

batteries, as the great weight that falls buries them under the surface of the ground. and when they burst, they scatter whatever is near them for seventy or eighty yards around.

8th. The enemy worked very hard last night, and greatly forwarded their approaches:—This morning they fired very brisk on our gardeners, who were forced to retire. A frigate from the West has anchored on the other side.

9th: We fired this morning by way of experiment, from Old Mole-head, six ten-inch shells out of howitzers, one of which penetrated into the centre of the Tower-battery, and apparently set fire to it, which they soon extinguished.

The wind blowing strong East, and the sea too rough for the gun-boats, three settees arrived from Minorca, and a brig from Leghorn, with wine and other necessaries. None of the Spanish cruizers attempted to stir.

The enemy's covered-way is greatly extended, a few nights more will bring it home to the Tower-battery.

14th. The enemy's covered way is not yet completed, owing to the rough and rainy weather; they have extended

it very near the East-line of their advanced work. This morning six pieces of cannon were laid in the sand behind the Old-mole. They have an elevation of forty-five degrees, and it is imagined they will send red hot shot into the enemy's encampment and artillery park.

15th. Last night the enemy completed their covered-way: they have brought it close home to the East angle of the Tower-battery—The weather having proved calm, the Spanish cruizers again cover the face of the Bay.

16th. The enemy last night began another line of approach, extending from the left of the Tower-battery, towards the Centre-stone Guard-house.

GARRISON ORDERS.

"The issues of provision for the next month, to be the same as last, except that only one week's oatmeal, at a pint each ration, can be spared to leave the usual supply for the hospitals."

17th. The enemy extended their approaches some yards last night, and we, with our usual liberality of shot and shells, repaid their labours. Several fet-
tees

tees and polacres arrived from the East at Algaziras.

21st. Wind W. Last night a firing was heard from the Offing for near an hour, which proved to be the Speedwell cutter, with dispatches from England, engaging a xebec, which was under the necessity of putting into Ceuta to repair her damages; she got safe into New-mole, but the intelligence brought by her, is at present kept secret.

23d. Arrived the Hannah privateer, from England, with cheese, beef, pork, butter, &c.—a very good supply. It must sensibly aggravate Admiral Barcello, notwithstanding the attention and alertness of his armed boats and cruizers, that vessels so frequently drop in here.

25th. This day the deserter that came in the 28th of September was sent to the Provost, he being, from indubitable facts, proved a spy. Several writings were found in his possession, inscribed to a Spanish officer, together with a plan of the garrison sewed up in a coarse cloth. Among other passages he says, that, "Between the Advance and Deadman's Hole, the shore is so bold, that they may bring their shipping, close to the rocks

and land the men from off the yards ; and, after this is done, to take possession of the travelling pieces of cannon on Windmill-hill, draw them to the South-parade, and cannonade the town. Came in last night, the snow Kitty and Polly from Liverpool, with butter, flour, cheese, and potatoes ; the latter sells at one rial and a half per pound. Deserted, a soldier in the night.

29th. This day two Moorish vessels were carried into Algaziras ; it is conjectured they were destined for this place.

30th. This forenoon a settee belonging to the enemy was becalmed off Europa, and our boats went out and boarded her—the crew escaped.—She had two pigs and some empty casks on board. It is some time since we had the satisfaction to hoist the English colours over the Spanish.

31st. This morning, a Tartan laden with brandy and sugar, came in from Minorca. She brings no particular intelligence. Last night a serjeant deserted from the back of the rock.

The enemy keep attentively at work, and forward their approaches and covered retreats with the utmost spirit ; their heavy

Heavy loss of men does not discourage their operations—they seem intent and determined to capture Gibraltar. Probably the next year will decide the contest: if they should be successful and take the garrison, it will be an expedition worthy of record; but we have not the least idea of this nature, our batteries are so well mounted with heavy ordnance, and manned with Britons, that the name of being conquered is laughed at as an absurdity.

I am, honor'd Father,

Dutifully yours.

LETTER XV.

Gibraltar, Jan. 10, 1781.

Hon. Father,

OUR prospect is but gloomy; the enemy are very busy, and are still forwarding works of annoyance. It is conjectured as soon as the bomb battery is completed, that the pastime will begin; but I hope, this year will terminate with victory to Old England.

This

This day under a flag of truce, the two Moorish galleys, that arrived the 29th of last month, were conducted from Algaziras to this place; they have brought Consul Logie, and the British families and Jews from Tangier. We learn that hostilities are commenced by the Barbarians against us, and that the Emperor of Morocco has sold the ports of Tangier and Tetuan to his Catholic Majesty; by this means the enemy conclude Gibraltar their own, and that famine will compel us to capitulate. I hope their expectations will be frustrated, and that, in spite of the united efforts of our foes, the British ensigns will ever be kept flying here.

GARRISON ORDERS.

"The centries on the sea-line, are not to suffer any person to land under any part of the line-wall, or upon the rocks towards the southward, or to remain on shore there after first gun-fire, but to fire upon whoever they may discover, either on shore, or attempting to land after that time."

15th. Last night a Spanish frigate was drove by a storm under our walls. the

The garrison took her for an English vessel, therefore did not fire upon her; a heavy rain coming on, and a thick haze upon the water, she escaped unperceived till this morning. The two Moorish galleys sailed from hence to the west.

GARRISON ORDERS.

Ration of provisions from the 15th January, till the 11th of February

Officers per month.

Bread, twenty-eight pounds; pork, four ditto; beef, four ditto; pease, four pints; butter, ten ounces; cheese, one pound and half, in lieu of two pounds of beef.

