

A CIRCUMSTANTIAL •  
JOURNAL  
OF THE LONG AND TEDIOUS  
BLOCKADE and SIEGE  
OF  
GIBRALTAR.  
FROM THE  
TWELFTH of SEPTEMBER, 1779,  
TO THE  
THIRD DAY of FEBRUARY, 1783.  
CONTAINING  
An Authentic Account of the most remarkable Transactions,  
in which the Enemy's Motions, Works, Approaches,  
Firings, &c. are particularly described.

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By AN OFFICER.

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LONDON:  
Printed for, and Sold by, J. EVES.

Engraved for the  
SIEGE  
of GIBRALTAR.



Shelton Sc.

Representation of the 10 Floating Batteries Commanded by Admiral  
Don Morena, attacking GIBRALTAR on the 13<sup>th</sup> of Sep<sup>r</sup> 1782.



A N  
A D D R E S S  
T O  
Æ O L U S,

On hearing that Colonel Ross was appointed to  
command the Seventy-second Regiment, or  
Royal Manchester Volunteers.

FOR once, Æolus, hear a female muse,  
And be propitious—when a woman sues !  
O speed the fleet from Britain to this port,  
Fill all their sails, and waft them to this fort ;  
They bring for Ross, whose merits well demand  
His Sov'reign's mandate for a new command.  
Each volunteer will glory to obey,  
And dare the foe, when Ross shall lead the way.  
Dispatch the fleet; for ah ! the battle roars,  
Already wag'd on proud Iberia's shores !  
Her crafty sons strain every nerve to gain  
Their antient Rock, but all their works are vain.  
Firm as this Rock is Elliott's steady soul,  
Watchful he guards, and wisely guides the whole,  
Alike he hates the sycophant and slave,  
And gives his favours only to the brave.

May

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## An Authentic Journal, &c

### LETTER I.

Gibraltar, 1779.

*Honor'd Father,*

I SHOULD think myself wanting in affection and gratitude, did I not favor you with the particulars of every thing deserving notice, during the approaching Siege\*; but circumstanced as I am, and being constantly under arms, or with working parties, many matters of a trifling nature, will escape my knowledge; you will not expect therefore this Journal to be elaborately filled with trivial daily occurrences, but depend upon receiving a full account of every transaction of a public nature; such as the enemy's motions. firings; vessels engaged, taken,  
A escaped,

\* Epistolary correspondence always affords pleasure to a mind fraught with sensibility; but it becomes an absolute duty in persons at a distance, to inform their relatives who are apprized of their being in dangerous situations, of every event, in order to allay the well grounded anxiety of a father, and the pangs of an affectionate mother or sister.



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## An Authentic Journal, &c.

### LETTER I

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escaped, failed, arrived; batteries erected, destroyed, &c. &c.

Sept. 12. A council, of war being held yesterday, at the Convent; at which the field officers and naval commanders assisted, it was resolved unanimously, to commence a cannonade on the enemy, and accordingly this morning, having previously withdrawn our advanced guards from Bay Side and Forbes's, we opened our batteries on the enemy, beginning at Rock Gun down to the Mole Head, employing every gun that could possibly bear upon them. An officer's lady, whom curiosity had excited to the batteries, was encouraged to discharge the first gun, and having taken the lighted match, with an intrepidity not peculiar to the sex, General Elliott pronounced in a true heroic style, "Britons strike home," and immediately every battery and angle bellowed with rage, and foamed with destruction.

At the first discharge our shot dropped short, so that their advanced guards had time to escape to their lines, and their precipitate retreat almost occasioned a general laugh, to view the Dons tumbling one over another, as they fled from  
the

the showers of shot. When the enemy had reached their lines, we gave more elevation to our guns, and Fort Barbara and St. Philippe received a heavy cannonade. nor were any part of the Spanish lines neglected. As I came up the street about two hours after, from Waterport, having been the preceding day and night on duty at that post, I could not but remark the timidity and fearful apprehension pictured in the countenances of the inhabitants, as they were held in expectation of as furious a return from the enemy. The Jews and Jewesses exhibited the most descriptive amazement, accompanied with significant shrugs, and eyes raised to the skies; with nimble steps they took shelter at the southward, leaving their houses and effects, except such as were of convenient carriage, exposed to the dangers that must have ensued had the enemy opened upon us. About four in the afternoon we began to throw shells into the forts, and the enemy who had secured some indifferent shelter from our shot, now found themselves most inconveniently annoyed, as we often perceived that they appeared in disorder.

13th. A heavy and incessant fire all night. The enemy appear to be in motion, and our expectations lead us to imagine that, about noon they will return the compliment. The fearful inhabitants, who sheltered at the southward, cannot be persuaded to return, but seem happy in their minds, that they are out of the reach of the foe. It was observed to-day, that their forts have received some damage from our firings.

14th. No return from the enemy. The uneasiness of the people seems less predominant, and they now venture to return to their habitations in town. The enemy appear very busy; they are encamped at the foot of Santa Roque, to a great number, with some squadrons of horse; they appear to be about 16,000 men, including the Catalan troops; they are beginning to carry fascines and gabions to their lines, so that it is beyond dispute they mean to return the fire. When we received the account, June 21, from General Mendoza, commandant at Santa Roque, of the commencement of hostilities, between their Catholic and Britannic Majesties, it occasioned a general

neral rumour in the garrison; the governor and officers assembled on the Grand Parade, and every tongue was employed in delivering their opinions: Our advanced guards and lines were reinforced, and detachments of the picquets sent to the weakest places, as we concluded that the enemy would endeavour to surprize the place.

