentioned; we hear that it is determined to have a change in every one of the departments subordinate to the Commander in Chief. A list has been drawn up of the probable changes, which we forbear to print till the new arrangements are further advanced. While these changes are agitated, it is proper that the public should know, that the official men who have been about the Duke of York, more particularly his own personal Staff, are all of them acknowledged by the Army at large to be men of the highest honour and unspotted integrity, and in general they are men of ability.

We ardently hope that without reference to interest of any kind, the promotion may be generally of the brave fellows who have of late distinguished themselves in Martinique, and that no promotion there will be allowed to be filled up by Officers from home. If Officers on service at all times deserve promotion, those in the West-Indies have a double claim—they encounter an enemy, and a still more destructive climate.

MARCH 23. *Globe-Office, Two o'clock.*

The Telegraph has just announced that there is a Courier on the road, who may be expected in town in the course of the day; with important dispatches from Spain.

Government have received the dispatches brought by the *Stratra* and *Peacock*, communicating the favourable appearances in Spain.

INSURRECTION AT CADIZ.

PLYMOUTH DOCK, MARCH 21.

This morning arrived the *Peacock*, of 18 guns, Captain Peake, from Lisbon, which place she left 18 days since; previous to her sailing the *Filgard* had arrived from Cadiz, with an account of an insurrection that took place on the 22d ult.; the following are the particulars received:—

"Don Juan de Herida was killed in an insurrection of the people of Cadiz on the 22d February.

"The Marquis de Villel, Representative of the Supreme Junta at Cadiz, was closely confined in the Capuchin Priory.

"General Caraffa was in hourly expectation of death.

"The English were in high favour, and the Spaniards anxious for the British troops to land.—The Spanish people were extremely dissatisfied with all their leaders, and full of enthusiasm against the French.

"After Juan de Herida was put to death the people tore out his heart, and carried it about the streets of Cadiz on a pike."

Extract of a letter from on board the Plover, off Miranda and Porto Vidro River, March 7:—

"We arrived here with the *Plover* and *Stratra* this morning, and lay-to, off and on, all day, waiting for an answer from the General, the Marquis Romana. At night we made sail for Vigo, and came to anchor off the Onza Islands on the 30th.—On the 2d March sailed in chase of a brig going into Vigo. On the 4th, hearing that the French had possession of Miranda and Porto Vidro, at the request of the Spaniards, the *Plover*, *Lively*, and *Stratra*, supplied them with all the arms and ammunition they could possibly spare; and yesterday, at four o'clock, every Frenchman quitted the towns of Miranda, Porto Novo, and Porto Vidro. "On the 4th the French got completely defeated, with the loss of 400 men killed on the spot, and a vast number wounded."

Another letter same date.

Arrived the *Stratra* frigate, Capt. Boys, from Vigo, which place she left on the 8th instant; she brings intelligence that the patriots there had risen *en masse*, and driven the French out with great slaughter, and not a Frenchman could make his appearance without being massacred by the infuriated populace. All the population of Vigo and its vicinity, both male and female, were filled with the most enthusiastic fury; and all those who could not procure muskets were armed with bayonets, daggers, bludgeons, and other offensive weapons. They attacked all small parties and stragglers of the French army, to whom they gave no quarter. Capt. Boys supplied the Spaniards with all the muskets and ammunition he could spare, for which they were extremely grateful.

The *Lively* Frigate, which was reported to be lost, was at Vigo when the *Stratra* came away.

The *Stratra* left Sir John Duckworth at Vigo when she sailed.

PORTSMOUTH, MARCH 22.

Sailed the *Undaunted*, Capt. Maitling, with Col. Johnston, Governor of one of the West-India Islands on board.

The expedition under General Hill, was embarked at Cork on the 17th, but no orders for its sailing had been received. No convoy had arrived for it.

A large fleet of transports is collecting at Sheerness. It is said that an attack on Zealand is meditated. A fleet is also collecting in the Downs; all the bomb-tenders are ordered to be got in readiness.

NEW YORK, APRIL 24.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

(No. 1.)

MR. ERSKINE TO MR. SMITH.

Washington, April 17. 1809.

SIR.—I have the honor to inform you, that I have received his Majesty's commands to represent to the government of the United States, that his Majesty is animated by the most sincere desire for an adjustment of the differences, which have unhappily so long prevailed between the two countries, the recapitulation of which might have a tendency to impede, if not prevent an amicable understanding.

It having been represented to his Majesty's government, that the Congress of the United States, in their proceedings at the opening of the last session, had evinced an intention of passing certain laws, which would place the relations of Great Britain with the United States upon an equal footing, in all respects, with the other belligerent powers, I have accordingly received his Majesty's commands, in the event