Kidney beans, four pints; wheat four ditto; flour, three pounds; raisins, two ditto; in lieu of twelve pints of pease and thirty ounces of butter.

Hospital per week.

Bread, seven pounds; beef, one ditto; pork, one ditto; butter, two ounces and half; cheese, six ditto, in lieu of half a pound of beef.

Wheat, one pint; flour 3/4ths of a pound; rice, one pound; raisins, half a pound; oatmeal, three pints; vinegar, half a pint, in lieu of

of four pints of pease, and seven ounces and a half of butter.

N. B. One pound of beef to be paid for.

Men per week.

Bread, seven pounds; beef, one ditto; pork, one ditto; pease, one pint; butter, two ounces and a half; cheese, six ounces, in lieu of half a pound of beef.

Flour 3-4ths of a pound; wheat, one pint; kidney beans, one ditto; raisins, half a pound; vinegar, 1-4th of a pint, in lieu of three pints of pease, and seven ounces and a half of butter.

N. B. One pound of beef, and three pints of oatmeal to be paid for.

16th. Wind W. This morning arrived a brig from the Madeira Islands with 80 pipes of wine. She was drove from her moorings in a storm, with only six hands on board.—Her cargo will prove a refreshing supply.

18th. Wind W. S. W. Last night came in the Tartar privateer, from England, with dispatches from government—she had a passage of sixteen days, and brings intelligence that hostilities are commenced against the Dutch. She had the

the good fortune to capture four Dutch vessels on her passage, and carried them into Portugal. Our frigate lying in New-mole fired several shot at her, suspecting her to be an enemy, as she stood towards the bottom of the Bay, our former anchorage,

General Eliott has ordered letters of marque to be issued, the same as granted against France and Spain. The garrison received the above account with universal eclat; the officers and every individual seemingly felt a sensible pleasure upon the occasion. Whether from it being the anniversary of her Majesty's birth day, or from this piece of information, the royal standard was hoisted, and a rejoicing observed by the garrison, shipping, boats, &c. by a discharge of cannon at one o'clock—the seamen manned and cheered, and the land batteries saluted the enemy's works with ball.

20th. This morning soon after day-break, the serjeant commanding the Bay-side (a detached guard) jumped over the pallisadoes, and walked gently on towards the enemy's works, seemingly undetermined, whether to go forward, or return to the garrison. It is reported that be-
 O ing

ing greatly in debt, having kept a mess for officers, excited him to this deplorable act—the centinels discharged their musquetry, but it is uncertain whether any of their shot took effect.

23d. Last night, with a stiff breeze at N. W. the Young Sabine and the Hannah privateers sailed for Minorca—Admiral Barcello having missed them this morning, detached a frigate to the east, under all the sail she could croud, but it is probable she will not be able to come up with them, they having near twelve hours sail a-head.

25th. Yesterday evening, a soldier deserted, supposed from the heights of the rock.

28th. Wind S. E. Arrived the Tartar, a French prize, of 26 guns, from Leghorn, with wine, oil, brandy, &c. She picked up at sea, the Brilliant's long-boat, which makes us imagine that frigate was forced to the eastward, with the strong northerly wind.

29th. Wind E. Last night sailed the Tartar privateer, that arrived here on the 18th instant. The enemy threw several rockets from their towers, and this morning we observed a xebec returning from

from the Gut without her prey. On the land side the enemy continue their labours, nor are we remiss in annoying them. Three soldiers are missing supposed to have deserted.

30th. Wind S. E. Arrived a large settee and a Tartan from Minorca, with wine, &c. They bring word of the Brilliant's safe arrival in that port.

31st. Wind S. W. Yesterday evening sailed a brig from hence, bound to Mahon with supplies. The enemy extended their approaches about five yards last night, and threw up several heaps of sand—Some infantry, have marched into their camp, reported to have landed at Cadiz. Admiral Barcello remains at anchor, but his cruizers frequently come over to peep at our works, and observe the situation of our navy.

I am, Hon. Father, yours, &c.

LETTER XVI.

Gibraltar, Feb. 1st, 1780.

Hon. Father,

NOTWITHSTANDING every effort,
and the most studious inventions of
O 2 annoyance,

annoyance, that possibly could be adopted or executed, we have hitherto found ourselves inadequate to retard the progress of the enemy's operations. History has partially recorded that cowardice generally characterized their conduct; but here give me leave to do justice to our assailants, who have invariably, from the period of their first labours, to the present forwardness of their approaches, shewn a martial spirit, and undaunted resolution.

From eve to morn their heavy works go on,
And threat'ning batt'ries rise, 'midst show'rs of shot;
Our Rock, like burning *Ætna*, red with flames,
Whole volleys of destruction vomits forth;
While death, with horrid grimace, hovers round
 'em,

And scenes of blood besmear their operations,
Strew'd o'er with mangled limbs, and heaps of slain,
With stedfast valour, fix'd determination,
They labour and bring forward their advances.

I shall endeavour in the series of letters according to my feeble abilities, to give every transaction, circumstance, and event, during the siege, a true description and illustration, to array martial merit in fullest splendor, and to crown each distinguished hero with deserving laurels.

The

The enemy extended another branch of their approaches last night, composed of fascines and sand bags. We fired in the course of an hour three hundred rounds of shot and shells. This morning a soldier deserted from the garrison.

2d. Our men of war's boats went round to the back of the Rock this forenoon, where they found the bodies of the soldier missing yesterday, and the serjeant mentioned 31st of December last, both in a shattered condition. It is astonishing, notwithstanding the tremendous instances, so frequently exhibited, they have not sufficient terror, to prevent men from endeavouring to escape to the enemy, even if conscience was bereft of feeling, and the regard for king, country, relatives and friends obliterated, one would imagine the consideration of self-preservation would alone effect it.

