

beef, from Portsmouth, having had a passage of twenty days. They bring intelligence that the day before they left Faro, they heard the account of the victorious fall from the garrison, papers having been received there, upon the interesting subject.

Several bundles of fascines were brought from the lines to the isthmus last night, and the sand thrown up in many places. The enemy apparently have forgot their defeat, and that they ever had erected advanced works; or surely the recollection would prevent them from any further attempt to construct others in their place.

21st. Last night, it being a brisk lavender, Major General Ross (appointed to that rank by his Majesty's command, and declared in the garrison orders of yesterday) sailed from hence on his passage to Portugal, from whence he will take shipping for England, where there is not the least doubt but he will be received with eclat, and every mark of approbation, from a rewarding nation, for his bravery and singular service on the 27th of last November.

The Spaniards are very busy on the
isthmus,

isthmus, and have repaired a great part of the ruins of their late works:—They seem determined on their re-construction, notwithstanding our heavy and spirited fire from Willis's and the upper batteries. The Black Battery and fort St. Phillipè, kept up an incessant cannonade all this morning upon the garrison.

22d. Wind E. Arrived a frigate, sloop, cutter, and several xebecs from the eastward, and anchored between Orange Grove and Algaziras. A settee was taken off Ceuta point, by a galley, and carried in there.

24th. Wind W. N. W. Passed by a convoy of neutrals, in all about thirty sail—The enemy hoisted a signal at Cabritta, not knowing who they were, upon which a xebec went out and spoke to them.

29th. This morning early, died in the naval hospital, Baron Helmstat, taken prisoner at St. Carlos, on the 27th of last month, and who since had a leg amputated, owing to a wound he received by a musquet ball in that action. The corpse was dressed in full uniform, according to the Spanish custom, and the General and principal officers, walked

in solemn procession, to the New-mole, where a flag of truce waited to convey the body to the Orange Grove: A band of music playing a dirge, and a company of grenadiers, escorted the decorated bier to the water's edge, and upon the corpse being lowered into the boat, the latter fired three vollies in honor of the deceased. The coffin had all that art and ingenuity could invent, to render it elegant, which must sensibly please the enemy when they consider the respect paid by the Governor to this fallen officer. He was young, handsome, and on the point of nuptial celebration with a beautiful lady, born in the province of Andalusia, and who during his sickness, had furnished him daily (by flags of truce) with wine and other refreshing diet which this garrison could not afford; but the day before his departure, she came half-bay over, hearing of his dangerous situation, to visit him, and take her last adieu! but the Adjutant General who went out to receive the flag of truce, assured her she could not be permitted to land until the Governor's pleasure was known, and that the next day he would wait upon her with his Excellency's commands; instead

of which she received the lifeless trunk of him on whom her every wish and happiness was founded.

30th. The enemy are diligently repairing the works on the isthmus—a shell fired from Willis's, this day, fell among a party of their workmen, about fifty, or sixty in number, which we have the greatest reason to believe, did considerable mischief. The Spanish forts and lines continue the cannonade and bombardment. One soldier killed and two wounded this day, by the explosion of a shell.

31st. A brisk fire on both sides continues, and the enemy keep constantly at work. A strong party are employed near the Center-stone Guard-house, erecting a battery. The naval force remains quiet, nor have we been troubled with the gun and mortar boats for some time past.

This year has finished without giving the decisive stroke, though it has been successful on our part, and crowned our arms with glory and conquest. I hope that in the next we shall be equally victorious,

torious, and convince the enemy, that Britons scorn controul.

I remain, honor'd Father,

Affectionately yours.

LETTER XXVIII.

Gibraltar, Jan. 1st, 1782.

Hon. Father,

AS all my letters are intended for your information, I shall endeavour as far as I am able, to give you a description of this envied and battered Rock, which has excited the whole attention of Spain and France.