Hostilities being thus commenced, General Eliott, with the advice of the naval commander, issued letters of marque, to several privateers in this port, who immediately went out and captured some small prizes, with wine, brandy, and other necessaries, that will be much wanted: but on the 26th of July, Don Barcello, with two line of battle ships, two frigates, one xebec, and several galleys, anchored off Cabritta Point, to keep the port blockaded. Our cruizers were under the necessity of returning to the bay, and are now laid up, as the enemy are ever watchful of their motions, and our force is too weak to offer an opposition. It is currently reported that Spain's intention is, by famine, to oblige us to surrender; you may therefore conclude, that while the enemy remain masters of the

the Straits of Gibraltar, our situation will be exceedingly disagreeable, and we shall be greatly necessitated for refreshments.

Our Governor is indefatigable in improving the works, particularly those on the heights of the hill, most convenient to annoy the enemy and prevent their approaches. The unthinking part reflect upon him, for being sparing of the provision, and taking part of the merchants stores for the king's use.

20th. The enemy are very assiduous; many working parties employed, but we cannot form any judgment of what they are doing. To-day a settee, that seemingly stood for the bay, wind at W. was conducted by Barcello's cruizers to Algaziras; --- This circumstance makes us rather uneasy, as we fear that many more will share the same fate. Deserted, a serjeant; and a Hanoverian, who notwithstanding our shot, escaped safe to the enemy.

30th. The enemy are quiet, but continue a sharp look out in the Gut. This day, Barcello's ship was dressed with variety of colours, and a salvo fired. He rides most magnificently, exulting over

people shut up like poultry in a coop. He is so vain, and so possessed with the prospect of our capitulating, that he has ordered all officers, under his command to wear the key of the Straits, tyed with a ribbon upon their bosom. We may expect the next month will furnish more important intelligence. Whatever happens, if I survive, you may depend upon receiving a minute and circumstantial account, from Hon<sup>d</sup> Father,

Your's affectionately,

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## L E T T E R    I I.

*Gibraltar, October 1770.*

*Honor'd Father,*

**F**AR distant from every endearing friend, and the social joys of fellowship, I again take my pen to write to you. Nothing material has happened; the enemy are exceedingly assiduous at work, and we are constantly playing upon their parties; Barcello, with the strictest vigilance, watches the Gut, and some of his cruizers are mostly stretching from

Ceuta

Ceuta to Cabritta Point, to guard the Offing. We have not received any supplies or intelligence, nor have we observed a ship, boat, or settee, endeavour to get in : Every thing is getting at so exorbitant a price, that it is almost impossible for a person of moderate income to purchase what is requisite for sustenance.

This day, a twenty-four-pounder was dragged up the face of the rock to Midshipman's Look-out, or Rock Gun, the labour and danger attending it, is not to be conceived, as it was carried over points of rocks to a height of 1357 feet.

The enemy's force now consists of,

At Algaziras	{	1 ship	70 guns	700 men
		1 frigate	36 do.	300 do.
		1 xebec	32 do.	250 do.
		1 do	28 do.	200 do.
At Ceuta.	{	1 ship	60 guns	600 men.
		1 frigate	26 do.	250 do.
		1 xebec	18 do.	200 do.
		1 do.	20 do.	180 do.
Constantly cruizing.	{	1 do	14 do.	80 do.
		1 xebec	16 guns	100 men.
		4 smaller		240 do.
		6 half-gallies		1000 do.
		6 quarter-gallies		450 do.
		20 armed boats		300 do.

On



On our side are at anchor,

Panther,	60 guns	400 men.
Enterprize,	28 do.	200 do.
Childers,	14 do.	90 do.
Gibraltar,	12 do.	40 do.
Fortune,	10 do.	30 do.

Oct. 20. Last night the enemy were excessively hard at work, our batteries poured upon them a liberal distribution of shells, but notwithstanding, they completed their operation, and this morning exposed to our view three new batteries, two of fourteen and one of seven guns, constructed for playing upon our lines, Landport and Waterport.

30th. No prospect of relief: We begin to think England has forgot that such people are in existence †. The enemy are quiet, but exceeding watchful, and labour much at their approaches; we cannot form any judgment of what they are doing: We keep up a fire upon them.

This day the Peace and Plenty privateer being chased to the eastward by a frigate

B

gate

† There are few garrisons but what would sink under the thought of being devoted to the fury of an enraged enemy; but Britons have formerly shewn their foes at Cressy and Agincourt, that difficulties will never make them despond, and the magnanimity of the troops in Gibraltar, under the greatest hardships, demonstrate them true descendants of heroic Britons.

gate and two row gallies, wind at S. E. unfortunately run ashore between the the Devil's Tower and Fort Barbara. Our batteries commenced a brisk cannonade on the fort, and dismounted several of their guns, but notwithstanding, the enemy poured into her a prodigious quantity of round and grape shot; the boatswain had his right thigh shot off and died soon after. The captain finding it impossible to get her off the bed of sand where she had run aground, and grape shot coming in a continual shower from the enemy, he and his crew having took out a few things in their hands abandoned her and came in at Landport. She was detached by General Murray from Minorca to view our situation and see if any supplies were come from England. She had taken several prizes to the eastward, and relates that the troops at Minorca were in good health, and want nothing but cloathing.