8th. This morning at day-break, came in a deserter from the enemy: He says, " That the Spanish General has received an order to recall the working parties, in consequence of a proposition made to the court of Great Britain, of six millions of money, and a free trade for the garrison." There is not the greatest reliance placed

placed upon his intelligence, but looked upon as a stratagem of General Alvarez, to gain more liberty in the execution of his further projections.

11th. Wind E. Arrived the Salisbury privateer, from Minorca—A large xebec, and several gallies endeavoured to slip between her and the land.

14th. The enemy appear to be in agitation on the opposite side: Several signals hung out from their watch towers, and their cruizers returning to the Bay. We are in hopes that the British fleet is within a few leagues.

15th. Wind N. W. Passed by about thirty sail of neutrals, there being a thick haze could not perceive whether they were ships of force. We suppose the signals made yesterday, was occasioned by their appearance off the coast.

GARRISON ORDERS.

Ration of provisions from February 12,
to March 11, 1781.

Officers per month.

*Bread, twenty-eight pounds; beef, four ditto;
pork, four ditto; butter, ten ounces; oil, one
pint; cheese, pound and half; pease, four pints;
beans,*

beans, four ditto; wheat, four ditto; rice, pound and half; raisins, ditto; to be paid for, beef four pounds; oatmeal twelve pints.

Men per week.

Bread, seven pounds; beef, one ditto; pork, one ditto; butter, two ounces and a half; oil, 1-4th of a pint; cheese, six ounces; pease, one pint; beans, one ditto; wheat, one ditto; rice, six ounces; raisins, six ounces. To be paid for, beef, one pound; oatmeal, three pints.

Hospital per week.

Bread, seven pounds; beef, one ditto; pork, one ditto; butter, two ounces and half; oil, 1-4th of a pint; cheese, six ounces; wheat, one pint; rice, twelve ounces; raisins, eight ditto; oatmeal, three pints; flour, twelve ounces. To be paid for, beef, one pound.

Soft bread the first week, biscuit afterwards till further orders.

18th. Wind strong E. About eleven o'clock last night, the Salisbury got under sail:—None of the enemy's cruizers were out on account of the stiff breeze.

19th. This afternoon a brig arrived from Minorca, in four days and a half, with

with flour, wine, sugar, and brandy : Two xebecs in vain stretched across, but could not get near her, the wind blowing very strong. She brings intelligence that the French have blockaded Minorca.

21st. Last night came in another brig from Minorca—It must greatly chagrin Admiral Barcello to view the shipping drop in so providentially, and he incapable of detaching his cruizers to the east—Very stiff breezes have continued since the 18th instant.

27th. Last night a Genoese brig, as reported, with four hands, slipped over from Algaziras, having a few trifling articles on board. The manner of her coming, and the smallness of her cargo, rather excites a suspicion. The Governor, ever attentive to the preservation and safety of the garrison, and dubious of the legality of the crew's intention, has ordered a guard to mount on board her daily, until the affair is more thoroughly investigated.

28th. Last night, under a very brisk fire, the enemy threw up a great quantity of sand upon their sachine works. It is supposed their approaches are about twenty feet high. We this day directed
our

our fire to the west entrance of the lines, as many covered carts have been observed passing there.

This month has finished without being productive of the desired success; it is to be hoped that the next will conduce to the gratification of our wishes, in the extirpation of our foes.

I remain your dutiful Son.

L E T T E R XVII.

Gibraltar, March 5, 1781.

Hon. Father,

EXPERIMENTS of every contrivance are now in agitation. Art and Ingenuity, which have been long employed for the preservation and destruction of mankind, are now studying their annihilation. Quadrants, Spirit-levels, and instruments of various forms and machinery, adorn the batteries, for the more exact and certain method of killing. Every one seems anxious to find out the safest, quickest, and surest method of dispatch, in the elevation and depression of

P

our

the ordnance. I suppose in a few weeks more practice, they will be so expert in levelling a gun, that should a Spaniard raise his head above the * epaulement, it will be immediately severed from his shoulders ! The gamester, with stedfast eyes fixed on the cast of the dice, never depended more on the goddess Fortune, than the several artists do for the success and approbation of their several inventions.

Now Elliott's heroes, zealous to destroy,
Against the foe their Arts and Arms employ !
Allur'd by hope, the Spanish forts to gain,
And drive those num'rous legions from yon plain.

Wind E. Last night arrived a settee from Minorca, with sundry useful articles for the garrison ; the patron relates, that three French frigates are constantly cruizing off the harbour to prevent succours going in or coming out of that place.

7th. This morning a little before the new guard came to relieve the old Landport guard, a soldier on duty there jumped over the pallisadoes near the gate, and ran off. The several grards
fired

* A breast-work made of earth thrown up, or of gabions, fascines, &c. &c.

fired 1143 musquet shot at him, beside grape, but could not ascertain his being wounded. He entered the Spanish lines in triumph, yet there is not any doubt but he received several shot.

9th. Yesterday and this day, we had several hours artillery practice on the batteries at the enemy's works;—the ordnance was well directed—much success is promised from the merit of the several instruments under consideration. The enemy, with great earnestness, became spectators from forts St. Phillippe and Barbary, as our guns only played upon the advance works of the isthmus.

GARRISON. ORDERS.

11th. “ *The rations of provisions from the 12th of March to the 8th of April, the same as last month, except that no wheat will be delivered, but one pint of pease will be paid for.* ”

16th. Wind E. Came in a polacre and a Tartan, from Minorca, with wine and brandy—the latter received several shot from one of the enemy's gallies that endeavoured to cut her off.