Gibraltar is in 36 degrees and 7 min. north latitude, it projects into the sea, and is in length near a league from north to south, in breadth irregular from half to three quarters of a mile, its head is frequently hid in the clouds. The summit of the rock is about 1400 feet perpendicular above the sea. It is joined to the continent by a neck of low and deep sand of the same breadth as the Rock
C c itself,

itself, but which widens considerably towards the Spanish lines. This isthmus is near a league in length, and with the opposite coast of Spain, forms a noble and safe bay eight miles over. The hill is such an irregular form, that when you are near it you cannot view the whole from any one part. Its head clearly faces the East, from thence to the Moorish-castle it fronts the North, forward as far as the Signal-house, the North-west, it then takes a turn and continues to Europa-point, due South. On account of this oblique situation when you approach the town from the inundation you can see no further of the rock than the Moorish-castle, and even in town your sight is bounded by the old Moorish-wall [called by some Charles the fifth's.] After you have passed Southport-gate, and got upon the Red-sands, the town is hid from you, and all the hill to the North of the Signal-house. The back of the hill is scalped and inaccessible, and this particular circumstance forms its chief strength. The head of the rock is almost perpendicular, and composed of white stone which is burnt for lime. The batteries facing the isthmus are very strong and snug, which

which are carried on from the summit of the rock, to the water's edge at the Old Mole, the extremity of which the Spaniards term una Bocca de Fuego. The remains of the Moorish castle are close to the batteries, at which place is the entrance into the lines; above the lines is Willis's and the upper batteries. Under the castle are two batteries near Crouchet's house and garden, lower down and almost level with the water is the Grand Battery, under which is Landport. Above the ruins of the town appears the walls of the Army-hospital from which you have a view of the remains of Bethlehem-barracks, formerly a Nunnery, the White Cloisters where the Commissioners of the Navy used to reside, formerly a monastery, and St. Francis, where the Governor resides: The building, before the enemy fired, was plain, more convenient than elegant, but pleasantly situated near the bay, with a garden adjoining. The British church is adjacent to this building, but now divine service is performed on the South Parade, on account of the enemy's fire. The Spanish church for the performance of the Roman Catholic religion, was near the Grand Parade in the

Green Market, the walls of which are yet standing. The inhabitants and soldiers repair to church by beat of a drum. Near Southport stands, the King's-yard, Grand-store, and Victualling-office, which notwithstanding the enemy's bombardment, has not sustained any considerable injury. Above South-port on the outside of the gate, is the citadel. The garrison is bounded by strong walls, and several well-executed batteries, particularly the King's, South, Montague's Bastion, and Grand Battery. The King's Bastion is able to contain one thousand men, being bomb proof, and is of a noble construction, planned by General Boyde, when Governor of the garrison.

The entrance to the garrison from the isthmus, is so narrow, that it is impossible to march an army more than six men a breast; and which passage is * undermined, so that if necessity should require it, to be charged with barrels of powder, and sprung, the besiegers would suffer considerably, and be thrown into the greatest confusion. There are several
pieces

* A mine is a hole dug, to be filled with powder to blow it up, but this is built of brick and arched over, so that the explosion would be the greater

pieces of cannon directed upon this path, loaded with grape shot, which would scour the whole length, and cut off the assailants as fast as they advanced. The cannon placed at the Old Mole-head, being level with the water, would sweep the whole isthmus ; besides other pieces of ordnance placed in advantageous situations for the purpose of flanking. †

The principal buildings to the south ward are, the Naval Hospital, now occupied by the sick soldiery and seamen ; the Barracks for the troops, and two Pavilions for the officers ; they are chiefly built of stone, and extremely well suited for convenience ; the rooms are large and airy, and have a very handsome appearance from the bay.

• Near the New Mole are two magazines for powder, where it is lodged when landed from the ships, and as it is wanted, removed from thence to the Grand Magazine in the Moorish Castle. Near them is a pleasant vineyard, of a small length, which yields a great quantity of vegetables, but not sufficient to supply a sixteenth part of the garrison. It is supposed

† In military affairs, is the side of an army or battalion.

fed that the owner clears five thousand dollars per annum by it.—There are several houses on the heights, that have been built by the officers and inhabitants, which command a delightful prospect of the bay and the gut; in short, most of the southward is covered with small and convenient dwellings.

I cannot close this description without informing you that the water, which is drank by the garrison, is the rain which descends from the heights of the rock, through a body of sand and lime stone, into a reservoir; this contains the annual supply till the rains again come on, which is towards the latter end of the year. The shipping are supplied from this reservoir, by the means of pipes, which communicate near the sea, where there is a small cistern with spouts. The faculty agree in opinion that it is good wholesome water.

