

It is asserted they don't fire above sixteen or eighteen hundred' rounds per diem. Since my last the following officers have been wounded :

Lieutenant Willington, Royal Artillery,

• Lieutenants Lowe and Thorton, of the 12th.

• And Captain Foulis, of the 73d regiment.

N. B. Lieutenant Cunnyingham, of the 39th regiment, died of his wounds the 6th instant.

We are in continual expectation of being stormed by the enemy, but we begin to be so inured to dangers, that the sound of it is no more regarded than an old tale. Wishing you every joy, peace, and contentment, I subscribe myself

Yours affectionately.

LETTER XXI.

Gibraltar, June 1, 1781.

Hon. Father,

IT is all the pleasure I have to write to you and receive your answers. The

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enemy keep their usual warm fire on the garrison, and we are hourly waiting their assault. You are far out of the reach of danger, you may sleep contented, nor dread a vigorous fire of thirteen inch shells, and twenty-five pound shot, which here we are continually supplied and entertained with. I assure you the Dons, in this respect, evince a martial taste, and are beyond belief liberal.

Yesterday evening we made a prize of a Neapolitan brig. Our batteries fired at her, which obliged her to come in, she having received several shot. She is laden with flour, consigned to the enemy: We brought her into the New-mole.

This morning, at two o'clock, the Spanish gun and mortar boats came over, and fired upwards of three hundred rounds, and then retired; two soldiers were wounded, but not dangerously; they damaged several of the huts: We fired a number of shells which burst in the air over them. It is conjectured they must have suffered considerably.— On the land side, the enemy fired excessive hard all the night, such repeated volleys that it was impossible distinctly to tell.

tell how many guns were discharged each time ; they have greatly shattered our works, but they cannot abate our spirits. Courage is the Briton's prerogative.

GARRISON ORDERS.

" Provisions as usual, except that for one pound of beef, three quarters of a pound of cheese will be issued weekly."

4th. This morning the royal standard was hoisted on the flag-staff, and at noon we gave the enemy a Royal Salute with shot, in honour of his Majesty's birth-day. The Spanish working parties were busily employed on the isthmus, strengthening and repairing their works.

9th. This morning, a magazine belonging to the enemy on the rising ground under the Queen's Chair, took fire, consisting of ready prepared shells : There was a great explosion, and it is computed near five thousand shells were destroyed, besides many lives lost. It is incredible to believe the joy and transport exhibited by the British soldiery, while death mingled with the enemy.

11th.

11th. This morning a boat, under flag of truce, came over from Algaziras, to enquire the cause of our firing at a neutral vessel yesterday. It is currently reported that the General returned a British answer, "That they must either keep out of the reach of his guns, or bring to, if required." The enemy made another sea attack with their gun and mortar boats, but received a smart repulse. I believe they did not relish our play, as we gave them a plentiful distribution of shells, which burst over their heads. Not any damage done on shore.

13th. This forenoon a flag of truce brought over the women and children that were taken by the enemy, in the ships that sailed from hence the 20th of April. They have detained the crews in order that they may have the less opposition when they make their attack.

GARRISON ORDERS.

15th. *"Provisions from Monday next, the 18th of June, till further orders.*

Seven pounds of bread, four ditto of which will be soft, and three ditto of biscuit; one pound

pound and half beef, one pound pork, twelve ounces cheese, six ounces butter, quarter pint of oil, four pints of pease, and three pints of oat-meal, per week."

25th. This morning the enemy's gun and mortar boats, discharged about two hundred and fifty rounds, without effecting any other damage, than blowing up several huts and tents. The batteries most convenient to annoy them, played very briskly.

26th. Wind E. Last night sailed a ship with several invalids, under the care of Captain Colt, 12th regiment, for England. The enemy it is imagined, did not perceive her going out.

The Neapolitan, mentioned the first of June, was condemned here as a lawful prize, and agents are accordingly appointed until his Majesty's pleasure is known.

GARRISON ORDERS.

30th. *"The same quantity and species of provision to be issued next month, as last."*

The enemy keep at work—they seem to be extending a branch towards the
West

West shore. They continue the siege by land, with as much fury as ever. Admiral Barcello occupies his old station, and views with pleasure, the excursions of his gun boats. We are very busily employed every night, repairing the damages done by their shot and shells. We have not had an officer wounded this month, but several non-commissioned officers and men killed and wounded.

I am, honor'd Father,

Affectionately yours.

LETTER XXII.

Gibraltar, July 3d, 1781.

Hon. Father,

THE enemy continue vigorously to bombard the garrison—They are making some additional fortification on the isthmus, either to shelter themselves, or to annoy us in a greater degree.—Their military force does not appear to have received any reinforcement—We observe every night several detachments marching

marching down to the lines, which we conjecture are to relieve the different guards and artillery parties.

Yesterday afternoon, about fifteen or sixteen sail of small craft arrived from the Westward at Orange Grove.

We kept up a very hot fire last night upon the enemy's Mill-battery, chiefly small shells. Several carts, and a large body of men having been observed passing the West angle of St. Phillipe, just at the close of the evening, which we apprehended were for the execution of some work on the isthmus.

9th. The enemy's gun and mortar boats came over and discharged very briskly several rounds of shot and shell. They did not stay near their usual time, which makes us imagine they have suffered from our bursting the shells over their heads.

13th. Wind W. Arrived a xebec at Algaziras. The small craft that anchored at Orange Grove the 3d instant have been landing either stores or provisions ever since: This morning they removed to Algaziras.

