

LONDON, JULY 7.
GALLANT ACTION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.
LETTER FROM AN OFFICER TO A FRIEND IN LONDON.

His Majesty's Ship *Spartan*, Malta,
16th May, 1810.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Aware that an old mellmate, (particularly a once Spartan) will derive some gratification from the particulars of our recent glorious contest, I willingly avail myself of the first conveyance to enable you to participate in the feelings of your old shipmates. On the 1st inst. we, in company with the *Succes*, chased into Naples a frigate, corvette, brig and cutter. On the 2d, from a supposition on the part of our truly gallant Captain (JAHLEEL BRENTON) that these fair weather birds would never put to sea, whilst menaced by two British frigates, he ordered the *Succes* (being a junior ship,) to part company: the manœuvre succeeded, and on the following morning at day-light, the enemy's squadron was with pleasure descried standing towards us, in a regular line of battle. It was not in our nature to run! but, agreeable to our usual system, as well as their astonishment, we made sail for them; and being aided by a light breeze, were enabled, about forty minutes after seven, to commence against "fearful odds," what our gallant brother tars on this station, as well as the conquered foe, acknowledge to have been one of the most brilliant actions ever fought by an English frigate. The battle took place off Naples, and was commenced within pistol shot by the French frigate *Ceres*, of 42 guns, she being the leading ship of the enemy's line, and after a truly trying, yet, thank God, glorious contest of two hours and ten minutes (during which time the awful scene was witnessed by his most Majestly Murat, and the whole population of the proud city of Naples) we succeeded in capturing the National brig *L'Espevoir*, by our brave fellows gallantly boarding her, in the face of the enemy's whole force, who were, like ourselves, torn to pieces. When we had approached this "host of foes," sufficiently near to be distinctly heard, we welcomed them with "three cheer," which was proposed by our gallant Captain, and given by our brave tars with heartfelt sincerity for the honor of our beloved country and glorious profession. From the officers whom we have taken prisoners, we have been assured, that our cheering tended forcibly to unnervise their seamen, as it taught them to believe we had, in the first instance, decided on death or victory! Our loss has been severe—ten brave fellows killed, and 22 wounded; yet when I refer you to the annexed unprecedented superiority to which we were opposed, you must think with me that those heroic Britons could never have fallen on a more glorious occasion. Among the killed I have to deplore the death of that gallant youth Mr. Robinson, Master's Mate, whom you, as an old Spartan, must recollect; and, in the list of wounded, the name of our truly heroic and distinguished Captain unfortunately stands conspicuous. He was dangerously wounded by a grape shot about the middle of the action, while fearlessly standing on the capstan, and by his judicious manœuvring, and gallant example, inspiring confidence of success in every officer and man around him. He was wounded in the left side, and has since suffered almost incessant pain, with becoming fortitude, but I am happy to add that he is now pronounced out of danger, and the ardent prayers of his officers and brave crew continue to be offered up with seamanlike sincerity for his speedy restoration to the service of his country, with whom his zeal, ability, and heroism must ever stand unrivalled! and by whom, if genuine merit wants not admirers, he will, no doubt, be amply rewarded. He has already received the order of the Knighthood and of Merit, from his Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies, which no doubt, will be followed on the part of our good Sovereign (God bless him) by the Order of the Bath, and an adequate pension to support it. We have just learned by a flag of truce the enemy's loss to have been severe beyond precedent, 154 killed, and 316 wounded.

Yours truly, JAMES DUNN, Purser.			
ENGLISH FORCE.		FRENCH FORCE.	
Guns	Men	Guns	Men
<i>Spartan</i>	38 258	<i>Ceres</i>	42 300
		<i>Fame</i>	28 280
		<i>Espevoir</i>	8 98
		<i>Actailla</i>	12 120
		7 Gun Boats, 7 Guns	
		with 40 men each	280

Total 38 258 Total 97 1138
The first escaped, the second was disabled, and the third taken.

JULY 10.

In the last act of Louis Bonaparte's sovereignty, he says, "that it cannot be doubted that the existing state of things in Holland is to be attributed to his having been unfortunate enough to displease his brother." This is but a moderate compliment to the justice of Bonaparte himself, that he should harass and distress a whole nation because his brother has personally offended him; and whom he could have personally punished by deposing him, as he has now at last done. The instrument of abdication then goes on to say, "that Louis being the only obstacle to the termination of the differences and misunderstandings between France and Holland," he of his own free will chooses to resign. If, as there is reason to believe, the late King of Holland did interpose, in order to fatten the rigour of Bonaparte's decrees respecting the Dutch, it is pretty evident that the concord which is to be produced by this resignation is a concord of unqualified submission on the one part, and unmitigated tyranny on the other. What is to become of this unhappy people now that they are given over, without a mediator, to the will of their arbitrary master?

Four seamen belonging to the *Tonnant*, and one belonging to the *Achille*, were lately tried by Court Martial in Cadiz Bay, for having attempted to desert to the enemy. They were found guilty. The four former were sentenced to be hanged—the latter to receive 200 lashes; and suffered accordingly in presence of the fleet.