The enemy on the land side are very

attentive to their employ—we fire pretty hot upon them, as we are of opinion they are mounting ordnance in their advanced works. Yesterday a soldier deserted from the garrison.

18th. Arrived a Tuscan polacre, and the Tartar cutter from Minorca, with brandy and carravances—A xebec flood over from Ceuta, but too late to prevent their entrance.

22d. Yesterday evening, the Tuscan polacre failed on her passage to Lisbon, but the enemy took her in the night, and this morning carried her into Algaziras.

26th. Came in a half-xebec, a prize, taken by one of the Minorca privateers. She says the French frigates so closely watch the entrance into the harbour, that it is almost impossible for a vessel, coming in, or going out, to escape.

29th. Last night, wind W. N. W. the Enterprize frigate sailed from hence, on her passage to Minorca. The repeated intelligence of the French having blockaded that port, occasioned her departure, and we flatter ourselves, when she arrives there, our force will be equal to their's, the Brilliant and Minorca frigates

gates being already on that station—This forenoon a brig, half-bay over was taken by the enemy's cruizers; the crew, being nine in number, escaped in a boat---they mention, " That the British fleet had twice put to sea, but was forced to return, owing to bad weather and contrary winds." They brought some poultry in their boat, which will afford them a present supply---the fowls sold for four dollars each, equal to twelve shillings and nine-pence; pigeons, three dollars per couple, equal to nine shillings and seven-pence; ducks, eight dollars four rials per couple, equal to one pound six shillings and six-pence. Every species of provision is sold at the same rate, and most of the meat is quite rotten, the very smell of it is sufficient for a meal.

I am, honor'd Father,

Affectionately yours.

LETTER XVIII.

Gibraltar, April 3d, 1781.

Hon. Father,

THE garrison are noisy with tumultuous joy, occasioned by the arrival of
of

of a cutter last night from the West, who brings the captivating and enlivening intelligence of our fleet being on their passage for the Mediterranean. We seem to be another people—the very atmosphere is changed—no depression of spirits; every countenance is adorned with satisfactory smiles—a social greeting of friends and acquaintances, with overwhelming extacy, accost each other, “Dear friend, all our wants will shortly be supplied.”

This morning two fire-ships were removed from Algaziras towards Cabritta-point, intended by the enemy to run in among our fleet: Three others are at Orange-Grove, and several ready in the rivers. We are rather apprehensive of their being a great annoyance to our shipping.

4th. Last night sailed the St. Firmin sloop, the Brilliant's tender, and a settee, for Minorca. Two xebecs immediately put to sea in pursuit of them, with a fine breeze at West.----The enemy are very busy on the opposite side, in getting their fire-ships out of the rivers.

6th. This evening four armed boats, composed of a detachment of five men from

from each regiment, under the command of a naval officer, proceeded from the New-mole, on an expedition, to cut out the two fire-ships that lay at anchor under Cabrita. It continued rainy and cloudy till they had got within a mile of them, when, on a sudden, the clouds dispersed, and Luna reflected so great a light, that they were under the necessity of returning without accomplishing the business, the enemy having discovered the boats, and made a position of defence.

Ration of provisions from April 9, to May 6.

Officers per month.

Beef, three pounds four ounces; pork, four ditto, eight ditto; butter, ten ounces; raisins, three pounds; pease, two pints; beans, four ditto; wheat, four ditto; rice, one ditto; oil, one ditto. To be paid for, beef, five pounds; pease, four pints; oatmeal, twelve ditto.

Men per week.

Beef, thirteen ounces; pork, eighteen ditto; butter, two ounces and a half; raisins, twelve ounces;

ounces; pease, half a pint; beans, one ditto; wheat, one ditto; rice, four ditto; oil, $1\frac{1}{4}$ th of a pint;—To be paid for, beef, one pound and quarter; pease, one pint; oatmeal, three ditto.

Hospital per week.

Beef, thirteen ounces; pork, eighteen ditto; butter, two ounces and a half; raisins, twelve ditto; beans, one pint; wheat, one ditto; rice, eight ounces; oil, $1\frac{1}{4}$ th of a pint;—To be paid for, beef, one pound and quarter.

Bread issued to officers and men one pound and a half every two days.

8th. Wind W. About eleven this forenoon we discovered a small sail under the Barbary shore. About two o'clock, the enemy's squadron weighed and stood for her, consisting of one xebec, one galley, one cutter, and fifteen large gunboats, mounting twenty-six pounders, as soon as they had reached her, they opened furiously, both with round and grape shot, which she as briskly and heroically returned--broadside for broadside continued until she got under cover of the guns, when she received repeated and
loud

loud huzzas from the garrison. It is remarkable, notwithstanding the heavy cannonade, not a man was killed, and only a few wounded. She proves to be the Eagle cutter from Glasgow, but brings no account about the fleet.

12th. Last night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, came in the Kite cutter; she being challenged by the officer of the Mole guard, loudly answered, "from the fleet," which immediately spread like wild-fire throughout the garrison; Morpheus resigned his sovereignty, and slumber was forgotten; each found sufficient employ and satisfaction in conversing on the interesting subject.—We conjectured in the evening the British fleet was near at hand, as the enemy's towers and coast were greatly illuminated, and a number of rockets thrown up at Cabritta—At six this morning, the fleet appeared as thick as a wood, standing for the garrison, with a gentle breeze at S. W. a shout of joy instantly ensued from every corner, battery, and height, on the discovery—About nine, eighteen of the enemy's gun-boats sallied out from Algaziras, but kept pretty well under the land; at ten they began a brisk fire from the boats

and battery at the Point, upon our shipping; two frigates bore down upon them and played so warmly, that the enemy made to land. The battery at Sand-bay, and the island at Algaziras (mounted with forty-two pounders) endeavoured to annoy our shipping, but to little purpose, as most of their shot fell wide.— One ship has just dropt anchor. A call to arms prevents my further writing, the enemy have opened all their batteries on the town; confusion and consternation are every where to be seen! Adieu, dear Father, I must hasten to the alarm post.