Last night we had several men killed and wounded by the enemy's land fire.

15th. This morning a xebec and several gallies stood to the East, two small sail having been observed there, waiting the change ~~of the~~ wind. It is not improbable but they are vessels with supplies, bound from Tetuan to the garrison.

17th. Wind E. The xebec and cruizers have returned without success, to Cabritta, where they have anchored to keep a look out to the East.

Last night a vessel sailed from here, bound to England with dispatches, mentioning all is well. The enemy's land fire is very slack, only now and then a few shot in the day—at night their discharge is mostly shells.

20th. This morning two gallies brought into Algaziras a large settee, Aicki Hamet, a Moorish butcher, says, she is laden with cattle from Faro. This will be a great loss to the garrison, as we have not received a supply of fresh meat for some time, and there being very few cattle at present in the place. The fresh provision, which is sold now, is pork, and that is very indifferent and scarce, being fed on the filth of the place, eight rials per pound, about three shillings and three pence sterling.

23^d. Very little fire from the enemy by land these six days—they seem to be repairing their works, and we are as attentively employed upon our own. Towards the Bay all is quiet.

28th. The enemy have again roused -- yesterday and to-day they fire incessantly. Our batteries made but a trifling return, as it is almost madness to fire at their works, they being so thickly covered with sand, that our shot finds very little penetration.

30th. The enemy continue firing, and seem determined if possible, to batter down all our works—their gun and mortar boats again visited us, without effecting any damage. We are really in a dismal situation—between the land and sea fire, we scarce dare close our eyes. On your part you must not expect correct letters; the hurry of the times, the noise of mortars, howitzers, cannon and the bursting of shells render the mind so confused, that it would be a task; let it suffice that I am alive: that shot and shells are my near companions; that smoke, and wounded brother soldiers are constantly in view; that we have heavy duty, hard watchings, and little rest;

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that our comforts are groans; that our nightly repose is turned to harrassing alarms; that our pastimes are destruction; that every hour, we or the enemy are inventing some horrid stratagem; and that next we behold each other plunged thereby into the most excruciating anguish.

Such, honor'd Father, are Gibraltar exhibitions, and perhaps while you are reading this, and feel a sensible pang at your heart for my situation, I may be performing my part with convulsive struggles in this tragical scene.

You will think I indulge a brood of melancholy reflections, but believe me, I am as chearful as the God of mirth! amidst camps, martial sounds and all the din of war, I find complacency in a resignation to the will of God. If death attends, I hope to receive my fate with christian fortitude, and meet honour with expanded arms. With the fullest sense of filial affection, I subscribe myself,

Sincerely yours

LETTER XXIII.

*Gibraltar, Aug. 1st, 1781.**Hon. Father,*

NOTHING material has taken place on the isthmus;—the enemy are very attentive to the siege, and keep up a well directed and regular fire. We lost several men yesterday afternoon, by the fire from the Black Battery.

Gentle breezes at W. Last night the gun and mortar boats, arranged in two separate divisions, briskly poured into the garrison about two hundred rounds of shot and shells. Our batteries, together with the Repulse and Vanguard (which are anchored off the New Mole-head) gave them a generous return:—So brisk was the fire, that the Bay appeared like a blaze during the whole time.

3d. Wind W. This morning a boat standing for the Rock, was taken by the enemy's cruizers, and conducted over the way. We could not give her any assistance, she being near two leagues distance.

5th The enemy keep busy at work during the intervals our firing ceases,
and

and having greatly strengthened their advanced approaches. From their proceedings we are almost positive they have other works in contemplation. On our side we have began forming some additional * embrazures on the hills.

GARRISON ORDERS.

"The ration of provisions as last week, except that no oil will be issued till further orders, and half a pound of cheese will be delivered for the four ounces of butter, in lieu of the quarter of a pint of oil.

The ration now stands thus per week.

Bread as usual, one pound and half of beef, one ditto of pork, six ounces of butter, ten ounces of cheese, four pints pease, three ditto oatmeal."

6th. This forenoon a sail appeared in the Offing, with little wind at West. The Spanish watch towers hung out the signal of an enemy's appearance—Eighteen sail of gun boats rowed out from Algaziras, and when she had come within two leagues of the garrison, it fell a dead calm, and the enemy raked her fore and

* Holes in a battery through which the cannon are pointed.

and aft showering grape both upon her starboard and larboard quarter. She plyed her guns briskly, and I believe, would have been inevitably taken, had not Captain Curtis, naval commander, ordered the two gun boats, viz. the Vanguard and Repulse, the former of six, and the latter of five guns, to be towed by the men of war's boats, towards the enemy, which they performed in a gallant and undaunted manner, notwithstanding the Spanish gun boats directed their fire among them—When they had got within reach, the Repulse discharged her guns, and as soon as the Van Guard came up, she did the same, which prevented the enemy from boarding the vessel. A xebec, cutter, and several double gallies co-operated and poured in a heavy fire, but could not cut her off from the garrison. Her sails we could plainly perceive, were so greatly torn with grape, that when the breze sprang up, she could make but little way, but our boats having got a rope from her, they towed her under the walls. She proves to be the Helena sloop, in sixteen days from Portsmouth. Her main-mast was shot through with a twenty-six pound ball.

ball; the boatswain was killed, and one of the crew wounded: Such a warm engagement was never known in sight of the garrison, and we concluded that every soul on board must have been killed or wounded:—But Britons are brave, nor could the numerous swarm of cruizers the least dishearten the Captain, nor dispirit the noble crew, who were determined, rather than yield to Spanish power, to perish every man. When she had come near enough for the garrison to cheer (who in crowds had taken possession of the walls and heights as spectators) an incessant shouting ensued, and huzzas that re-echoed from the rock and skies.