31st. The enemy kept all night a fire upon the unfortunate privateer, they have greatly shattered her hull and rigging, so that she will never be fit for sea again. The enemy seem to be making preparations for a vigorous attack, they have

have begun forming several bomb batteries. Our fire is without intermission, which the enemy patiently bear. Several of our howitzer shells fell among their working parties and killed a great number. General Eliott continues to increase the fortifications; and working parties from each regiment in the garrison, are employed in erecting traverses in different parts of the streets to shelter the troops, and inhabitants, from the enemy's shot whenever they open their batteries. We have not received any supplies either from England, Portugal, Tangier, Tetuan or Minorca, nor has a ship appeared but the Peace and Plenty standing for the bay. The Spanish cruizers keep hovering in the Offing. We wait the arrival of a fleet with impatience.

Your's &c.

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### LETTER III.

*Gibraltar, Nov. 1.*

*Hon. Father.*

THE enemy last night fired a carcass into the privateer which run aground

the 30th ult. and in a few hours she was consumed. The enemy continue to work, and we continue to fire. Provision is getting extravagantly dear and scarce: Fish and flour are the chief support of the inhabitants. A small string of fish, about the size of a large sprat, eight in number, costs five or six rials, upwards of two shillings English.

This day the bakers shut their doors, and delivered the bread thro' a wicket, protected by a guard, as the crowds were so pressing, that they were under the apprehension of their houses being pulled down—the flour they have in hand will not last, according to computation, more than two months. Ant. Smilie, a capital Genoese baker, assured me, he had only 18 barrels of flour to serve himself, family, and the public. The Governor has ordered them to bake but a stipulated quantity daily.

It is really gricvous, to see the fighting of the people for a morsel of bread, at a price not to be credited by those who never knew hardship or their country's service. Men wrestling, women intreating, and children crying, a jargon of all languages piteously pouring forth their

their complaints. You would think sensibility would shed a tear; but yet when we are in equal distress ourselves, our feelings for others rather subside. Compassion is very extensive, but self-preservation shuts out all condolence.

6th. This day arrived a two-decker from the west, and anchored between Cabritta and the battery at Algaziras. Several small craft also arrived.

19th. Every thing continues quiet—the enemy keep busily at work at their bomb batteries. Sailed a frigate from Algaziras to Ceuta.

28th. This morning we observed the enemy had recalled their working parties from the lines and that they were forming fortifications, extending from Fort St. Phillipe to Point Negro, as a defence and cover for their camp; this gives us the alluring hopes that they have some intimation of our fleet being at sea. It would be a glorious sight to see them routed and their camp destroyed. Our batteries are not idle, but keep a well directed fire on their forts and late approaches.

The calls of duty prevent my further writing.

writing. Excuse all inaccuracies, and believe that I shall always remain,

Affectionately your's, &c.

## LETTER IV.

Gibraltar, November 1779.

*Honor'd Father,*

SEVERAL days more elapsed amidst expectation and firing, but no prospect of relief. The merchants are getting money apace, as for every article they sell they charge their own price; glad are every one to make a purchase, O ye winds be propitious! and quickly waft our floating castles to our relief. Haste and save us from hunger, misery and death.

The enemy continue their works on the shore, and have forwarded a battery near the guard-house, on the right of St. Phillipe. Our fire from the batteries is rather remiss, as the enemy do not appear very numerous in the lines.

Last night came in two deserters  
from

from the enemy's Walloon guards, with their arms, &c — they assert that the enemy have 1000 pieces of cannon and mortars in their lines, and only wait an order from the court of Madrid to fire, that their magazines are full of powder, and that a reinforcement of French troops are hourly expected. They are lodged at his Excellency's house, and I do not doubt but their intelligence will prove advantageous to the operations of our works, as they were conducted by the Quarter-master General to Willis's, and the upper batteries, from which a proper view can be taken of the enemy's works, and gave a satisfactory description of their new approaches.

Wind N W. This morning we were led to believe that our fleet was near at hand. The Spanish watch towers hung out signal-colours, and the battery at Gabriela Point fired a gun for their cruizers to get under weigh. The Buck privateer was soon discovered standing for the bay, under all the sail she could crowd; the gun-boats bore down upon and fired briskly into her, which she returned as spiritedly: two frigates having slipped anchor stretched across from



from Cabritta to intercept her; having got within long gun-shot they fired two or three broadsides, the cutter then tacked and stood for the Barbary shore, the frigates followed and soon drove to the leeward; she then tacked and stood again for the garrison, when a third frigate and a xebec pushed out, and likewise dropped to leeward, while the cutter kept his course; Barcello then hove to under Cabritta, with an intent to keep the windward gage—the bravadoing, blustering, and vigilant Barcello; in the St. Jean Baptiste, of 70 guns, bore down upon her, and having got within half cannon shot, poured into her several broadsides, which the cutter returned; he then made signal for the gun-boats and gallies to board, but when they had rowed pretty near, the hardy crew gave them such a liberal distribution, that they were compelled to retire. Barcello having fallen to leeward, endeavoured to work up again, but not being able, on account of the fresh breeze at N. W. was, to his no small mortification, under the necessity of going to the eastward with the remainder of his cruisers. She proves to be the Buck of Folklstone. Capt. Fagg,

in



in 19 days from England. On his dropping anchor at New-mole, the numerous spectators from the batteries and walls, gave him three cheers, and the General on his landing, paid him the highest commendation for his bravery and manœuvres §. What news he brings, is not made public, excepting that we are not to expect a fleet yet.