Six o'clock in the Evening.

The necessary dispositions having been made by the General, for the defence of the place, I again re-assume the subject,

on

on the several transactions of the day: The few moments I have unemployed from duty, I shall endeavour, as far as the noise of rattling cannon and exploding shells will permit, to give you a description. The British fleet are safely arrived, with England's banners triumphantly flying. Admirals Darby, Digby, and Ross, are in the Bay, and the Spanish batteries blazing like a volcano.—

About a quarter before twelve, the enemy opened from their forts, lines, and advanced works, upon the town, with shot and shells; some of them nearly came into the New-mole; a settee lying near the Tanks, was sunk by one, providentially the hands were saved. Accounts are just received, that a shell which exploded the Prince's-lines wounded an officer, and tore the serjeant's hand off on duty there---three men killed in King's-lines; one killed at Southport, by a piece of a shell that burst in the air. Several houses are on fire---the enemy are endeavouring to burn the transports and merchant shipping, but our men of war keep cruising off Europa. A shell which entered a house in Southport-street, in the explosion, blew a Ge-

noise woman out of the window, but fortunately she did not receive any other damage than a bruise by the fall. The inhabitants exhibit the most impetuous grief and apprehension, precipitately retreating to the southward of the Rock for shelter, crowding upon each other like flocks of sheep destined for the slaughter-house, with dread and ghastly amazement pictured on their countenances. The Romans count their beads and worship their idols, and with a fervency of devotion, supplicate their golden deaf images for protection and safety.

An incessant fire all night from the enemy's works; showers of shot and shells as thick as hail—two soldiers, and a boy of a wine-house, not two minutes ago, were killed by the bursting of a shell near South-port. The inhabitants are terrified to the utmost, and destitute of every place of shelter. I cannot authentically learn the number already fallen; but in a town situate like this, it cannot be inconsiderable. We retaliate with equal warmth upon the foe, who consequently are not exempt from a share in the direful slaughter. The town is deserted by all but the soldiery, who now
are

are left to, commence merchants, wine-men, butchers, bakers, &c. Here a shell blows off the roof of a wine house, the troops haste to partake of the consuming spoil, regardless of life or limb, they drink briskly round, " Destruction to the enemy." Here are parties boiling, baking, roasting, frying, &c. Turkeys, ducks, geese, and fowls, become the diet of those, who some days ago were eagerly soliciting a hard crust of bread---Every-
 where they meet, receives a ball or bayonet, this is performed with an un-
 derstand and calmness scarce to be cre-
 dited, amidst a heavy fire, disregarding
 the supreme jurisdiction of the mighty
 God of War. Thus they roll in plenty
 at the hazard of their lives, nor can the
 precautions and vigilance of the officers
 prevent them from profusely enjoying
 the varieties of a town once flourishing
 and peopled, brilliant in commercial
 and military affairs: From Water-port
 South-port houses are blazing, and
 hot battering down those that will not
 burn. The element appears in a con-
 gration, as if JEHOVAH had summon-
 ed the guilty world to appear in his aw-
 ful presence, darting his angry thunder-
 bolts

bolts to send them to swift destruction, flashing of guns, mortars, howitzers, and exploding shells. One minute a shot batters a house about your ears, and the next a shell drops at your feet; here you lie prostrate, waiting the mercy of the explosion: If you escape unhurt, you are perfectly stunned, and almost suffocated with an intollerable stench of powder and composition: On every hand slaughtered objects lie before you, harrowing up the tender feelings of the soul, one loses an arm or leg, another cut through the body, a third has his head imbedded and a fourth is blown to pieces, with the bursting of a shell. Thus in a moment do they launch into eternity, probably without time to utter the ejaculation, "God be merciful to me." Blood, cries, groans, wounds and contusions, in every part are to be seen and heard!--Indigent parents lamenting the loss of son and women and children for husbands and fathers. Here we behold passions unfeigned, grief without mockery, and distress without a veil!

A detachment is ordered to march, to reinforce a part of the works considered too weak for a strong attack, or to relieve

lieve another who have stood twenty-four
 hours facing an inveterate foe; probably
 before they reach the post, my comrade
 falls by my side, and with a tender regret
 gazes on me, while I push forward to the
 battery or guard, and leave him to groan
 out his last accents, weltering in blood!
 My acquaintance receives a wound, and
 my best of friends looses the arm that
 was ever ready to cherish and supply.
 Sympathetic feeling melts my soul! I
 dare not weep, but assuming the aspect
 of a ferocious savage, I trip it away mi-
 nutely expecting nature's dissolution.—
 Pangs, sufferings, and bleeding specta-
 cles, with a military man, is denied ope-
 ration: Probably with a bosom over-
 loaded with the most poignant grief and
 anguish, a heart pierced with excrucia-
 ting woes, you fall forth to meet the
 daring foe, you receive a wound—you
 are left to bleed—the foe pursues—your
 detachment retreats—you find Death
 busy—the lamp of life faintly burns—
 your friends are absent—the foe shews
 no tenderness—you sigh, weep, groan,
 pray, beg, intreat, and in the bitter ago-
 nies of death implore Almighty God to
 be merciful to a poor sinner—life hangs

on a hair—the cordage of your heart cracks, and you drop into an unknown world, where the secrets of all hearts are disclosed. Your body, which once was costly arrayed in fashionable attire, is denied the form of christian burial, rich and poor, without discrimination, are tumbled into a hole or ditch, a prey for worms and crawling insects.