Such instances as these must convince the enemy that the spirit of Britons is unparalleled, and that no superiority of power will make them yield. It must greatly cool their courage, and dispossess them of all hope of taking Gibraltar.

Thus Albion's sons defy the hostile foe—
 Dare ever to be free and spurn at danger:
 From shore to shore they steer with conqu'ring arms!
 With Britain's royal ensigns spread abroad;
 On which the wond'ring nations, gaze with pleasure,
 While George's enemies are struck with dread—
 Ye hectoring Dons, the British standard view,
 That bids defiance to your fleets and armies;

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Nor let ambition lead you on to woe,
But stop! before we work your overthrow.

10th. Wind E. Last night a fettee from Minorca bound to the garrison with supplies, was taken off Europa, by the Spanish cruizers. The crew had just time, before she was boarded, to make their escape. The enemy keep a tolerable brisk fire, and we continue to annoy them from our batteries on the hill.

16th. Last night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, the enemy's gun and mortar boats made an attack upon the southward—The garrison and shipping returned the fire, but unfortunately, during the action, we had the loss of one man killed and three wounded.

17th. Wind W. During the course of the night, a schooner got safe in from Faro, with sundry supplies. They bring an account that the enemy are busy at Cadiz, in equipping an armament to act against this place, and are hourly in expectation of being reinforced with a French squadron.

19th. Last night several guns were distinctly heard in the Gut, from nine to eleven o'clock, which proved to be

the enemy in chase of the Kite cutter, from Gravesend, arrived here safe this morning. She has brought dispatches for our Governor.

23d. The enemy are diligently employed in lengthening their approaches on the isthmus. Several strong parties frequently appear, which we as regularly fire upon—From their Black Battery, forts St. Phillipe, Barbary, and lines, they keep a hot and severe cannonade and bombardment—two soldiers killed this day.

28th. Last night, there being a smooth sea, the Spanish gun and mortar boats came over from Algaziras, and fired very briskly for the space of two hours and upwards. The garrison, shipping, and two advanced gun boats or prams, made a very good return, but all ineffectual to prevent their annoyance.—A shell unfortunately fell into the artillery ward at Naval Hospital, and killed a matross, who was incapable of getting out of bed, owing to having his leg and thigh broke by the enemy's fire some time past, of which he daily languished. The shell dropped by the side of his cradle, spitting forth it sulphurous venom, and in that

that tormenting situation he was compelled to remain and wait the mercy of the explosion. You may judge what must be his feeling in that predicament, without friends, help, or strength to make his escape from so irresistible a foe :

The inexpressible agonies he must have experienced during the short interval of life, certainly were beyond the power of utterance, or delineations of a pen to give a just description : After having uttered a few ejaculations to heaven, the unmerciful demon burst in pieces, and extinguished those sparks of life that were unexpired in the wounded man.

30th. Nothing extraordinary this month from the land or sea; every thing is perfectly quiet in respect to storming us. The Spanish batteries continue their usual fire, both from their lines and isthmus. We expect every westerly wind to behold the grand armament appear in the offing from Cadiz, to give the decisive blow.—General Elliott has made every possible arrangement of ordnance, for a determined opposition, and, I hope, whenever the trial comes, that our arms will be crowned with victorious success.

I am, honor'd Father, yours, &c.

LETTER XXIV.

*Gibraltar, Sept. 1, 1781.**Hon. Father,*

DEATH and slaughter continue to be our visitants---on every hand impending ruin hourly awaits. The Spaniards keep up their usual fire upon us, seemingly studiously meditating our overthrow: not only the garrison of Gibraltar, but also the island of Minorca, has excited their attention. From this it is evident they are aiming at clearing the Mediterranean of his Britannic Majesty's land and sea forces, but it is hoped that their endeavours to effect their purposes will fall short of the desired success.

5th. This forenoon a Spanish cartel brought over the patron of the boat taken the third of August last, from whom we learn, that the French have landed an army on the island of Minorca, with an intent to work the reduction of that place, and it is currently reported in Spain, that the Duc de Crillon had commenced a bombardment there. Several wounded invalids were embarked on ship-

ship-board by order of the Governor, on their passage for England, the 3d instant.

The enemy are very busy on the isthmus employed at work, forwarding their labours---The tracks of several carts have been discovered on the sand, between the lines and Mill-battery, so that we imagine they were either bringing ordnance or materials for their batteries.

7th. Arrived from the eastward, a xebec and two gallies, they have anchored on the opposite side. The enemy's fire continues. Three men wounded this afternoon, by the explosion of a shell.

12th. This morning the Spanish squadron was dressed out with variety of colours, and at noon the forts, lines, and Black-battery, gave us a salute of twenty-seven guns with shot. The troops in camp were arranged in line, and fired a feu de joye, which they repeated three times, together with the shipping at Al-gaziras. We cannot imagine the cause of this rejoicing, as it is not one of their Saint's days.

16th. Wind E. The invalids that were embarked under the care of Lieutenant

tenant Lowe of the 12th regiment, failed last night to the Westward.

The enemy continue a brisk cannonade---We return the fire but moderately.