The following is the State of the Strength of the several Corps now here:

<i>Corps</i>	<i>Strength.</i>	<i>Corps.</i>	<i>Strength.</i>
Royal Artillery	480	73d	811
12th	469	Hardenberg's	345
39th	348	Reden's	347
			56th

<i>Corps</i>	<i>Strength.</i>	<i>Corps</i>	<i>Strength.</i>
56th	460	La. Mott's	356
58th	450	Artificers's Com	89
72d	811	Total	5056

4th. Wind East. This morning early the St. Philip's Castle arrived here from Mahon with dispatches, having twenty-two Spanish prisoners on board, taken by the English in a sally made from that place. They say that General Murray is very closely besieged, and that the forces under his command, make the most stubborn opposition against both the French and Spanish who lay before the castle.

The enemy on the isthmus keep repairing their works, and have got a great part rebuilt. The fire on each side briskly continues, but most spirited from the close of the evening until the dawn of the morning, as the chief part of their labours are executed during the night season.

8th. A xebec arrived from the eastward this forenoon, and anchored opposite Sandy Bay. The working parties on the isthmus have not done any thing particular since the 4th instant.

10th. Last night the St. Philip's
Castle

Castle sailed to the eastward, and a small boat from Tetuan, in order to fetch supplies. All quiet in the Bay : We cannot imagine the reason that the enemy are not so alert and attentive as they were.

13th. Wind E. Sailed the Henry and Mercury privateers to the west. None of the Spanish cruisers went in chace of them. The enemy threw up a branch of sand-bag work last night upon the isthmus.

16th. This day two cutters made their appearance in the Gut. Wind N. E. The tower at Cabrita let fly a signal, upon which the Spanish squadron got in motion consisting of a frigate, one large xebec, one smaller ditto, and several gun boats, who stood across to intercept them. The gun boats got a-head and discharged several shot at them, which they cutters returned, and kept their course, standing for the eastward, it being impracticable to work into the port, as the wind blew right against them. The Spanish cruisers went in chace, and are now all out of sight. The works on the isthmus are going forward.

17th. Antonio Juanico, a Minorquen.

quen, convicted of being a spy, is ordered for execution on the 4th of February ensuing.

The enemy fire upon us with great fury, to prevent our annoying their working parties. Several wounded this forenoon.

18th. This day being the anniversary of her Majesty's birth-day, the Royal standard was hoisted on the flag-staff, and a salute of shot and shell fired on the enemy.

20th. The town and southward regiments exchanged quarters this morning, to continue three months, before another exchange takes place, unless circumstances should make it necessary.

23d. The isthmus parties are laboriously employed in forwarding their works, and an incessant fire is kept up from the Spanish lines and forts, upon our works and parties on the hill, as we are repairing the breaches made, and constructing some additional fortifications to shelter our men, and to destroy if possible the enemy's approaches.

26th. Pleasant weather. The enemy appears to be busy at Algaziras, and in the rivers. We imagine they are constructing

structing additional gun boats there, to co-operate with those they already have. Isthmus working parties continue nightly to be employed.

29th. Wind S. E. The two cutters chased to the eastward by the enemy on the 16th instant, got in early this morning: They prove to be the Viper and Lively, laden with ordnance stores; also arrived the Dartmouth Tartar cutter, from Lisbon in three days with dispatches. A frigate, xebec, and some gun boats have returned from their vain pursuit in chace of the Viper and Lively, mortified at having missed their eager prey, and anchored at their old station, watching every sail that appears in sight. The enemy are preparing several fireships at the mouth of the rivers between Algaziras and Orange Grove, but for what purpose we really cannot conjecture, without it is for pastime, and the recreation of their naval and land forces, by reminding that they are inclinable to do mischief, though incapable of effecting it. Our shipping are all boom'd in, and without they intend to burn the clefts of the rocks, and set our sandy beach on fire, they had better keep their present distance,

distance, nor unthinkingly rush on, where certain ruin must be the inevitable consequence. Our garrison are pretty healthy considering the hardships, dangers, and scarcity of fresh diet, which at present prevails; but of late they have been very much afflicted with the most inveterate scurvy, which deprived a great many of the use of their limbs, by rendering them stiff and swelled—The flesh of the sufferers, I assure you, was almost black, and you would pity (were you a spectator) to view them limping to their post to partake of a share of their comrades, in opposing the foe. With every good wish, permit me to subscribe myself

Your dutiful Son.