A husband is called upon for duty, the service demands his immediate presence, nor dare he stay to take his farewell, by imprinting an affectionate kiss; the thundering Mars, envious of his felicity, raises the javelin for destruction, and levels his commiserating partner, while he is absent; not satisfied with lopping off so material a branch of happiness, but extends his decisive commands over their tender offspring. On his return (O sensibility) what a ravaging scene is presented to his view! let imagination conceive; a wife that soothed his every uneasiness, and softened the rigours of his fate, is alas! no more---His dear beloved children that prattled with a thousand innocent and engaging smiles, and lisped forth their duteous accents, that tended to dissipate the heart corroding cares
of

of life, and promising to be a comfort in his aged days, are now reduced to a lifeless lump of clay. Will not his heart break forth in exclamation, "*Oh! my beloved wife---my charming Harry, my amiable Polly; not suffered to kiss those lips while warm, nor to press you to a bosom to which you was ever dear.*"

What inexpressible anguish must the performers feel in the trying scenes and tragical exhibitions, delineated with the most descriptive wretchedness and misery. This must move pity in every heart, if not steeled against every humanizing principle, nor will imagination allow the suggestion, that those who reside at home, enjoying the deliciousness of life, encompassed with every agreeable variety, and blest with sweets untasted, can refuse their mite, either of coin or friendship, to the soldier who returns from the wars, to his native shore, enobled with scars, and fettering sores, or amputated members, the grand ensigns of martial honors.

14th. The enemy continue the bombardment. Many soldiers killed and wounded: It is computed they fire about 3000 shot and shells every twenty-four hours. Many houses are blown to pieces

with the shells, and others burnt down. This forenoon eleven gun-boats began a fire upon our shipping, and carried away the fore-top-mast of one of the men of war. These insect swarm of gun-boats, contribute their quota to render our days and nights infinitely miserable and alarming, seizing on our retired hours like nightly robbers, who fill the mind with the most agonizing apprehension, awakening us from the repose wearied nature requires, and before you can scarce open your eyes or enquire the cause of the alarm, you behold horror flaring you in the face, or feel a precious limb miserably mangled, or hastily torn away.

How distressing this! no place of safety! not one spot, but these furies claiming pre-eminence with the infernal powers, discharge volleys of shocking misery. Overpowered with fatigue, you must watch, for if you close your eyes, you may probably awake in the arms of the grim King of Terrors.

What horrors are productive from the wars?
And miseries the most acute, are found:
A husband hastily torn from his wife,
And innocents bereft of their protectors;

The

The ties of friendship in a twinkling broke---
 Where troubles were appeas'd, and sorrows lost,
 Where joys were shar'd, and crosses were ex-
 chang'd,

Where pleasures were imparted, pains were eas'd;
 Where all the joys of sentiment and union,
 Connubial happiness and social blifs,
 Upon the basis of content resided----

Shook into atoms by the angry God !

Like to an earthquake, when her jaws doth ope,
 Whole towns and cities swallow in an instant !
 Thus warriors for fame and glory fight,
 And for their country forfeit each delight.

15th. The fleet have not come to an anchor yet; the enemy's fire is kept up with great spirit, and has done considerable damage to the upper batteries---we fire in return. It is distressing to humanity to view the situation of the inhabitants, who have fled from the town to seek shelter upon the heights of the rock, with only a thin piece of canvas or sail cloth to screen them from the scorching heat by day, and excessive dews at night; not any conveniency of dressing their diet, and the inexpressible anguish of viewing their houses and property in flames: Many of them, in endeavouring to save part of their effects, have lost their lives, and others maimed. A corporal had his head shot off as he was

calling from a window to a man in the street. A soldier was so miserably torn by a shell, that he could not be known only by his dress. A Genoese youth, endowed with every grace and amiable qualification, on the point of nuptial celebration, was unfortunately killed, to the irremovable grief of his enamourer. A shot killed two soldiers, one of whom was brushing his shoes for guard. Our people are assiduously unloading the shipping, as the fleet is not intended to remain long here. We work day and night to get the provision landed; one party works from sun-rise to sun-set, and another from sun-set till sun-rise. The town is laid in a state of desolation, the greatest part burnt down to the ground.

I cannot, honor'd Father, omit penning an entertaining conversation I had with a soldier in Irish-town yesterday. I met Jack * Careless in the street, singing with uncommon glee, notwithstanding the enemy were firing with prodigious warmth, part of the old song,

“ *A soldier's life is a merry life,*

“ *From care and trouble free.*”

He

* A Soldier well known in the Garrison by that name.

He ran to me with eagerness, and presenting his bottle, cry'd, "D--n me, if I don't like fighting: I'd like to be ever tanning the Dons: Plenty of good liquor for carrying away---never was the price so cheap---fine stuff---enough to make a miser quit his gold." Why Jack, says I, what have you been about? With an arch grin, he replied, "That would puzzle an Heathen philosopher, or yearly almanack-maker to unriddle; I scarce know myself. I have been constantly on foot and watch, half starv'd, and without money, facing a parcel of pitiful Spaniards. I have been fighting, wheeling, marching, and counter-marching; sometimes with a firelock, then a handspike, and now my bottle, brandishing it in the air. I am so pleased with the melody of great guns, that I consider myself as a Roman General, gloriously fighting for my country's honor and liberty." A shell that instant burst, a piece of which knocked the bottle out of his hand; with the greatest composure, he replied, having first graced it with an oath, "This is not any loss, I have found a whole cask by good luck," and brought me to view his treasure. But Jack, says I, are you