18th. Last night the Spanish gun and mortar boats stole over, and fired upwards of three hundred rounds of shot and shell---The garrison and shipping kept up an incessant discharge of ordnance, but unluckily, during the action we had four men wounded.

Some time in the course of the night, a carcass fired from Willis's, upon the works on the isthmus, set them on fire, which burnt for near an hour---We took this opportunity of making a furious return, which the enemy particularly acknowledged.

We discovered this morning, a new work, West side of St. Carlos, extended towards the shore. It is not sufficiently executed to form a judgment of the construction.

A xebec and several cruizers failed this morning from Algaziras to the Eastward, where they are observed cruizing backwards and forwards, in expectation of meeting some prey.

19th. Between nine and ten o'clock last

last night, a shell fired from St. Carlos, entered a house, leading down from South-line-wall Guard, where Majors Mercier and Vignoles, of the 39th regiment, and Captain Burke of the 58th regiment (Town-Major of the garrison) were sitting at a table, which fell upon the latter's thighs, and smashed them. The rubbish which dropped from the ceiling, wounded the two Majors, and extinguished the candle, so that all the light they had was from the fuze of the shell. Major Vignoles having put his hand over the table, found Capt. Burke in a gore of blood, upon which he exclaimed to the other, "Oh! Burke's killed." They then as hastily as they could, owing to their wounds, and being in the dark, retreated to the door, which they had scarce accomplished, when the shell burst, and tossed the Town-Major from the place where he had fallen, to another part of the room, part of his flesh was blown up to the ceiling, and the walls besprinkled with his blood. In this mangled situation he was taken up, and carried to the Naval Hospital, where he shortly after expired. As the men were carrying him, he entreated in

a languid tone, which indicated to a speedy dissolution, that they would kill him, and put an end to his misery.

You will pardon me if I just draw the outlines of so worthy a character.

As an officer he was bold and vigilant—enterprising and well-disciplined. In his station he was active and severe, ever attentive to the good of the service, he strictly took cognizance of all neglects and irregularities that came to his knowledge, and brought several to condign punishment, as public examples. To do justice to his eminent abilities, my talents are far inadequate, I shall therefore leave it to some more able pen, who were intimate with him, and knew his private as well as public virtues. All I have to remark is, that he is a loss to society, to his country in general, and to this garrison in particular.

While the attendants strove to bind his wounds,
He patient gaz'd around with quiv'ring eyes,
Till wearied nature, sinking with her load,
Resisted—struggled—worn out with th' encounter,
Resign'd her charge unto the tyrant death;
His soul unfetter'd, unincumber'd fled,
To the blest mansions of eternal peace.

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The enemy kept up a brisk fire, which was as spiritedly returned by our batteries, and when the above intelligence had reached the several posts, revenge operated so powerfully that our cannonade continued till the morning, very hot. We had several men wounded during the night.

Sailed the Helena sloop, and Kite cutter, to the westward.

This day between eleven and one o'clock, a soldier was executed for theft. He died seemingly sensible of his situation.

GARRISON ORDERS.

" Captain James Foulis of the 73d regiment, is appointed Town-Major, vice Major Burke deceased."

This day we had several men killed from the land fire—the enemy continue briskly at work, on the West side of St. Carlos.

GARRISON ORDERS.

21st. *" The ration of provisions from Monday the 24th instant, seven pounds of bread,*
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and half ditto beef, one ditto pork six ounces butter, twelve ditto cheese (in lieu of one pound of beef) three pints of oatmeal, three ditto pease, one and quarter ditto wheat, in lieu of one pint of pease."

24th. Last night the enemy's gun and mortar boats came over and fired near three hundred rounds, but mostly shells—they did not do any considerable damage to the southward. Our prams discovered them pretty early, and made a very free return;—the firing from the garrison at them, was chiefly from the New-mole and South-bastion—We took the advantage to fire during their stay, into their camp, from the bottom of the Devil's-tongue. The enemy from the land side, keep up the bombardment and cannonade, and are attentively employed at work on the isthmus, in strengthening and advancing their lines of approach.

25th. Wind W. Arrived the Flying Fish cutter from England. A xebec chased her under the garrison guns, and exchanged several shot with her, but could not prevent her from entering the port. During the course of the night
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the merlons, that have been heightened, of fort Barbara, took fire, which occasioned the garrison to pour in a great quantity of shot and shells.

A few small vessels arrived at the Orange Grove—It is likely they have brought provision for the Spanish camp, as their army must cause a great consumption in the province of Andalusia, which at best, is but poor and badly supplied with cattle.

20th. The enemy have not ceased firing these five days, but have kept up a regular and determined cannonade: They have not killed or wounded many, tho' a person would think it impossible for a bird to escape amidst such showers of shot. On the sea side all is quiet, nor has any shipping of force appeared either from East or West to molest us. The enemy are very tedious in commencing the storm, and really our expectation begins to tire. They have bombarded us now near six months, and General Alvarez is as far from taking possession of the garrison, as he was at first, although they have discharged from their batteries, according to the nearest calculation, between thirty and forty thousand rounds

of shot and shells. He may view the Rock with his perspective, from the camp of St. Roque, but if he wishes to examine the workmanship of the walls, and the strength of the fortification, he must come much nearer, or return without the gratification of his curiosity.

I remain, honor'd Father,

Affectionately yours.

LETTER XXV.

Gibraltar, Oct. 5th, 1781.