LETTER XXIX.

Gibraltar, Feb. 1, 1782.

Hon. Father,

THE besiegers spurred on by hope and expectation, to work the reduction of the fortress, are indefatigably em-

employed in forwarding the re-construction of St. Carlos, and the adjacents. From their batteries they continue a plentiful discharge of ordnance, by which we now and then lose a man. We anxiously long for the day of attack, as our situation is rather deplorable in respect of provision, and the harrassing duties of guards, picquets, working detachments and parties, forwards the general wish for engagement—The constant duty with the soldiery is ten and eleven days and nights up, and probably when it comes to your turn to have a night to sleep in your tent, the enemy from the sea line disturbs you from that repose, but thank God we have not been much interrupted from that quarter of late.

*Price of Provision brought by the Viper and
Lively cutters, on the 29th of last month.*

Common green tea per pound	1	1	0
Hams per pound	-	0	3 2
Corn'd beef ditto	-	0	1 8
Port wine per dozen	-	1	14 5
A sheep	-	14	1 0
Cheese per pound	-	0	4 10
Butter	-	0	4 10

4th. The enemy carry on their works in a rapid manner. They last night erected a battery of five embrasures on the west side of the Mill-tower, St. Carlos, by what we can discern, from the heights of the rock, appears to have received a complete repair. Our batteries endeavour as much as possible, to prevent the executing their labours on the isthmus.

Antonio Juanico, ordered for execution this day is respited. Arrived from the westward two small vessels from Portugal, laden with lemons and oranges, a very refreshing supply.

A small boat that appeared off Cabrita-point, was fired at several times from the battery at that place, but without effect, upon this a Spanish lugger got under sail endeavouring to cut her off but to very little purpose, as the boat had nearly anchored before she had got half bay over. She proves to be the Portuguese laden with fruit and oranges.

The enemy's cruizers have been particularly busy all this day, running in and out alternately. We imagine they have received intimation of some vessel bound for this place. They on the land side keep working and firing.

Arrived

Arrived safe the Young Sabine, with porter, wine, and potatoes. Our men of war's boats towed her round Europa. It is confidently asserted that she has brought intelligence to the Governor of a very interesting nature, but we cannot learn the particulars—the Spanish cruizers were disappointed in missing the capture of this vessel, as all their attempts to effect it were rendered ineffectual.

16th. Arrived the brig Eliza, with sundry articles on board for the use of the garrison. The Spanish cruizers, who returned yesterday evening to Algeziras, made a signal too late, to do themselves any service; but to convince the world how valiant and daring they were, they kept cruising in the bay with all pomp of line of battle ships, and came very near the guns at Europa, but thought prudent to keep at a distance; lest an unfortunate shot should dispossess them of all their imaginary glory.

The Spanish works are briskly forwarded, the isthmus almost is become a scene of enchantment—the enemy certainly must employ a considerable number of men, or otherwise they could not make such a rapid execution.

17th.

17th. Wind N. W. This morning a sail appeared standing from the westward; the Spanish towers let fly a signal of an enemy's appearance—a frigate, xebec, and several gun boats, immediately got under way, while the battery at Cabritta Point fired several rounds. The xebec bore down, when the English vessel opened upon her and made her haul her wind, and soon afterwards she dropped a-stern, the frigate and gun boats then stood a cross to intercept her, which she as spiritedly engaged, receiving two broadsides from the frigate, and several rounds of grape from the gun boats. After having engaged a considerable time, such a superior force, she had the good fortune to get in without much damage, and proves to be the Flying Fish cutter, in eight days from England, laden with ordnance stores—Some of the enemy's boats having been drove very near the garrison, the batteries at Europa discharged a few shot at them. but plying their oars briskly they got off without any injury, as we could observe.