The application at the Secretary of State's Office, from persons to go out free settlers to Botany Bay, are so numerous, that hundreds have been refused.

THE SPARTAN FRIGATE.

The following are further particulars of the gallant action lately maintained by this ship in the Bay of Naples, against a greatly superior force. After enumerating the enemy's flotilla, consisting of 24 armed vessels of different sizes, the account proceeds thus:—

"As this greatly superior force ranged alongside, Capt. Brenton ordered all the crew above to give three cheers.—The intrepid coolness of the proceeding had the immediate effect of damping the ardour of the enemy. A tremendous and well directed volley from the *Spartan* drove below with great slaughter nearly all the soldiers and marines who crowded the deck. After a few broadsides from the *Spartan*, the frigate sheered off, and as she entered the Bay, our brave countrymen beheld one of the forts firing upon her with indignation. For a considerable time during the battle, Capt. Brenton stood upon the capstan, exposed to a terrible fire, cheering the crew, and watching the manœuvres of the enemy. Upon one of the Lieutenants requesting him not to expose himself in this manner, he replied, "in about half an hour the victory will be ours, and we will then go below and take a glass of wine on the occasion."—Soon after a grape shot struck his hip bone. In the act of falling he was caught in the arms of one of his officers, and carried below. The wound was considered by some to be mortal.

"After this accident the battle was continued with increased fury on the part of the *Spartan*. The sailors thought their beloved Commander was killed, and revenge occupied their minds above and below, from one end of the ship to the other. At length one of the sloops of war struck, and the rest made the best of their way back. A calm took place, which prevented the *Spartan* from cutting them off, otherwise it was evident that every one of them must have fallen into the hands of our heroic countrymen."

Numerous were the instances of individual fortitude displayed on the occasion. One of the sailors, who afterwards was obliged to undergo an amputation close to the shoulder blade, when told that he must lose the whole of his arm, exclaimed, "Well, take it whenever you like; it is not mine, but my King's."

JULY 13.

The fleet under Sir Richard Sirachan is to call at Halifax, and take with him the 7th and 8th regiments of Foot, to the Cape, where they are to be joined by three regiments more, and proceed to their destination, which is supposed to be the Mauritius.

JULY 16.

Six banks in the West of England are said to have stopped payment, in consequence of the bankruptcy of Messrs. Brickwood & Co.

A report has prevailed at the west end of the town for some days, that Sir David Dundas is about to resign the Office of Commander in Chief, and that his successor will be selected from among the Royal Military Dukes.

JULY 18.

PORTUGAL.—Dispatches were yesterday received from Lord Wellington, brought by Captain Burgh, one of his Lordships aids-de-camp. They are dated the 4th inst. at which date no general action had been fought, nor was one expected, so long as Ciudad Rodrigo should continue to hold out. That place, as we stated yesterday, continued to make a vigorous resistance; but we are concerned to add, that reasonable hopes of its being able to hold out for any considerable period cannot be entertained.

Lord Wellington has removed to a position between Almeida and Celarico, in order to support General Craufurd. By an intercepted letter, it appears that Messina expected that Lord Wellington would advance to interrupt the siege, and that he had prepared his operations accordingly. The different French corps were all in readiness to move; but Lord Wellington has completely disappointed them; so that this part of their plan has entirely failed. They must now attack the British army, which they will not venture to do until they have taken and garrisoned Ciudad Rodrigo. They will then have to attack it in a country favourable and prepared for defence, and they will have to attack it with diminished numbers.

The general opinion is, that it is Lord Wellington's intention to try a battle in some of the strong positions in Portugal, but when and where the battle is to take place, and whether a battle will be fought at all, it is not very easy at this distance to say. We know that there is a very strong position leading across from Lisbon to the sea-coast, in front of Cintra, which has been carefully fortified, and which can be defended against superior numbers. It covers three points of embarkation, in which our ships are all in readiness to receive the troops, in case of necessity.

SPAIN.—The accounts from Cadiz, as we stated yesterday, come down to the beginning of the present month. For some weeks preceding the advanced posts of the garrison had been established on the continent, at least nine miles from the town. From that point, as well as from the Isla, which is distant from Cadiz about seven miles, the batteries form a complete chain. The French have thrown up immense works, but they are mostly for defence. It would seem from the positions occupied by their army, that they apprehend a sortie. The greater part of it is so quartered, that they could be brought in a short time to the support of their works in front of the Isla. Towards the sea their force is inconsiderable.

At Matagorda the enemy, it is believed, have been employed in constructing a mortar battery, but Cadiz is thought to be too distant to be injured by shells thrown from thence; and besides, the position was not considered tenable. The town is abundantly provided with supplies of all kinds, particularly water, of which there is in the reservoirs sufficient for the consumption of eighteen months.