Hon. Father,

EVERY thing remains much in the same situation as when I finished my last letter. Admiral Barcello and his Squadron occupy the port of Algaziras, from whence now and then, a xebec or galley will occasionally push out, merely to command respect. We have not observed a signal on the Spanish towers at Cabritta a long time, but we expect whenever the naval armament sails from Cadiz harbour, it will be immediately noised along the coast. The common salutation

tion of each morning is, " Which way do the wind blow ?" So anxious is every one to receive the foe.

GARRISON ORDERS.

" Full allowance of beef will be issued. The Governor allows each man a pint of vinegar per week, till further orders, those in the hospital not included, as they are supplied with the quantity necessary by the Director; eight ounces of cheese in lieu of four ounces of butter as usual."

7th. Very little wind at W. Last night the gun and mortar boats came over, and fired excessive brisk upon the southward: the garrison and shipping returned the same, but the enemy did not do any damage on shore. We fired several shells into their camp from Oldmole Head. The enemy keep working on the isthmus, and maintain the cannonade with fury.

10th. This day the enemy fired upon us with great warmth, which was as freely returned by the batteries upon the hill. Unfortunately during the time, a shell which burst, killed Ensign Stevens of the 39th regiment—Several men were wounded by the splinters of shells.

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The Flying Fish cutter which arrived here the 25th of September, failed unperceived by the enemy.

11th. This day the enemy's line of battle ships sailed to the westward. From this circumstance, we conclude, that the fleet equipping at Cadiz, is destined to act against some other place, or there could not be any necessity to remove those ships from this station. On the land side the enemy keep up the fire, and this day it is reported, an additional mortar was mounted in St. Carlos. We fired very hot on their advanced works.

17th. The enemy yesterday afternoon, had some artillery practice in their camp, but we could not particularly make out the meaning, as we could only observe some smoke, and hear the report of the ordnance. On the isthmus several working parties have appeared, which we continue to fire upon.

20th. This day a hot cannonade was kept up on both sides for many hours—Lieutenant Tinlin, Assistant Engineer, and four soldiers were wounded thereby. Our fire, apparently, put the enemy frequently in confusion, and several men were

were seen, carrying on bearers along the shore, towards the camp.

21st. This day there was a general change of quarters with the soldiery—Those regiments quartered in town, marched and took possession of the southward encampments, and the others marched for the town district. Arrived a xebec from the West at Algaziras. The enemy as usual keep up the fire.

22d. This morning we discovered the enemy had finished a battery of six embrasures from Mill-Tower, towards the West strand; which they began on the 18th of September. It faces the Old-mole and Waterport, and is constructed on purpose for the annoyance of those posts. We fired very warm upon it from Montague's bastion, and the upper batteries.

23d. Last night two soldiers deserted from us to the enemy; they cannot carry any intelligence that will prove prejudicial to the welfare of the garrison.

About two this afternoon, a great firing was heard in the Gut—the Spanish towers had a red flag hoisted, and several gallies pushed from Algaziras to the westward.—We fear some unfortunate vessel

vessel destined for this place, has fell into the enemy's clutches.

24th. This day we had the pleasure to set the enemy's new work on fire, by howitzer shells from Montague's bastion, which occasioned the enemy to redouble their firing from the forts and lines--- With much difficulty, danger, and loss, they got the fire extinguished. On our side we had some few wounded.

25th. Last night the enemy covered the embrazures of their new battery with sand and fascines; from this it is evident that the platforms for the cannon are not laid; it will therefore be some days before they can have them mounted for action. We give them a plentiful discharge of small shells, which must prove very disadvantageous to them in their proceedings.

A report is now received from the batteries, that a Spanish officer (as they could plainly perceive his uniform) was knocked off the Mill-battery, as he was standing upon the glacis, taking an observation of our works. There is not any doubt but he was an engineer, which will be a loss to the enemy, as they have some

some of the most celebrated for fortification now in their service.

26th. A heavy fire all night from the Black Battery, forts, and lines. This day Lieutenant Vicars of the 56th regiment, received a wound. The gallies that sailed from the west the 22d instant, have returned to their old station.

30th. Wind W. About eleven this forenoon, a sail appeared standing for the Bay. Two Spanish cruizers under Ape's Hill fired a signal gun, upon which eleven gun boats sallied out from Algaziras. When they came up with her, she opened her ports, and discharged several rounds of grape, and continued firing till she came pretty near Europa, where they enemy boarded her, and carried her off in triumph. She was an English cutter, and fought well, nor, according to opinion, would she have been captured had not the wind dropped. The enemy keep up a spirited fire from the land side.

31st. Last night arrived with a fresh breeze at West, the Unicorn cutter, and four other vessels from Faro, laden with fruit and poultry, a very seasonable and excellent supply, as the garrison are very

much necessitated for vegetables, fruit, and fresh diet. The New-mole wharf, this morning, was quite crowded, every one being anxious to buy something, although the articles sold at an exorbitant rate; onions sold for six rials per pound, two shillings and five-pence farthing, and oranges and lemons one rial eight quarts each, seven pence halfpenny sterling, the poultry at the usual prices, viz. three dollars and a half for a hen. Common green tea, brought by the Unicorn, sold for fourteen dollars per pound, two pounds five shillings and sixpence, and loaf sugar five dollars, nearly seventeen shillings per pound. This is rare traffic! We hope these times will not last long and a communication be opened, so that supplies may be brought in and sold at a moderate price; or, should they continue, the garrison will, of course, be exhausted of all cash to support nature.