18th. Wind S. W. Last night a brig from the westward entered the bay, and observing

observing the light in the Spanish camp, fled for the place, imagining it was the town of Gibraltar. The captain continued his course until he came opposite to Prince Orange's battery, when the officer on duty there, challenged the ship, who answered " from Cork." The captain discovered his error, and finding he was running under the enemy's batteries, put about, and run aground at the back of the Old Mole, where fort Philippe and the Black Battery kept up a fire upon her. The Hibernian captain, when he landed, in a jocular manner, endeavoured to apologize, for his misconduct, by saying, " By J--us, he intended to run his ship up to his merchant's storehouse, having heard when at Cork, that we had burnt all the Spanish batteries and spiked up their guns, and that he imagined he might anchor in any part of the bay with safety." This was alluding to the folly made 27th of November, 1781, which was so much noised throughout England and Ireland, and by way of reminding us, that we had not done as much as was boasted in the papers. She has brought a supply of butter, pork, and potatoes, which is intended

ed to be landed, if possible, this night. Her name is the Governor Eliott, Samuel Seldon, master.

20th. This morning we observed a battery of twelve embrasures constructed on the isthmus, and in other parts the sand was thrown up as a cover. The enemy fired very warmly on the Governor Eliott brig, and have greatly damaged her—part of his cargo has been landed—a brisk fire continues on both sides.

A Portuguese schooner from the west, was taken between Tarifa and Cabritta Point, and brought into Algaziras, where there is not any doubt she will be condemned. The wind having sprung up easterly, a Tartar arrived from Leghorn, with a cargo of wine and useful necessaries. Several gun boats also arrived from the east, we imagine them to be the remainder that chased the two cutters on the 16th of January.

21st. Wind E. Sailed last night from hence, the Viper, Lively, and Dartmouth Tartar cutters, About an hour afterwards the Spanish towers were illuminated, and a number of rockets thrown up.

The enemy keep hard and constantly at work on the isthmus.

23d. Wind W. This morning the shipping at Algaziras was dressed with full colours, and at noon a feu de joye was fired on both land and sea, and repeated three times.

A ship appeared in the offing, standing for this place, when a frigate and xebec made ready. She continued her course and received their fire with great intrepidity, plying her guns in an heroic manner. After about an hours fire she got in, and proves to be the Mercury transport, from Lisbon, with wine, poultry and fruit.

24th. Wind W. Arrived at Algaziras from the westward, two xebecs, and two cutters, as a reinforcement to the Spanish Squadron on that station. The Spanish working parties are busily employed.

25th. Wind W. Arrived the St. Ann of 28 guns, in 12 days from London, with ordnance stores. Not any particular intelligence received, except that she was chased some few leagues to the westward, and escaped during the night.

28th. Wind E. Arrived the Indian King

King, from Leghorn, with timber and liquors, a brisk fire on both sides was kept up. The enemy continue laboriously working on the isthmus, forwarding with all possible expedition, their new approaches. The tedious siege familiarizes more and more every day, and our eager and anxious expectations no longer impatiently excite to battle, as the foe discovers not any inclination to attack our walls only with 26 pounders, and 13 inch shells, from which probably, they hope to effect a capitulation, but while they remain at that distance, all their efforts will prove but impotency, and until they can level by their fire, the heights of the hard and solid rock, they never will accomplish the capture of the garrison. You may perceive by the following lines, which I penned behind a traverse at Willis's yesterday, how contented we are in our situation.

While peaceful flocks in verdant meadow, graze,
 Supply their wants, and slumber at their ease;
 Now skip and sport, and each contented feed,
 And one by one are destined to bleed.
 But here—midst hardships, soldiers ne'er repine,
 But with the pomp of war sit down to dine;
 To feast upon an ounce of salted beef,
 Which at the most affords but small relief;

No sparkling wine to animate and cheer,
 No pint, nor pot, of British home-brew'd beer,
 But pickled beef and water is our fare;
 Coop'd up like pastur'd sheep, within the walls,
 And one by one cut off by shells and balls.
 Here two or three together meet for mirth,
 And seat themselves behind a * bank of earth;
 Here bread and water chearfully goes round,
 And, grass, got on the rock, for sallad found;
 Sometimes brown toast and vinegar supplies
 The place of punch, and crowns our festive joys,
 Thus happy in our sports each other cheer,
 In God we place our trust, nor danger fear,
 With heart and hand, the walls and batt'ries man,
 Live hard, fight, watch, do all that Britons can!

I remain yours, &c.

* The meaning of the expression of "a bank of earth," is large casks placed three deep, and filled with earth and stones, which is called a traverse, and is a shelter from cannon balls.

LETTER XXX.

Gibraltar, March 1st, 1782.