you not thankful to God, for your preservation? "How do you mean, he answered, fine talking of God with a soldier, whose trade and occupation is cutting throats: Divinity and slaughter found very well together, they gingle like a crack'd bell in the hand of a noisy cryer: Our King is answerable to God for us, I fight for him; my religion consists in a firelock, open touch-hole, good flint, well rammed charge, and seventy rounds of powder and ball: This is military creed. Come, comrade, drink success to the British arms." On my asking him for a glass he seemed surprised, "Why, says he, you may well know there is not any but broken glasses to be had, but here is something that will do as well, and he took up a piece of a shell, here is a cup fit for a monarch, this was not purchased with gold or friendship, but with the streams of our countrymen's blood." Having filled the piece of shell, he gave it to me to drink. Come Jack, said I, here is King George and victory! "And he that would not drink the same, replied he, I'd give him an ounce of lead to pay Charon to ferry him over the river Styx." I left him enjoying the spoil.

and

and really felt a sensible pleasure in the recollection.

I am, honor'd Father,

Yours affectionately.

GARRISON ORDERS.

Full allowance of beef and pork, five ounces of butter, quarter of a pint of oil, one pint of pease, one ditto kidney beans, two pints of wheat, twelve ounces of raisins, to be served to-morrow.

LETTER XIX.

Gibraltar, April 19, 1781.

Hon. Father,

THE enemy keep up a vigorous bombardment upon us. Our town is almost become a heap of ruins, and what few houses are left standing, the walls are so shattered, that it is not safe to go into them. The inhabitants are constructing temporary sheds, some in the

the gullies between Buena Vista and Europa, others on Windmill-hill, nor is there scarce any part of the Rock out of reach of the enemy's fire by land, but what is covered over either with marquees, tents, or huts.* The regiments, whose quarters in town were destroyed, are now encamped at the Southward; a reinforcement of officers, and men are every night detached to town, exclusive of the daily guards, as we are held in expectation of a speedy visit from the foe; General Eliott is prepared to receive them, with military politeness, nor has he sparingly provided for their reception, an excellent repast of shells of different sizes;—round and grape shot, hand* grenades, carcasses, &c. are ready to be served up at the shortest notice, for the entertainment of General Alvarez, and his hectoring troops.

Last night a man deserted from Prince's Lines, where he was on guard.

20th. This forenoon arrived a ship from the West. Admiral Barcello is very quiet on the opposite side, nor has he

* A small hollow globe of iron, filled with powder and fired by a fuze—these are thrown by the hand, and are of great annoyance in the field of battle.

he endeavoured to run in any of the fire-ships among our fleet! Our men of war continue in motion, which very much disconcerts the enemy, in the plans they had adopted for their destruction. The fire-ships which lay at Cabritta, are removed to Algaziras, where the Spanish Squadron have hauled close under the land: The fire from their lines and isthmus continues without intermission, excepting from twelve to two o'clock at noon, when they rather slacken to cool their ordnance, at which time General Elliott takes the opportunity of relieving all the town guards.

21st. Wind N. E. This forenoon Admiral Darby made signal for sail;—several vessels got under weigh from Rosia, and in the evening they were all out of sight: The Spanish towers, as usual, spread the alarm; the enemy discharged their ordnance with great fury, intimating that now our floating castles were departed, they had nothing to obstruct the exercise of their malignant rage. They have damaged our works in several parts, which we as carefully repair during the course of the night. We have

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not,

not, as yet, lost many men in the execution of our operations.

23d. The enemy continue their brisk fire on the garrison, and this day Lieutenant Cunnyingham of the 39th regiment was much wounded, it is imagined by the faculty, it will prove mortal. The following officers have been wounded since the enemy opened upon us :

Lieutenant Boag, Royal Artillery,
 Ensign Martin, 39th,
 Lieutenant Budworth, 72d,
 Surgeon Chisholm, 56th.

And Surgeon's Mate Kruger, of De la Mott's Regiment. They are all in a fair way of recovery, except Surgeon Chisholm, who has had a leg amputated.

This day a thirteen-inch shell fired from the enemy's works, dropped in the King's Bastion, and wounded seven men; three of them in a very bad condition—Our batteries are rather remiss in returning the fire, reserving the ammunition for other purposes.

27th. Wind E. Arrived from Minorca, the Brilliant, Porcupine, Enterprise and Minorca frigates, two small xebecs prizes, and sixteen sail of Tartans, and

and fettees, with a supply of wine, biscuit, * caravances, &c. for government account. Admiral Barcello, no doubt, was desperately enraged at the arrival of this unexpected convoy: After having loosed his sails and made every appearance of putting to sea, he fired a gun, which was answered at Ceuta, as a signal for them to keep a more sharp look out to the Eastward—his sails were then nimbly furled again.

Came in two deserters from the enemy's Walloon guards. They bring the intelligence that the Spaniards are expeditiously getting in readiness scaling ladders, and all necessary equipments for an attack, and that in a few months we may depend upon being vigorously stormed both by land and sea. This is looked upon as contemptible presumption, for Britons! whilst led on by veteran chiefs, and gallant heroes, will ever defend these envied battlements and walls from Spain's approaches, and compel them to return after all their pomp and parade, amidst disgust and disappointment of the desired glory. The enemy's

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gun

* A small bean, about the size of a kidney-bean.

gun and mortar boats came over last night, and fired upon the inhabitants retreats, and troop encampments; on this occasion, a soldier's wife was killed, as she was hastily dressing herself in the tent, in order to seek some place of refuge. Some others were slightly wounded.