The enemy keep up a constant fire--- Their works on the isthmus are going forward, and their naval and military force remains much the same.

This month finished without any great exploits, or coming to close quarters.

I am honor'd Father, yours, &c.

LETTER XXVI.

*Gibraltar, Nov. 1, 1781.**Hon. Father,*

• **T**HREE days more elapsed without any particular circumstance intervening, nor has the enemy appeared to be so attentive to their labours. The siege is continued by our opponents, who adopt every measure to distress us, notwithstanding which, the British troops apparently, disregard the threatening foe, who thunder forth their vengeance every hour.

The soldiery are very much afflicted with the scurvy, owing to the salt diet, and some of them so bad, that they have lost the entire use of their limbs, and represent the picture of decrepid old age. Our Governor has humanely ordered the Director of the Hospital, to serve out daily to the surgeons of the several corps, one pound of onions for every ten men, and two lemons or oranges for every man in the scurvy. This, it is hoped, will contribute greatly to their cure.

4th. The gun and mortar boats came

over, and discharged all their ammunition upon the garrison, while the land batteries took part in the cannonade. An incessant fire on every side continued for upwards of two hours, during which time, Ensign Edgar of the 56th, and Lieutenant John Frazer of the 73d regiments, were wounded—The latter lost a leg by a shot from the Black Battery; several soldiers also were wounded.

• Nine settees came from the west, and anchored at the Orange Grove—We suppose them to be market boats.

9th Yesterday we fired from the garrison at a Danish dogger that came nearly under the guns, but could not make her come in. On the land side the enemy fired excessively warm, which was answered from Willis's, and the upper batteries. This morning we discovered that the enemy had erected another battery on the isthmus, seemingly fronting our lines—They are determined to have a sufficient number of pieces of ordnance mounted for battering our walls, whereas now they have so many, that a successive discharge keeps up an intermissive fire.

13th. Wind W. Arrived at New Mole, the Phoenix ordnance cutter, with
General

General Ross, passenger. She had a brush with a cruiser at the entrance of the bay, but not of any consequence—Her intelligence is kept very secret.

This forenoon a cutter from the westward was chased by a frigate, and three gallies, but before she could reach the garrison, she was becalmed and boarded: She plied her guns in a spirited manner, but the superiority of power obliged her to yield. The enemy brought her into Algaziras, under her ensign reversed.

A very heavy fire from the land batteries, directed towards the hills and town, during which we had the loss of two men killed and three wounded.

14th. A brisk fire from the lines and forts—The enemy worked very hard last night on the isthmus, and completed the battery they began on the 9th instant. We fired several thirteen inch shells upon them this morning.

16th. This day a shell fired from St. Carlos, fell near George Picardo's vineyard, where it burst, but did not do any damage. A splinter of another, which exploded in the air, struck the south end of the Naval Hospital, which is near four thousand yards; a most incredible distance

tance for pieces of ordnance to reach. The enemy fired very brisk upon our works from all the ordnance they have mounted; they did much damage to Willis's Battery, and wounded Lieutenant Evans, an assistant engineer, though not dangerously.

18th. The enemy continue their long-range shells upon the southward which is of great annoyance. Last night a shell fell under the platform of a tent where two corporals were asleep, when the intollerable fume and stench of the composition awakened them, nor could they imagine from whence the smoke proceeded. They shell lay burning under the boards, when they opened the tent door to let in the air, to prevent being suffocated, at that instant it exploded, and blew them some yards, without receiving any injury, they shortly recovered from their surprize, and turned their eyes to the place where the tent had stood, but the bedding, blankets, tent-poles, &c. could not be seen, they being torn to pieces, and scattered in many places. In this naked situation they began a search for their wearing apparel, but only found the cuff of a coat in

in one place, part of a sleeve in another, and their shoes parched to a cinder. Thus forlorn they began to console each other, when corporal R-ho-n exclaimed, "D—m it, I don't care for the loss of my cloaths, but ~~all~~ my money is gone," he having about fourteen rials in his pocket, when he went to bed.

You probably will imagine that a man who had escaped such imminent danger would not have let his mind be employed about the consideration of worldly pelf; but the military gentlemen being constantly inured to danger, and exposed to an incessant fire, think very little of preservation; for should a man keep death constantly in view, it would dispossess him of every spark of heroism, and incapacitate him for the business of fighting.

21st. Came in two deserters from the enemy's Walloon Guards, one of them is a corporal, and seems to be an intelligent man. He says there are twenty-one thousand men in the camp, waiting the arrival of the naval power, to storm the place. He has given the General a clear and exact description of the works on the isthmus, and the construction of

St. Carlos, together with an account of the strength of their guards and working parties, that are employed daily.

The enemy continue to throw their long* rangers. Last night a shell fell at the door of the barrack on the Mole Parade, where it burst, forced the door open, and broke all the windows—The hand of providence was visible in the discharge of this shell, for had it been a yard more to the left, it must have fell into the barracks, where two companies of soldiers are quartered.

23d. The long rangers still visit the South—one fell in Colonel Cochrane's quarters on Scud-hill, but did not do any damage: Another near the magazine on the Mole Parade, and several into the Mole-yard and within the boom. We keep a constant fire upon their works, but they are so well intrenched that we cannot silence them.