I cannot close this account without informing you, that some leagues to westward he was chased by three cutters, and finding they were English he lay too. They asked him where he was bound, and answering to Gibraltar, they persuaded him to return, adding it was impossible to get in safe. In a jocular strain he asked if there was room for a coach and six to get in, which being answered in the affirmative, he rolled his quid, and with an audible oath, swore he would get in if Belzebub himself gave chase.

This day we got in a settee, with 38 bullocks from Tangier; two others were taken

§ Here we are presented with a striking portrait of a British tar, who, notwithstanding the great superiority of the enemy, scorns to surrender the ship entrusted to his command, and by the coolness of his orders, knowledge in his profession, and true fortitude of mind, we see the Spanish Admiral outdone by a British trading captain.

taken by the enemy's gun-boats, one of which had a packet for the garrison; they were kept so long on board before they could get in, that they were nearly perished; their flesh, when killed, was like a jelly, and sold for three <sup>as a rule</sup> shillings eight pence per pound.

The wind having shifted, Barcello and his Squadron have returned to their station: they keep a sharp look out from Cabritta, being determined, I dare say, not to be beat again in so shameful a manner.

This day four Portuguese that were privately dispatched by the Governor to fetch a packet from Faro, returned safe; they had a small boat which was carried on camels, over rocks and mountains, being permitted by the Moors, and launched in a creek under Ape's-Hill, and stole over in the night. We flatter ourselves there is good news, as the General and principal officers appeared in high spirits.

This morning came in a deserter from the enemy, and this evening another; they both belonged to the Walloon Guards, and brought their arms with them: the latter was pursued by three horsemen, and would have been taken, had

had not our people been very alert at Willis's, by pouring grape shot upon the pursuers.

December 1st. The enemy are bringing down great quantities of fascines to the line, and are again labouring at ~~their~~ approaches, but do not seem disposed to return the fire. Last night came in two deserters from the Walloon Guards; they report, that the enemy are not to fire, while they can keep the place blockaded, as General Alvarez is confident that famine will oblige us to surrender. "We are certainly greatly distressed for want of fresh provision and vegetables: salt meat is scarce to be purchased, which is sold for two rials, and two and a half per pound. Yesterday a baker was obliged to shut up, not having flour sufficient for his family for one month. Appearances are rather dreadful; God grant that a fleet may soon arrive, or the consequences are to be feared.

8th. Came in a deserter from the Walloon Guards. He was closely pursued by two horsemen, but our batteries made them retire. He says, that they are much distressed in the camp for fresh water, and that numbers die of the flux,

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occasioned by drinking of the salt springs.

14th. This morning we perceived two men run out of the Spanish lines and presently after two horsemen followed, and having overtaken them, they killed one on the spot, and secured the other, notwithstanding our fire: and last night deserted two Hanoverians of De la Mott's regiment; they escaped to the enemy from Europa Advance Guard, by means of a rope ladder, which was accidentally left by the King's workmen.

15th. The enemy executed the deserter they took yesterday; all their regiments were under arms.

19th. Garrison orders. "No gun to be fired from any of the batteries at the enemy's ships, when the distance requires more than six degrees elevation, unless such ships are engaging, or in chase. Any captain of the royal artillery, who may happen to be present on such occasions, will give his advice in the management of the guns, which the officers commanding guards will be justified in following."

21st. Last night sailed the Buck privateer from Mahon, wind S. W.

27th. This day the enemy began to fire

W.D. 11

fire upon our outer works; they obliged the garrison gardeners who were at work on the isthmus or neck of land, termed the neutral ground, to retire. Several Genoese fishermen who were dragging nets at the sea side, were also under the necessity of retreating, leaving their nets, lines and tackle, on the beach; a twenty-six pound shot fell at the northermost angle of [our] Prince's lines; the centinel narrowly escaped. The enemy appear very busy—their approaches are in great forwardness, but are all masked; their bomb batteries appear to have no ordnance mounted, nor has it been observed that any number of men have been employed there for some time past. We conjecture that this day is only a preface, or introduction to the grand display, and that the long boasted exhibitions are ready for performance.

28th. The enemy last night destroyed great part of our gardens, and, unbecoming the character of warriors, they meanly stole the nets, lines, &c. that our fishermen left when they made their retreat yesterday. Came in a small boat from Tangier, with goats, fowls, and eggs: she unfortunately ran in under

cover

cover of the night, The goats sold for 10 cobbs per head; fowls three dollars, six rials per couple; eggs six rials per dozen. Also came in three deserters from the Walloon Guards; it is currently reported that the intelligence they bring is not altogether favourable to our wishes. God grant that a fleet may shortly arrive, and that we may be enabled to give the enemy a British reception whenever they attack our walls. I herewith present you a few lines on the approaching siege.

The hostile face of war with rage array'd,  
And threat'ning danger mix the black parade;  
Iberia arms, and lifts the glitt'ring spear,  
And thro' a sea of blood prepares to steer;  
The British lion views her dire designs,  
While secrecy Britannia's council binds;  
Nor dreads their force, nor shakes at war's alarms  
Nor quakes at cannon, or impetuous storms;  
Their hostile preparations seem to wear;  
And speak their object to be Gibraltar.

With martial courage we our foes defy,  
For George we live, and in his cause we'll die;  
Nor fear we their attack upon this place,  
For Elliott will the foe courageous face.  
The Dons of proud Iberia he will tame,  
And add new lustre to his country's fame.