Hon. Father,

THE fortune of war and the casuals of life are equally changeable, the victors of one day are often defeated another, and lose those laurels that were carried in triumph from the field of slaughter. The fate

fate of Minorca was announced here this morning, by a flag of truce from the Orange Grove, who brought the intelligence of that fortress having surrendered to his Catholic Majesty's forces, and that the fue de joye, fired on the 23d of February, was in celebration of the conquest. It is not improbable but the enemy entertain lively notions of this place, and imagine that this piece of information may tend to depress our spirits, and facilitate their future operations against us.

We kept up a very hot fire all the forenoon, and set the enemy's works in a blaze, which they extinguished shortly afterwards.

2d. This morning our batteries directed their fire upon the enemy's advanced works on the isthmus, when a heavy and incessant cannonade was spiritedly maintained between the enemy and the garrison, till nine o'clock, during which time, we had the fortune to set their works on fire again. The foe manifested a valour, and in an intrepid manner, jumped upon the glacis, pouring baskets of sand upon the flames, when

when after much difficulty and danger they got it put out.

4th. Wind E. Last night the Flying Fish cutter sailed to the westward with dispatches. The enemy keep advancing their approaches towards the garrison. They fire but slack these two days.

5th. Arrived Patron Prats from Algiers, with sheep and wine, the former sells at an enormous and exorbitant price. The enemy's parties on the isthmus work excessive hard, and bring forward their approaches with dispatch—they have almost reached into our late gardens.

GARRISON'S ORDERS.

"The town guards to mount at half past six, and the South guards at seven o'clock, till further orders."

6th. The enemy having been very remiss in cannonading the town, it is imagined was the occasion of the Governor altering the hour of relieving the guards.

9th. The enemy keep working and moderately firing, by which Lieutenant Cuppage, of the royal artillery was this day wounded: all quiet on the sea side.

10th.

10th. The enemy indicate fresh preparation for the ensuing storm, several parties being employed this morning in clearing the ground for a reinforcement of troops. A number of tents are already pitched. A xebec, which came near the garrison, had several rounds fired at her, which compelled her to sheer off. We discharged a number of carcasses upon the enemy's isthmus works, with an intent to burn them, but did not meet with the completion of our wishes.

16th. The enemy work most assiduously, and have raised a very high and well planned breast-work, supposed by our engineers and artilleryists to be intended for a mortar battery.

This day arrived at Algaziras, a frigate from the westward, but not any salute was given.

The enemy's fire these three days, has been particularly spirited, by which we have had some few wounded, among whom is Lieutenant White, of the 56th regiment. Our batteries are now bravely playing upon the foe.

17th. Southerly wind. Two frigates having come within the reach of our
prams

prams, anchored off New-mole—they began a well directed and furious fire upon them. One of the frigates, it was observed, received several shots.

18th. Our fishing boats were drove out of the bay this morning by a xebec, who kept a gentle sail, until by her repeated firing, she made them all retreat to the shore. The inhumanity of this act, is better conceived than expressed, few instances are to be found that bear any similitude to such an unprecedented proceeding. The Spaniards are forwarding their works, and discharging their ordnance upon us.

19th. The Governor has ordered the bridge at Landport to be pulled down, and the communication to that post will be through the * sallyport in the ditch, where there is to be a temporary stage made, for the purpose of detachments passing and repassing from the covered way and out guards. Also one of the slopes by which the guards and centinels now ascends to their posts, is also to be levelled. An encampment was began this morning on the west of the Orange Grove

* A door in a bastion or battery, for the purpose of making a sally, unexpectedly on the besiegers.

Grove. • We expect the siege will quickly come to an issue from the preparations making by the foe.

22d. Last night about eleven o'clock, a mill, on Windmill-hill, constructed for the purpose of grinding the wheat sent from England, by some means took fire, and was consumed. The enemy are very busy with some shipping, which is imagined are intended for fire floats.

Wind W. Last night arrived the Vernon store-ship, with materials for gun-boats, what we have long wished for. The Success frigate escorted her to latitude 36, when she left her and returned to England. The Success on her passage took the St. Catalina, a Spanish frigate, who afterwards was burnt on the appearance of the Cerberus and Appollo frigates (suspecting them to be enemies) and four transports, that came in also during the night, having on board the 97th regiment, as a reinforcement to the garrison.