29th. The enemy keep rattling away with guns and mortars, and seemingly take a pleasure in reaching the southward. Several shells have fell this forenoon about South-shed, and Prince of Wales's

* A phrase made use of by the soldiery, for the incredible length the enemy throw their shells.

Wales's Lines. They cannot reach further only when there is a strong northerly wind, which forces the shell with a greater velocity—We fired several times at their working parties on the isthmus.

• This evening the garrison were highly delighted with the general orders---It is whispered, that the information given by the corporal that came in the the 21st instant, has induced the Governor to make a trial of British valour.

GARRISON ORDERS.

“ All the grenadiers and light infantry, and all the men of the 12th, and Hardenberg's regiments, officers and non-commissioned officers, now on duty, to be immediately called in and join their regiments; to form a detachment, consisting of the 12th and Hardenberg's regiments compleat---the grenadiers and light companies of all the other regiments (who are to be compleated to their full establishment from the battalion companies) one captain, three lieutenants, ten non-commissioned officers, and one hundred artillery, three engineers, seven officer overseers, twelve non-commissioned overseers, and one hundred and sixty workmen from the line, excepting from the 12th and Hardenberg's regiments, and forty

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workmen

workmen from the artificer company—Each man is to carry 39 rounds of more, a good flint in his piece, and another in his pocket—No drums, except two with the 12th, and two with Hardenberg's—No swords—the whole to assemble on the Red Sands at twelve o'clock this night—the wine houses to be shut up at six o'clock, and all the soldiers to repair to their quarters—Brigadier Rofs to command the detachment—No volunteers will be allowed—Lieut. Colonels Dackenhause, Hugo, Trigge, and Major Maxwell, to meet the Governor at the Field Officers room, at the South, as soon as possible. The troops intended for the Sortie to be formed as follows :

RIGHT. Lieutenant Colonel Hugo, grenadiers of Reden's and La Mott's, workmen, artillery, Hardenberg's regiment, light company 56th regiment.

CENTRE. Lieutenant Colonel Dackenhause, grenadiers and light company 39th and 73d regiments, workmen, artillery, grenadiers of the 56th and 58th regiments, Major Maxwell.

Left. Lieutenant Colonel Trigge, grenadiers and light infantry 72d regiment, seamen, artillery, 12th regiment, light company of 58th regiment.

27th. This morning at two o'clock, the detachment of officers, non-commissioned officers and men, under the command of Brigadier Ross, marched from the Red Sands, where they had assembled, through Bay-side and Lower Forbes's, to storm the enemy's advanced works--- The word steady, was the countersign. The Spanish centinels posted in the gardens, soon discovered the English troops advancing, upon which they fired their musquets to spread the alarm, and then retreated to St. Carlos. The British army in a spirited and intrepid manner, pushed on, and after some opposition, gained possession of the Spanish works, which struck such a panic to the enemy, that the greatest part stationed to defend the place, fled with consternation to the lines, to make a position of defence, not apprehending so unexpected a visit, while the others fell from the fire of our musquetry. The business now commenced, the workmen and seamen began with their * tomahawks + devils, and warlike

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* Small hatchets, having a sharp point on the back.

+ An inflammable composition bound in small bundles, which after the bands of the fascines are cut, are struck in between the openings.

combustibles, to set the batteries on fire, while the artillery spiked up ten mortars, and eighteen pieces of cannon, during which one of the former happened to go off, and sent a shell to the southward; in a few minutes the ~~flame~~ ^{fire} appeared an entire blaze, and the reflection of the light was so great, that a person might have perused a book upon our batteries. Thus successful, the whole body gave three huzzas, which consequently must sensibly aggravate and vex the foe. We kept up a hot cannonade from the garrison, upon their two forts and Brear-gate, to cover our men, and prevent their falling out. A regiment of horse appeared near fort Barbary, but after they had made several feints to come on, they thought it prudent to retire. The enemy fired upon the detachment with round and grape, but their cannon for want of being sufficiently depressed, had not the desired effect, as most of the shot flew over our people's heads. Our gallant and veteran Governor, accompanied by Captain Curtis, went out to be an eye witness of the transaction:--He had a sword slung over his shoulder, and when the business was fully accomplished, he

he smiled, and said to the men, " Look round, my boys, and view how beautiful the Rock appears, by the light of this glorious fire." Captain Witham of the artillery, then came to him, and with all the gracefulness of a warrior, presented him the keys of the Spanish magazines, which had been taken from the officer commanding St. Carlos. The detachment having done all that men could do, retreated to the garrison, with the satisfaction of destroying in fifteen minutes, a work estimated at one million of dollars, bringing with them prisoners, one sub-lieutenant of Walloon guards, (Baron Helmstat) one sub-lieutenant of artillery, and ten men ; with the small loss on our side of four men killed, one officer (Lieutenant Tweedie, of the 12th regiment, who, received a grape shot in his thigh) two serjeants, and twenty-two men wounded ; and one man missing. The enemy had only recovered their surprize, and beat to arms, when the detachment was repassing of Landport-gate, so that you will say we were expeditious in destruction.

The General expressed the greatest approbation of the officers and men, which you will perceive by the following orders :

"The bravery and conduct of the whole detachment, officers, seamen, and soldiers, on this glorious occasion, surpasses the Governor's utmost acknowledgment."

STRENGTH of the DETACHMENT that made the SORT E.