Ye Dons go arm---ye Monsieurs them assist,  
The British vet'rans will your pow'r resist,  
Your efforts join'd to take this stubborn rock;  
Will cause a scene that will your courage shock;

Your

Your boasting heroes with a joy elate,  
 Will from our roaring cannon meet their fate.  
 The mighty ocean will be ting'd with blood,  
 And carcases lie floating on the flood;  
 For ev'ry Briton chearfully will fight,  
 And bleed and die for Albion's injur'd right.

30th. The enemy are quiet, but keep constantly at work; their parties are very numerous, but we cannot make them desist; they have broken down all their stone guard-houses, and seem to be converting them into works of annoyance. We may expect, that the ensuing year will be fertile with intelligence, and that we shall be able to give a more descriptive account of their approaches.

It is really vexing and mortifying to view the Spanish hills and heights, covered with cattle, while we can scarce procure a piece of salt beef, and that at a price which when told, carries with it the face of improbability. I trust, that God, in his infinite goodness, will relieve us from the impending famine that hourly awaits us, and restore us to the nourishing necessities of life:

I am, honor'd Father,

Affectionately yours, &c.

LETTER



## LETTER V.

*Gibraltar, January 7, 1780.**Honor'd Father,*

I AGAIN take the pen to write to you, though I assure you, our most sanguine hopes seem entirely lost. Last night came in two deserters of the Walkoon Guards—from the accounts they bring, we expect to have many more months to suffer—they say, that the Spaniards engaged our fleet off Cape Finisler, that the English were defeated, and a great many captured. Yesterday arrived some fresh troops in their camp, and this afternoon, a small boat that made a push for the garrison, was taken off Gabritta Point; it is not improbable that she was detached with intelligence for the place, as she did not appear to be deeply laden.

8th. A Neapolitan polacre, laden with barley, having come within the reach of Europa guns, we discharged a few shot at her, and obliged her to come in; she will afford us some relief:—Barcello seemed to be very uneasy at her getting in, for he made a signal immediately for a frigate and a xebec, to cruize to the



the eastward: They pass'd by within long gun shot, of the Garrison.

11th. Several random shot from the enemy, but no material damage done; they seem to have a great inclination to begin the work---We keep a moderate fire upon their parties, and approaches.

12th. The enemy still continue to fire occasionally; a shot struck the parapet of the Old Mole—a 26-pound shot, the first fired into the garrison, went through the roof of Mr. Quartin's house, and drove a splinter into a lady's heel, who was walking in the street; another went through a centry box in Landport covered way: A mule belonging to the waggons, who go to the Devil's Tower to take in stone, was lamed by their fire; and the enemy, in an unprecedented manner, inhumanly fired at a clergyman performing the ceremony over the body of a deceased soldier.

13th. This day the field officers commanding corps assembled at Col. Ross's quarters, to take into consideration the present situation of the garrison provision; when it was ordered, that the soldier's ration, should be shortened, viz. half pound beef, quarter-pound pork,

D . . . and

and one pint pease per week, deducted from each man's allowance.

Our situation every day appears more alarming, there being a scarcity of almost every thing in the garrison—fire-wood a cobb per hundred; flour 5 ~~rials~~ ~~per~~ pound; no fresh meat except an old cow, or worn out ox, only one perhaps killed in a month, which is sold at 4 and half or 5 rials per pound; fowls 20 to 24 rials each; a goose 10 dollars; a turkey 20 dollars; eggs a cobb the dozen; and every other necessary in proportion.

Jan. 15. This morning a soldier deserted from the back of the Rock, where he was with a party cutting bushes. He made an excuse that he had dropped the key of his box, and being indulged to search for it, he observed the party busy, and took his rout by the eastern shore—we fired many shot at him, but all ineffectually.

This afternoon, wind W. S. W. an English brig appeared in the Offing; she was chased by a xebec and several gallies, but fortunately got safe into New-mole: She brings the joyful and happy tidings of a fine fleet being within twenty-four hours sail of the garrison. She parted with

with them five days ago in a gale of wind, off Cape Finister. Three officers of the Artillery, bound for Minorca, who came passenger in her, were on our Grand Parade this evening, receiving congratulations, and giving information.

You cannot, honor'd father, picture to yourself the joy of the garrison, nor can the most energetic language describe it, looking upon ourselves as people relieved from death, or consequences worse—true British testimonials exhibited among the soldiery, over their bottle and glass, and the most tender and sympathetic emotions among the long-distressed and suffering inhabitants. Sordid avarice and exorbitancy, I trust, will now be forgot, and those who made a trade of the distresses of their fellow brethren, will not enjoy with tranquility of mind, their ill-got gains. I have not time to write more, the present calls of duty oblige me to conclude, subscribing myself

Your dutiful Son.

## LETTER V.

*Gibraltar, January 16, 1780.**Honor'd Father,*

A GROUP of transporting ideas employ my mind, and whilst I am reflecting on the prospect of relief, I am equally captivated with the thoughts of information from you, from whom I have not received a single line these many months. The Garrison are all on the wing:—the sound of the fleet is all that is to be heard, and every rock and hill re-echoes the blissful tidings. This morning flour sold for sixpence per pound, which was some time past two shillings, and a great favour to obtain it at that price; the shops that were shut up are now opened, and adorned with bread, biscuit, rusk, &c. The Garrison appears in an entire state of transformation, and the people are so busy purchasing eatables, that it brings to my remembrance the festive fairs in England.—Every perspective is employed, and spy-glasses are mounted like cannon on the walls, directed towards the Gut—various reports are

are circulating: The enemy have hung out signal colours from their watch tower; not a ship or cruizer on the opposite side attempts to move. I believe the scene is changed, without as well as within the walls. Poor Barcello must feel, with inexpressible pangs, this sudden stroke that robs him of all his promis'd honors, and shuts him and his vigilant cruizers up at Algaziras, and compels them to view with maddened rage, the British ensigns that bid defiance to Andalucia's shore.