This morning, there being a calm sea, the gun and mortar boats gave us a pretty smart fire. The garrison and shipping kept up a brisk cannonade upon them, but unfortunately they killed one soldier, and wounded six others of different regiments. They fired between two and three hundred rounds.

At ten o'clock this forenoon, a party assembled at the lower extremity of the Old Mole-head (or Devil's Tongue) to make an experiment of reaching the Spanish camp, from two sea mortars planted there. The first shell we threw fell within a few yards of the East angle of their grand magazine, which seemed to fill the enemy with consternation, not imagining it was practicable to have annoyed them in that part from the garrison, the distance being 3056 yards. We threw several, which fell in different parts of their encampment—one burst in the
air°.

air about half way, the splinters of which were seen to fall near the shore, above the battery, now called the Black-battery, on the right of St. Phillipe. It is reported, the intention of this is, to convince the enemy, that we shall be able to repay the compliment upon their encampment, whenever their boats visit ours.

The southward heights of the garrison were lined with a number of the inhabitants, who willingly became spectators (out of the reach of danger) of the experimental exhibition, impatiently waiting the discharge; but when they perceived the shell fall upon the Spanish land, they repeatedly gave loud acclamations, happy in their minds that we had found out a means of annoying the enemy's camp.

29th . Wind E. Last night failed the Enterprize and Minorca frigates for England, with several other ships under convoy: The enemy have not detached any of their shipping from Algaziras, in pursuit of them. A signal was observed this morning on the tower, at Cabritta, which we imagined was intended to alarm the cruizers at Cadiz. Admiral Barcello seems less attentive in watching the

the port, as very few of his cruizers are out. From the land side we are plentifully supplied with shot and shells; their batteries continue raging nearly the whole twenty-four hours of each day: The enemy are profusely liberal, and, with an unexampled generosity repay the cannonade.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XX.

Gibraltar, May 1st, 1781.

Hon. Father,

AMIDST the clamour of war, shells bursting, shot flying, and houses burning, a continual scene of sulphur, smoke, and fire; whenever I have any hours unemployed from duty, I dedicate them to your service: Death stares me in the face every minute, and therefore what I write you may look upon as the sincere sentiments of my heart. The streets of the town are like a desert, and almost every house burnt, or torn with shot and shells: In some parts the shot
and

and broken pieces of shells are so thick, that in walking your feet does not touch the ground. The enemy have kept up a fire these twenty days past, and it is believed before they cease, our arms will be busily employed. The enemy's gun and mortar boats are firing from the Bay; a shell which now burst forced me to run with my papers in my hand, to avoid danger—The groans of one in misery has reached my ears—I must haste to his assistance. On my going to the other side of a traverse, I found a soldier with both legs broke by a piece of the shell which occasioned my retreat!—a miserable spectacle. The gun boats are gone, having fired about three hundred rounds at the southward. I don't hear of any particular damage done.

5th. This forenoon a soldier was executed for plunder, at the place where the fact was committed, with a label upon his breast denoting the same. He was left hanging till sun-set.

8th. The gun and mortar boats paid us a general salute; the garrison and shipping made a return:—happily not any damage was done.

12th. This day the enemy made a shameful

shameful sea attack: after near two hours discharge of their ordnance, they triumphantly retreated to spread their great exploits and bold achievements along their coast, without having thrown a shot on shore. We imagine that they must have suffered considerably on the 8th from our fire.

13th. The gun and mortar boats last night again disturbed us with their firing, but only damaged a few huts in our encampment. These nocturnal expeditions are of great annoyance to the garrison, as the duty of the soldiery is very fatiguing, being constantly on foot for six or seven days and nights together, and probably, when it comes to their turn to have a night to rest in, these common disturbers make their appearance. It is really lamentable that we cannot adopt a means of destroying them.

20th. Last night a man was discovered advancing in slow steps towards the garrison, on the road leading from Bay-side to Landport, but when he came pretty near the advanced guard, he crawled upon his hands and knees; a Hanoverian serjeant on duty there, challenged him before he came as far as the work
upon

upon which he made a retreat. Lieutenant Witham of the 58th regiment, immediately made a fall, and being pretty nimble, soon came up with him, but just as he was going to make a blow, he unfortunately fell into a shell hole, which gave the other time to push thro' Bay-side. A gold laced hat was picked up on the road, which makes us imagine that he was an officer in the enemy's service, who had come to view the situation of the place, and how far a detachment might advance in the night before they would be discovered. Our guards in the lines fired pretty briskly, and was very near killing our own officer.

26th. The gun and mortar boats came over last night, and gave the camp a very brisk salute. Several people were killed and wounded. The New-mole, Parson's Lodge, Buena Vista, and South Bastion, fired remarkably warm upon them, but could not make them desist: When their ammunition was all expended they then took their leave. A shell from the Mill-tower Battery, fell into a house at the back of South-shed Guard, by which a child was killed, and a man

and two women wounded :—The man is in so dangerous a way, that his life is dispaired of. I cannot close this account without informing you, that the mother of the above child was killed on the 28th of April, by the fire of the gun boats, and that the husband is almost disconsolate for their loss.

29th. This day two soldiers were executed at the White Convent for plunder. The town guards, by order of the Governor, marched past, while they were hanging.

30th. This day another soldier was executed for the same crime. The General is a very humane man, but cannot overlook so great an infringement of martial law. It is amazing that men should sport away their existence for the gratification of their sensual appetites, as the crimes for which they all suffered, was for plundering the King's stores of provisions and liquor. I hope that these examples will be sufficient to deter the unthinking part from committing the same acts.

The enemy's fire is not so brisk, as at the first; they are pretty moderate during the day, but at night play very freely :