

Tigre, at anchor off Jaffa,
May 30.

My Lord,
The providence of Almighty God has been wonderfully manifested in the defeat and precipitate retreat of the French army; the means we had of opposing its gigantic efforts against us being totally inadequate of themselves to the production of such a result. The measure of their iniquities seems to have been filled by the massacre of the Turkish prisoners at Jaffa in cool blood three days after their capture; and the Plain of Nazareth has been the boundary of Buonaparte's extraordinary career.

He raised the siege of Acre on the 20th May, leaving all his heavy artillery behind him, either buried or thrown into the sea, where however it is visible, and can easily be weighed. The circumstances which led to this event, subsequent to my last dispatch of the 9th instant, are as follow:

Conceiving that the ideas of the Syrians as to the supposed irresistible prowess of these invaders must be changed, since they had witnessed the checks which the besieging army daily met with in their operations before the town of Acre, I wrote a circular letter to the Princes and Chiefs of the Christians of Mount Lebanon, and also to the Sheiks of the Druses, recalling them to a sense of their duty, and engaging them to cut off the supplies from the French camp. I sent them at the same time a copy of Buonaparte's impious Proclamation, in which he boasts of having overthrown all Christian Establishments, accompanied by a suitable Exhortation, calling upon them to choose between the friendship of a Christian Knight and that of an unprincipled Renegade.

This letter had all the effect that I could desire. They immediately sent me two Ambassadors, professing not only friendship but obedience; assuring me that in proof of the latter they had sent out parties to arrest such of the Mountaineers as should be found carrying wine and gunpowder to the French camp, and placing eighty prisoners of this description at my disposal. I had thus the satisfaction to find Buonaparte's career further northward effectually stopped by a warlike people inhabiting an impenetrable country. General Kleber's division had been sent eastward towards the fords of the Jordan, to oppose the Damascus Army; it was recalled from thence to take its turn in the daily efforts to mount the Breach at Acre, in which every other division in succession had failed, with the loss of their bravest men, and above three-fourths of their officers. It seems much was hoped from this division, as it had by its firmness, and the steady front it opposed in the form of a hollow square, kept upwards of ten thousand men in check during a whole day in the plain between Nazareth and Mount Tabor, till Buonaparte came with his horse-artillery and extricated these troops, dispersing the multitude of irregular cavalry, by which they were completely surrounded.

The Turkish Chiffick regiment having been censured for the ill success of their sally, and their unsteadiness in the attack of the garden, made a fresh sally the next night, Soliman Aga the Lieutenant-Colonel, being determined to retrieve the honor of the regiment by the punctual execution of the orders I had given him to make himself master of the enemy's third parallel, and this he did most effectually; but the impetuosity of a few carried them on to the second trench, where they lost some of their standards, though they spiked four guns before their retreat. Kleber's division, instead of mounting the Breach according to Buonaparte's intention, was thus obliged to spend its time and strength in recovering these works, in which it succeeded after a conflict of three hours, leaving every thing in statu quo except the loss of men, which was very considerable on both sides. After this failure the French Grenadiers absolutely refused to mount the Breach any more over the putrid bodies of their unburied companions, sacrificed in former attacks by Buonaparte's impatience and precipitation, which led him to commit such palpable errors as even Seamen could take advantage of. He seemed to have no principle of action but that of pressing forward, and appeared to stick at nothing to obtain the object of his ambition, although it must be evident to every body else that even if he succeeded to take the town, the fire of the shipping must drive him out of it again in