Came in a deserter of the Walloon Guards--Intelligence not publicly known!

17th. Last night arrived, unmolested, a brig laden with flour; she left the convoy two days since, and brings word, that they have taken a Spanish convoy of one ship of the line, five frigates, and twenty-four sail of transports, bound from Bilboa to Cadiz.—We hourly wait their arrival. Stopped our ration, according to order,

This morning came in the Apollo frigate. She brings the intelligence that several men of war got under sail from Cadiz, to engage our fleet, that the British were victorious, and that the enemy had

had one sunk, one blown up, one stranded, and four captured. 'Glorious news! —Received half a pint of rice in lieu of pease.'

19th. Last night two English men of war came in, and confirm the above engagement. About six this morning came in, the Phoenix, a Spanish 80 gun ship, being the one the Admiral commanded. She lost her maintop-mast, and other rigging in the engagement: Admiral Don Langara received a wound in his groin. The British fleet having stood too near to the Barbary shore, overshot the Bay, and drove to eastward in the night, and it is probable it will be two or three days before they can work up. The Spanish Admiral came ashore this evening, and was carried in a sedan chair. Every guard he passed paid him the honor due to his rank.

21st. Wind E. Came in three 70 gun ships, one a Spanish Commodore, also the Guiposcoana a 64, taken with the Bilboa convoy, and great part of our fleet; they are so thick I cannot number them with any precision. About eleven this forenoon came in the Prince George, Admiral Digby, with Prince William Henry

Henry on board. Admirals Rodney and Ross are standing for the Rock. Our shipping have taken to the eastward two xebecs, and a great many settees bound for the camp of St. Roque. Prince William Henry landed, accompanied by the Admirals; the General received them with the warmest encomiums, and the garrison and shipping performed salute.

The Spanish squadron, command by Admiral Don Juan de Langara, Gefe de Esquadra, which Admiral Rodney fell in with off Cape St. Mary's, are as follow :

Phoenix,	80 guns	} Taken and brought in here,
Diligente,	70 do.	
Monarca,	70 do.	
Princessa,	70 do.	
St. Domingo,	70 do.	blown up.
St. Eugenio,	70 do.	taken, then abandoned.
St. Julian,	70 do.	and stranded.
St. Lorenzo,	70 do.	} Escaped.
St. Augustin,	70 do.	
Santa Rosalia,	26 do.	
Santa Cecilia,	28 do.	

22d. The Terrible, man of war, and four other ships, being drove by the rapidity

pidity of the current, near the enemy's forts Philippe. and Negro, they beat to arms in their camp and made a position of defence; they fired 157 shot and seven shells, but did no other damage than killing a Spanish prisoner on board the Terrible. This day the Spanish Commodore landed.

23d. Wind W. took a settee going to Ceuta.

24th. This day the troops received their beef and pork, stopped last week. All hands at work unloading the shipping—Several cranes have been erected from South-port to the New-mole.

25th. The enemy this morning fired two shot towards the Garrison, one grazed North-line-wall Guardhouse. About eight this morning, a corporal and five Walloon deserters, who made a push for the Garrison, were pursued by a party of horse and foot, the corporal was taken, and two they knocked down and run them through with their bayonets, afterwards beat them with the butts of their firelocks, and flashed them with their swords; one of them they carried off in triumph: We shot one of their horses in the hind leg, in their retreat, who



who remained on the isthmus or neck of land during the day; three escaped the massacre, owing to the activity of their heels, and the one whom they left on the sand, a party of our people brought in, so miserably hacked, that he was shocking to behold:—two Genoese buried him this afternoon, outside of Forbes's Gate. Before that our batteries could afford the deserters any assistance, the pursuers had got under the direction of our cannon, and our musquetry was to very little purpose employed. Came in and anchored this morning, Admiral Sir Geo. Bridges Rodney, and several other ships. This day received several flags of truce, respecting the exchange of prisoners.

26th. This morning we perceived the Spanish infantry under arms, soon after observed a gibbet erected, and a criminal executed. It is beyond dispute that the unhappy sufferer, is the corporal they took yesterday on the isthmus. This afternoon the Fortune cutter, under a flag of truce, conveyed the sick and wounded prisoners to the Orange Grove, where the enemy received them. Came in and anchored in the Bay, Admiral  
 E. Lockhart

Lockhart Ross, with some settee prizes taken to the eastward.

This morning arrived from Tangier, a small boat with lemons and oranges; a very useful article, as they are very salutary in the cure of the scurvy. Came in a Spanish brig; four line of battle ships and a 64 are at anchor in the Bay, adorned with the British ensigns.

Barcello, no doubt, is fired with rage at so unexpected an alteration, especially to view the shipping intended to prevent succours being thrown in here, now in a situation of being employed against him. How contemptible must he appear after all his pomp and parade, to be shut up and forced to yield the sovereignty of the Bay, where his heavy cannon so awfully rattled along the shore.