		Officers	Non-commis. Officers	Drummers	Rank and File
Right. Lt. Colonel Hugo.	Reden's Grenadiers	5	7	0	71
	La Mott's ditto	3	7	0	71
	Workmen & Artillery	5	4	0	50
	Hardenberg's Regimt.	16	34	2	299
	56th Light Infantry	3	3	0	57
Center. Lt. Col Dackenhaußen, Major Maxwell.	39th Grenadiers	3	3	0	57
	39th Light Infantry	3	3	0	57
	Workmen & Artillery	6	8	0	150
	73d Grenadiers	4	5	0	101
	73d Light Infantry	4	5	0	101
	56th Grenadiers	3	3	0	57
	58th ditto	3	3	0	57
Left. Lieut. Col. Trigge.	72d Grenadiers	4	5	0	101
	72d Light Infantry	4	5	0	101
	Seamen	3	10	0	100
	12th Regiment	26	28	2	430
	58th Light Infantry	3	3	0	57
Total		98	136	4	2014

STATE of the GARRISON at the time of the SORTIE.

	Colonels	Lt. Colonels	Majors	Captains	Lieutenants	Ensigns	Chaplains	Adjutants	Quar. Masters	Surgeons	Mates	Serjeants	Drummers and Fifers	Rank and File
Detachment composed the Sortie	1	3	3	32	85	41	0	3	0	0	2	63	14	4102
Sick and wounded	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	82	6	755
Remaining	5	5	5	84	37	13	3	7	8	9	41	772	971	1542
Total of the garrison	6	8	8	27	231	64	3	10	18	9	61	144	981	2205

N. B. Brevet Majors are included as Captains; non-commissioned officers of artillery as serjeants. Forty-one drummers and fifty-one private, of what remained in the garrison, were boys.

(192)

CASUALS in the different Corps in the before-mentioned SOR TIE.

CORPS.	Killed				Wounded			
	Officers	Serjeants	Drummers	Rank & file	Officers	Serjeants	Drummers	Rank & file
R. Artillery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
12th Regiment	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
39th —	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
56th —	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
58th —	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
72d —	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
73d —	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Hardenberg's	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0
Reden's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
La Mott's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Artificer comp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Seamen	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Total	0	0	0	4	1	2	0	22

28th. The enemy's works burnt very furiously all yesterday afternoon and evening, and are still on fire. The last night, fired very warm with grape shot, on the isthmus, supposing we were again advancing, until a shell discharged from the upper batteries on St. Carlos, convinced them that we had not any men there. A large body of men yesterday evening marched from their camp to the lines, to reinforce the different posts, apprehending we should pay them a visit in that quarter.

GARRISON ORDERS.

"The Adjutant General having laid before the Governor the following note from Brigadier General Ross, he is pleased to direct that the same shall be inserted in the orders of the day.

"Brigadier Ross begs of the Adjutant-General that he would mention to the Governor his most humble request, that his Excellency would be pleased to accept of the Brigadier's warmest acknowledgments of the great honor conferred on him, by commanding the detachment that formed the sortie. To the officers, and every one of whom, he would wish to make the most public avowal of their firm good behaviour upon this occasion."

30th. The enemy yesterday and to-day have been viewing the ruins of their late works, and with penitential tears, moaning their irretrievable loss, and endless disgrace. We keep up a smart fire at present, and it is asserted, that it will be continued to prevent the enemy from repairing the damage their batteries have received. General Alvarez, there is not any doubt, will study mischief in retaliation, and exert all his intellectual faculties in the promotion of plans, projects, stratagems and inventions, to gain revenge ; but while success smiles upon our arms, and glory sounds from shore to shore, the transporting melody inspires with desperate animation, and invigorates the warrior's zeal to such a degree, that fleets, armies, camps, garrisons, forts, batteries and intrenchments, with all the hostile pomp and threatnings of the foe, are disregarded, and stamped with contempt.

I am, honor'd Father,

With the greatest affection yours, &c

LETTER

L E T T E R • XXVII.

*Gibraltar, Dec. 1, 1781.**Hon. Father,*

THE enemy have not began repairing their late approaches, but seemingly intend it, as several parties unarmed frequently make their appearance.— They return a spirited fire from their lines and forts, but their isthmus bombardment, alas! is over.

7th. Wind S. W. This day, an English cutter was captured, by the enemy's gun boats, after an hour's spirited fire on both sides. She crowded all the sail she possibly could, but the wind having dropped almost to a calm, the garrison and shipping were incapable of assisting her.

9th. Wind E. This forenoon two frigates (one French and one Spanish) arrived from the eastward at Algaziras; and this afternoon about a dozen large settees arrived at the Orange Grove. The enemy have done nothing particular on the isthmus.

11th. This morning we perceived

the Spaniards had begun repairing the ruins of St. Carlos, and that several parties were busily employed. We accordingly discharged a considerable quantity of grage shot and small shells upon them which made them desist from their labour:

A small sloop was this forenoon taken off Tarifa, by a galley and three gunboats. It is likely that she was bound for this place.

16th. Wind N. E. Yesterday evening sailed from hence the Phoenix and Unicorn cutters, bound for England—The enemy either did not observe them, or otherwise did not think them worth the pursuit.

17th. The Spaniards occasionally labour at repairing their works, but as soon as they observe the flash of our ordnance, they immediately get under cover, but we endeavour to annoy them with our small shells, which drop into their works, and then burst—These consequently must be fatal to them, as their traverses were all consumed, together with the gabions and fascines of all their advanced works.

20th. Wind W. During the course of the night, two English vessels arrived with supplies of butter, potatoes and beef.