a short time; however, throw into the garrison had of the inhuman massacre at Jaffa, rendered them desperate in their personal defence. Two attempts to assassinate me in the town having failed, recourse was had to a most flagrant breach of every law of honor and of war. A flag of truce was sent into the town by the hand of an Arab Dervise with a letter to the Pacha, proposing a cessation of arms for the purpose of burying the dead bodies, the stench from which became intolerable, and threatened the existence of every one of us on both sides, many having died delirious within a few hours after being seized with the first symptoms of infection. It was natural that we should gladly listen to this proposition, and that we should consequently be off our guard during the conference. While the answer was under consideration, a Volley of shot and shells on a sudden announced an Assault, which, however, the garrison was ready to receive, and the assailants only contributed to increase the number of the dead bodies in question, to the eternal disgrace of the General, who thus disloyally sacrificed them. I saved the life of the Arab from the effect of the indignation of the Turks, and took him off to the Tigre with me, from whence I sent him back to the General, with a message, which made the army ashamed of having been exposed to such a merited reproof. Subordination was now at an end, and all hopes of success having vanished, the enemy had no alternative left but a precipitate retreat, which was put in execution in the night between the 20th and 21st inst. I had above said that the battering train of artillery (except the carriages, which were burnt) is now in our hands, amounting to twenty-three pieces. The howitzers and medium twelve-pounders, originally conveyed by land with much difficulty; and successfully employed to make the first breach, were embarked in the country vessels at Jaffa, to be conveyed coastwise, together with the worst among the two thousand wounded, which embarrassed the march of the army. This operation was to be expected. I took care, therefore, to be between Jaffa and Damietta before the French army could get as far as the former place. The vessels being hurried to sea, without seamen to navigate them, and the wounded being in want of every necessary, even water and provisions, they steered straight to his Majesty's ships, in full confidence of receiving the succours of humanity, in which they were not disappointed. I have sent them on to Damietta, where they will receive such further aid as their situation requires, and which it was out of my power to give to so many. Their expressions of gratitude to us were mingled with execrations on the name of their General, who had, as they said, thus exposed them to peril rather than fairly and honourably renew the intercourse with the English, which he had broken off by a false and malicious assertion, that I had intentionally exposed the former prisoners to the infection of the plague. To the honour of the French army, be it said, this assertion was not believed by them, and it thus recoiled on its author. The intention of it was evidently to do away the effect which the proclamation of the Porte began to make on the soldiers, whose eager hands were held above the parapet of their works to receive them when thrown from the breach.

He cannot plead mis-information as his excuse, his aid-de-camp, Mr. Lallemand having had free intercourse with these prisoners on board the Tigre when he came to treat about them; and having been ordered, though too late, not to repeat their expressions of contentment at the prospect of going home. It was evident to both sides, that when a General had recourse to such a shallow, and at the same time to such a mean artifice as a malicious falsehood, all better resources were at an end, and the defection in his army was consequently increased to the highest pitch.

The utmost disorder has been manifested in the retreat, and the whole track between Acre and Gaza is strewn with the dead bodies of those who have sunk under fatigue, or the effect of slight wounds; such as could walk, unfortunately for them, not having been embarked. The rowing gun-boats annoyed the van column of the retreating army in its march along the beach, and the Arabs harassed its rear when it turned inland to avoid their fire. We observed the smoke of musquetry behind

the land hills from the attack of a party of them, which came down to our boats and touched our flag with every token of union and respect. Ismael Pacha, governor of Jerusalem, to whom notice was sent of Buonaparte's preparation for retreat, having entered this town by land at the same time that we brought our guns to bear on it by sea, a stop was put to the massacre and pillage already begun by the Nablusians. The English flag re-hoisted on the Consul's house (under which the Pacha met me) serves as an asylum for all religious and every description of the surviving inhabitants. The heaps of unburied Frenchmen lying on the bodies of those whom they massacred, two months ago, afford another proof of Divine Justice, which has caused these murderers to perish by the infection arising from their own atrocious act. Seven poor wretches are left alive in the hospital, where they are protected, and shall be taken care of. We have had a most dangerous and painful duty in disembarking here to protect the inhabitants, but it has been effectually done; and Ismael Pacha deserves every credit for his humane exertions and cordial co-operation to that effect. Two thousand cavalry are just dispatched to harass the French rear, and I am in hopes to overtake their van in time to profit by their disorder; but this will depend on the assembling of sufficient force, and on exertions of which I am not absolutely master, though I do my utmost to give the necessary impulse, and a right direction. I have every confidence that the officers and men of the 3 ships under my orders, who, in the face of a most formidable enemy, have fortified a town that had not a single heavy gun mounted on the land side, and who have carried on all intercourse by boats under a constant fire of musquetry and grape, will be able efficaciously to assist the army in its future operations. This letter will be delivered to your Lordship by Lieutenant Canes, first of the Tigre, whom I have judged worthy to command the Theseus, as Captain, ever since the death of my much lamented friend and Coadjutor Captain Miller. I have taken Lieutenant England, first of that ship, to my assistance in the Tigre, by whose exertions, and those of Lieutenant Summers and Mr. Atkinson, together with the bravery of the rest of the officers and men, that ship was saved, though on fire in five places at once, from a depote of French shells bursting on board her.

I have the honour to be, &c.

W. SIDNEY SMITH.

Right Hon. Lord Nelson, Rear-Admiral of the Blue, &c.

A List of Killed, Wounded, Drowned, and Prisoners, belonging to his Majesty's Ships employed in the defence of Acre, between the 7th March, and 20th May, 1799.

Tigre—17 killed, 48 wounded, 4 drowned, 77 prisoners.

Theseus—35 killed, 62 wounded, 9 drowned, 5 prisoners.

Alliance—1 killed, 3 wounded.

Total—53 killed, 113 wounded, 13 drowned, 82 prisoners.

Dated on board his Majesty's ship Tigre, this 30th day of May, 1799.