28th. Arrived a boat from Tangier, with a few dozen of fowls. Came in a settee with bullocks and other refreshments from Tetuan. One of our frigates cruising in the Offing, captured a settee bound for the camp.

29th. This forenoon landed from the ships of war, the second battalion of the 73d regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel M'Kenzie; They were

were under orders for Minorca, but our Governor, with the advice of the Admirals, and Field Officers, has detained them here. This afternoon wind S. W. Commodore Eliott in the Edgar, and a frigate gave chase to a ship off Cabritta, under Dutch colours; which as soon as she perceived, she tacked and stood for the land; Eliott bore down upon her, and quickly got within long gun-shot, when she hoisted Spanish colours, and run ashore under Cabritta: A brisk fire ensued on both sides, in which the battery took a part, but Rodney perceiving their situation rather dangerous, hoisted a signal for them to return. It is imagined that she was detached with instructions to Don Barcello.

Garrison orders this day were

*“Whenever the captain of Willis’s observes a party coming out of the Spanish lines, he is to call over to the captain of the Princes lines, to acquaint the captain of Landport guard, who is to report to the Governor.”*

30th. The Spanish boats were yesterday busily employed in endeavouring to

get the ship off, which they did not effect till this morning's tide. She must be greatly damaged, as it is a rocky shore where she ran aground: They have warped her in among the rest of the laid-up shipping at Algaziras. Early this morning came in three naked deserters from the Walloon Guards, they having swam from the foot of the Fort St. Philippe. They report that the Spanish General holds a position of defence every night, as he expects our shipping will fire upon their camp, before they leave the Bay. The enemy have mounted artillery in their 14 and 7 gun batteries, and seem to have prepared to act on the defensive at their forts—We keep a moderate fire upon them, and often put their guards in disorder. Every one is amazed that the enemy do not return it, for certainly they can have no hope of taking this place by famine, since we have received supplies from England, or should they still entertain that idea, I hope a few ships of the line will be stationed to keep open a communication between Tangier and the Garrison.

I am hono'd Father,

Yours, &c.

LETTER

## L E T T E R VII.

*Gibraltar, Feb. 1780.**Hon. Father.*

THE stores and provisions being almost landed, the fleet are getting in readiness for sea, and it is confidently reported, that none of the ships of the line will be stationed here to guard the Bay; we may therefore conclude that in a short time, we shall experience a situation equally as distressing as that which we have lately been relieved from; for while the enemy commands a superior force in the Bay, the nourishing supplies which would be forwarded from Tangier and Tetuan, will be cut off: A few days will leave our situation no mystery.

3d. This day the Spanish deserters embarked on board the men of war, on their passage to England. Sailed the Childers, with dispatches.

5th. Came in at Landport, two private men and a drummer belonging to the enemy's Walloon Guards; they assert that the General has no orders to fire, but on the defensive, and that Don Barcello has received advice from Madrid,

drid, to renew the blockade, as soon as the British fleet departs, at which time he is to be reinforced with two ships of the line and several frigates.

10th. Came in a deserter from the Walloon Guards.

13th. This forenoon wind E. N. E. Admiral Rodney made signal to weigh: About twelve the men of war, including the five Spanish, viz. Phoenix, Diligente, Monarca, Princesa, Guiposcoana, and convoy, got under sail, on board which many families had embarked, and were happy to escape the difficulties of the place:—The battery at Cabritta, fired a gun to alarm the coast, which was returned at Ceuta, as our shipping stood towards that place in order to clear the Point; in the evening they were all out of sight, but the enemy continued to fire alarm guns, and threw a great number of rockets from their watch towers.

14th. The Edgar, under the command of Commodore Elliott, the Panther, Enterprize, Porcupine, Gibraltar, and Fortune sloop remain here. At Algaziras are at anchor, one ship of 70 guns, one ditto 50, one frigate, and a few xebecs. We certainly are now able to oppose

pose our enemy on the opposite side. Some of the cruizers at Algaziras have hauled out, and proceeded to the Orange Grove.

Yesterday Admiral Langara, and the other officers of his fleet, were permitted to pass to Spain on parole.

15th. Barcello this morning hauled out to the left of the battery at Algaziras—appears to be very busy in getting up his yards and top-masts; some of his galleys passed to the westward. On the land side a few working parties have again made their appearance.

27th. Nothing material has happened these many days, excepting that the Spanish horse and infantry have been performing their evolutions, twice every day: It is computed their number fit for actual service is about 17 or 18,000. Last night came in a small boat with lemons and oranges from Tangier. The enemy's gun-boats chased her under Europa, which occasioned a few shot to be discharged from that post.

This day arrived at Algaziras, from the westward, four line of battle ships, two frigates and one xebec.

28th. Wind W. arrived at Algaziras.



a frigate and a xebec from the westward — The frigate saluted Barcello, but no return was made. It appears as if they intended to renew the blockade.

March 4th. This morning alarm signals were made at Ceuta, of the appearance of an enemy to the eastward. Wind N. N. E. Barcello immediately loosed his fore-top-sails, as a signal to weigh: A frigate, xebec, and two gallies, made ready, and stretched across for Ceuta: soon after he followed, but had not quite cleared Europa, when the cruizers discovered her to be a xebec. The wind having shifted to the S. E. this evening, the enemy have again anchored at their look-outs on the opposite side. Several gallies, and other insect cruizers that stole away, during the continuance of our fleet, have ventured to return.