The sortie for which, as our readers have already been informed, preparations had been making for some time, was expected to take place by the middle of the present month. The destruction of the French magazines, stores, and provi-

sions, which it has been the labour of several months to collect, would be the chief object of the sortie. This attack was to be independent of any co-operation from the corps of General Lacy, in the Sierra Ronda. The expectation under the direction of this Officer is not upon the extended scale which was first intended; it was thought, upon mature consideration, not prudent to attempt so comprehensive an operation without having previously fortified and secured all the means of internal defence.

Letters from Murcia state, that the French advanced into that neighbourhood in three divisions, composed of 1500 men, but that the army of Valencia being immediately put in motion to encounter them, they thought fit to withdraw. In their retreat they committed many grievous excesses.—Under the apprehension of their return, the people of Murcia were preparing to give them effectual resistance.

By accounts from Vineros we receive the unpleasant news, that Mequinez is at last taken, and the French statement is thus confirmed. Considering its comparative weakness, it made a long and gallant defence. The correspondent from whom we have this information, was in daily expectation of the appearance of the French, and was preparing to ship himself off with his property for Minorca.

Letters from Corunna confirm the account of the expedition from Ribadeo to Santona. The Regency at Cadiz has at last listened to the prayers of the Galicians. A sum of money and a quantity of muskets had been shipped off from the Bay, and were hourly expected to arrive in the harbour of Corunna.

Nearly fifty letters containing returns of the troops under Massena and other French Generals were lately intercepted. It was from these that the list of the enemy's force published in the *Star* of Monday, was taken: that statement may therefore be considered as official. To the accounts published in the Portuguese papers of the numbers belonging to the French, the British and Portuguese, we never gave any kind of credit: they uniformly under-rate their own numbers and those of the French, and exaggerate those of the British—for what purpose we know not, nor shall we now enquire.

STOCKHOLM, JUNE 21.

In order to give you a correct account of the shocking outrages that were yesterday perpetrated by an incensed populace, I must advert to the remote causes of them. It is well known, that on Prince Augustenberg being declared Crown Prince, and thereby becoming the adopted heir to the Throne, a desperate faction was formed against him, obviously to set aside the choice of the country, and to procure the nomination of a Prince who was likely to become more subservient to their system of policy. To them the drawing virtues of the Prince, which would have shown in their meridian splendour in the King, were odious, and converted into crimes. The Prince, on his arrival in the capital, endeavoured to conciliate the affections of the people, as the best means of ensuring a happy reign, and promoting the interests of the country. I have myself frequently seen him visiting *incognito* the hospitals and prisons, and doing every thing in his power to alleviate the sufferings of the wretched. He was also in the habit of inspecting the provisions and necessaries in the public stores, destined for the use of the army, and of exposing the nefarious practices of jobbers and contractors; as also the provisions exposed to public sale, or such as were, at a season of unparalleled calamity, distributed gratuitously to the poor. By these acts of charity and condescension he was beloved by the lower ranks of the people, but incurred the jealousy and resentment of some who conceived they had, from their rank and great affluence, paramount claims to consideration. Among the most conspicuous of this description of nobility, were the families of Ferfen and Piper. Jealous of the increasing popularity of the Crown Prince, and apprehensive that they would, in the event of his being King, lose their consequence in the Government, they combined with others whom they had gained over to their party, and endeavoured by intrigue and corruption to bring the Prince into contempt and to thwart every measure that tended to ensure his elevation to the Throne.

The funeral procession of the Crown Prince arrived here yesterday. It was led by Count Axel Ferfen, in a carriage drawn by six horses. An immense assemblage of people had collected. No symptoms of riot or outrage were observable until the corpse had reached New Street (*Nygatan*) when the populace began to hiss and shout at the Count, who did not seem to suppose that the indignity was directed to him, but on a stone being thrown into the carriage, the Count put his head out of the window, and if I can judge from his gestures, which were too significant to be mistaken, set the mob at defiance. This exasperated them to such a degree, that they discharged a volley of stones at the coach, one of which struck the Count in the face.—The Count immediately ordered the postillions to stop, jumped out of the coach, and with great difficulty reached the nearest house. At that moment Baron Silverparre, the Adjutant-General, arrived, and on demanding the cause of the riot, the general exclamation was Count Ferfen has murdered the Crown Prince. Silverparre then told them that the King had ordered him to declare, that the Count should be arrested, and tried. The mob then huzzaned, and began to disperse. The carriage had in the mean time advanced a little, and stood in the square. In half an hour after, the Count came out of the house, and in approaching the carriage, the mob suddenly rushed upon him, tore the star from his coat, pelted him with stones, and murdered him! So ferocious were the assassins, that they tore the clothes off the body of the Count, and exposed his naked corpse in the street. The life-guards came up; the people were told to disperse, but in vain; they pelted the officers, &c. used most threatening language respecting the Queen and Countess Piper, and became more and more outrageous. The soldiers fired, and a great many were shot. The Council of State assembled; the Countess Piper, sister of Count Ferfen, was arrested, as well as Mr. Rosli, Principal Physician of the deceased Crown Prince, and sent to the fortress of Waxholm. The insurgents on being informed of these proceedings, and that Count Fabian Ferfen had