W. SIDNEY SMITH.

A Return of Killed, Wounded, and Drowned, belonging to his Majesty's Ships Tigre and Theseus, between the 3d and 9th May, 1799, employed in the defence of Acre.

Tigre—Alexander Finn, Seaman, killed; Charles Convey, Joseph Edwards, William Priddle, Morris Shlene, Seamen, wounded; Thomas Lamb, Midshipman, Martin Christian, John Michael, George Williams, Seamen, drowned.

Theseus—David James, Francis Hard, John Nelson, Seamen, wounded.

Total—One Seamen, killed; Seven Seamen wounded; One Midshipman, Three Seamen, drowned.

Dated on board his Majesty's ship Tigre, this 9th May, 1799.

W. SIDNEY SMITH.

A Return of Killed, Wounded, and Drowned, belonging to his Majesty's ships Tigre and Theseus, between the 9th and 20th of May, 1799, employed in the defence of Acre.

Tigre—John Carter, Seamen, killed; Thomas Smith, Serjeant of Marines, Thomas Knight, Joseph Thomson, Private Marines, wounded.

Theseus—Ralph Willett Miller,

Thomas Seabourne, Schoolmaster, James Morrison, Bigges Forbes, Charles James Webb, Midshipmen, Twenty-one Seamen, one Boy, Three Private Marines killed; Lieutenant Summers, Thomas Atkinson, Master, Robert Tarnish, Surgeon, Frederick Morris, Chaplain, Lieutenant Beatty, Charles Dobson, Midshipmen, Thirty Seamen, Two Boys, One Serjeant of Marines, Five Private Marines, wounded; Six Seamen, three Private Marines, drowned.

Total.—One Captain, One Schoolmaster, Three Midshipmen, Twenty-two Seamen, One Boy, Three Private Marines, killed; Two Lieuts. One Master, One Surgeon, One Chaplain, One Midshipman, Thirty Seamen, Two Boys, Two Sergeants of Marines, Seven Private Marines, wounded; Six Seamen, Three Private Marines, drowned.

His Majesty's ship Tigre,
30th May, 1799.

W. SIDNEY SMITH.

From the LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY,
MONDAY, September 9.

DOWNING-STREET, SAT. 9.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, has been received this day from the Right Hon. Lord William Bentinck, by the Right Hon. Lord Grenville, his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Foreign Department.

Novi, August 19, 1799.

MY LORD,

The column under the command of General Kray arrived at Alexandria, from Mantua, on the 12th, and on the day following was to have proceeded to the place of its destination, on the left of the whole, according to the plan of operations which I sent your Lordship some time ago. On the 12th the enemy was in motion in different points, and it appeared as if he meditated some attack. General Kray was therefore ordered to remain at Alexandria till further orders. General Bellegarde, with 8000 men, was at Serzo, and the Field-Marshal, with 600 Russians, was at Possolo Fomigoio; his advanced posts in front of Seravalle. The remainder of the troops was at Rivalta.

On the 13th the enemy continued to advance in great numbers. The Marshal had given orders that no partial action should be engaged in with the French; in consequence of which General Bellegarde was directed upon the approach of the enemy, to march to Ritorta upon the Orba. The advanced posts before Seravalle were also driven in, and the French took possession of Novi. On the 14th General Kray advanced to Tressonara. It was hoped that General Kray might have been able to have cut off a small French column which had followed General Bellegarde as far as Castelferro, but it had early in the morning of the 14th turned to its right, and had marched to Novi, where the whole French force was concentrated. The great and extensive plain of Piedmont is determined at Novi by a very long ridge of hills, which rise so suddenly, and are so steep, that the ascent is extremely difficult, though the height is not very great; they extend towards Basaluzzo on one side, and towards Seravalle on the other, and upon these heights the enemy was encamped on the 15th, their right towards Seravalle, their centre at Novi, and their left towards Basaluzzo, overlooking the whole plain. The army was commanded by General Joubert, and consisted of six divisions, amounting to about 30,000 men; their object was to raise the siege of Tortona; and they were to have attacked the Allied army on the 19th; Field-Marshal, however, determined to anticipate them in their intentions, and orders were given to General Kray to take under his command the corps of General Bellegarde and to fall upon the left of the enemy, and the Russians were to attack the front of their position. As it was reported that the enemy had detached a considerable corps in the mountains towards Tortona, General Melas remained at Rivalta with the remains of the army, in order to cover the siege of Tortona, or to march to the support of the Marshal, if necessary. The attack was made by General Kray at five o'clock in the morning of the 15th; it continued with great violence for several hours, but the difficulty of the ground and the numbers of the French obliged him to retire. The Russians also engaged the front of the enemy,