12th. This day our cartel, under flag of truce received from Spain, 390 British prisoners of war: They report that Spain is determined to have the place, let the consequence be what it will, and that a large body of French troops are really embarked for the camp.

15th. This morning the enemy appeared very busy at work: Our batteries kept

kept showering a constant supply of small shells upon them, so that they were compelled to desist.

16th. Last night a deserter came in from the Walloon guards; he gives an account that the enemy suffered considerably from our fire yesterday. One shell killed and wounded 25 persons.

19th. The Spanish squadron this morning were decorated with variety of colours; in the afternoon their troops in camp were arranged in three lines; the battery at Fort Negro, made a triple salvo of 12 guns each time, which was answered as often by a running fire from the army: The batteries and shipping at Algaziras performed the same.

A neutral vessel was brought in by the Spanish cruizers for examination, Admiral Barcello being determined not to let a ship pass unnoticed. For these three days we have not fired much, being busily employed in strengthening our works, particularly those adjoining the isthmus.

25th. Wind W. This day arrived several polacres and settees at the Orange Grove—We conjecture they are laden with stores for the camp.

29th. At day-break this morning a signal gun was fired from a xebec near the Point; several armed cruizers got under sail, and formed a line from the Point to Ape's Hill, where after firing a shot they captured a settee, and brought her in with her colours reversed. It is imagined she had cattle on board for the garrison, which is very much wanted, as very little fresh meat can be purchased. Our provision is chiefly salt beef and pork, and that we use sparingly, not knowing when we may receive another supply. Vegetables are scarce and dear, and what are sold, are no better than the rubbish of a dunghill in England. Our barren rock yields but little, but as necessity generally strikes out a remedy, many have begun to endeavour to convert the solid parts of the rock into kitchen gardens, which some have effected by raising walls one height above another, and filling the enclosed with earth. It will appear a scene of enchantment to Admiral Barcello, when he beholds the face of the dry and barren rock, in a state of vegetation.

I am, Hon. Father,

Yours, &c.

LETTER

## LETTER VIII.

*Gibraltar, April, 1780.**Honor'd Father,*

THE enemy are still forwarding their approaches; and on our part, I can affirm there is no deficiency. The Spaniards must sustain considerable losses in their operations, as we seldom let them rest. Our fire, of late, does not prevent them working, but judge what must be their sufferings, when we are hourly pouring upon their parties, great quantities of shells and grape shot.

The sufferings of the British troops, at present, is from heavy duty, and the scarcity of provision, but we may expect in a short time another scene to be exhibited; when the enemy have compleated their approaches, I imagine they will retaliate, but we are prepared to withstand their efforts, and while a round of powder and ball is left, King George's name will be sounded from our cannon.

7th. Last night a boat was dispatched to Barbary, to learn if there was a packet, or any intelligence from England—Several cruizers were discovered in

the Gut this morning, so that many conclude she was taken.

10th. This morning about three o'clock, came in safe, the boat that was sent to Barbary. She brought a packet to the General, but not any intelligence has transpired. The patron of the boat has refused to answer any particular questions.

14th. Last night wind W. arrived the Hyena frigate, in thirteen days from England: She exchanged several shot in the Gut with the enemy's xebecs. Admiral Barcello this morning, the wind having shifted, detached a frigate to the W. where she keeps tacking and hovering in the Gut.

20th. Wind E. This morning about nine o'clock the Edgar and Hyena got under way suddenly, and stood to the westward; the Spanish rowers immediately spread the alarm, and Admiral Barcello, with three ships of the line hove out, but to his no small mortification, could not weather Cabritta, until our shipping were out of sight, he being obliged to make several tacks in the Bay, owing to the stiff breeze. They steered

to

to the west cursing, their inauspicious stars.

This day Don Barcello and his squadron, returned to their former anchorage, vowing revenge on St. Antonio, if he deceived them any more.

27th. Last night came in a schooner from Malaga with lemons and oranges: They are natives of Spain, but run in here, knowing it to be a good market.

28th. Some time in the course of the night the schooner slipped out, unperceived by the enemy, it being very thick and hazy.

30th. Came in a boat from Tetuan, with twelve dozen of fowls: They had several cocks on board which they were forced to kill, fearing their crowing might alarm the Spanish cruizers, that cover the Bay:

May 1. Last night about ten o'clock, a fire broke out in the enemy's camp, which raged with great rapidity, for upwards of two hours.

3d. Wind E. This day arrived a convoy from the eastward at Algaziras and Orange Grove. It has been observed that many carts are employed in carrying shot and shells from the Pier to the

the Artillery Park, where they are scaling their cannon; their troops appear very busy, and their motions indicate a speedy attack.

The inhabitants are beginning to erect sheds at the southward, near Mount-Pleasant, as a retreat, whenever the enemy open upon us, which many are of opinion will not be long.

4th. Came in a boat from Tangier, with lemons, fowls, leather, and Barbary pumps. The great demand in this place for shoes, renders leather an article of great emolument.

6th. This afternoon the Spanish army were arranged in two divisions, and about four o'clock, began a sham fight, similar to an attack on the garrison, as one division took post on the rising ground under the Queen's Chair (supposed to be the English) while the other division in the valley on the common, endeavoured to dislodge the troops above, and take possession of their intrenchments: The fire was warmly returned by those from the height, and briskly supported on both sides for three hours, when the English forces were entirely routed;—they had several field pieces and some cannon with them.