Three very large ships and four xebecs arrived at Algaziras, imagined to be laden with stores and provision.

25th this day our flag of truce carried to Orange, some Officers and men, put

on board the Vernon, belonging to the Catalina frigate. The enemy continue their usual working parties. From ten o'clock last night, till day break this morning, a brisk fire was maintained with determined resolution, between forts Barbary, Phillipe, and the batteries on the heights of the hill.

30th. The enemy's ships and forts fired several rounds alternately. It is supposed the rejoicing is (on account of this being Passion-Saturday) in celebration of our Saviour's resurrection. The Spanish working parties have not done any quantity of work to day.

31st. This morning the batteries at Willis's and Montague's Bastion, opened with martial rage upon the isthmus works. Wind N. W. a very fresh breeze. Shot and shells were incessantly discharged, when one of the latter having penetrated into the fascines, immediately set that part in a flame, which continued burning until about thirty yards was consumed. The flames spread in a rapid manner and the enemy did all they could to prevent the progress of the fire, nor could they extinguish it by any means, but was under the necessity of cutting an opening,

as the only remedy to secure their approaches from being again destroyed.

The troops in the camp of Santa Roque, came out of their tents to view the spirited action, while only the flash of guns, and exploding shells were to be seen; the isthmus, and northermost part of the rock being hid with clouds of smoke.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXI.

"Who like the Cur barks at the crowd that passes?"

Gibraltar, April 1, 1782.

Hon. Father;

SUCH is the disposition of our inveterate and malignant foes, every ship, settee or bark that appears, immediately a gun is discharged, and a cruizer sent out to interrogate, *From whence come ye, or where are you bound?* A Swedish vessel was brought into Algaziras yesterday evening for not bringing too, upon a

Ff. 2

gun

gun being fired from a double galley off the Point.

Arrived a vessel from Portugal with ninety sheep, during the course of the night.

This morning a soldier deserted from Landport guard, and received the fire of musquetry of all the centinels, but without effect. The Spanish working parties are diligently employed.

2d. Last night a Spanish deserter came in, and reports that the soldier that came in yesterday was wounded by our fire, and died in the greatest agony, in the Mill-battery, (or St. Carlos). This forenoon a great many tents were pitched east side of the Horse Barracks, and some squadrons of infantry marched in.

9th. The encampment west of the Orange Grove is taken possession of by troops; but they do not appear very numerous, or perhaps they are tired with their march over the mountains, and keep their tents as a relaxation from their fatigue. The enemy cannonade the garrison excessively warm, three men and a boy wounded at Willis's.

10th. The encampment pitched yesterday

terday is hourly increasing in the number of tents, but not any considerable body of troops appear. The enemy fired very hot this morning, and a shell which fell in Landport Ditch, just as the new guard came to relieve the old one, killed Lieutenant Witham, of the 12th regiment, wounded his servant who was on the right of the guard, and blew the drummers drum in pieces. He was an amiable officer, and well respected, the loss of him is much regretted by all ranks in the garrison.

Six lug sail boats arrived from the westward, from their form and construction we apprehend they are intended for landing of troops. Every thing now indicates a speedy and vigorous assault. Our enemies are seemingly prepared for immediate battle, their isthmus works being almost completed

11th. Wind W. Arrived a boat from Portugal with goats, fowls, &c. The Patron brings intelligence that ships and floating batteries are fitting up in the port of Cadiz, lined with cork and oakum, whose strength are to turn a cannon ball, and that when Duke de Crillon arrives with his conquering, valiant, and successful

successful troops from the glorious expedition at Minorca, he is to take the command of the forces, and head the army in their attack upon this place. He says that from the accounts received in Portugal, the people of Spain look upon the Duke's conduct with admiration, and expect that those who join him will be invulnerable.

15th. Arrived a large cutter at Algaziras, from the west. The enemy have brought forward their approaches considerably towards the garrison. A general discharge of ordnance prevails.

16th. Wind S. W. Two large xebecs arrived this forenoon on the opposite side, and several small settees, all from the westward.

The enemy's force now consists of three frigates, four large xebecs, one cutter, one bomb ketch, at Algaziras; one large xebec, one cutter, one lugger, one bomb ketch, at Orange Grove; one large xebec, one small ditto, one sloop of war at Cabritta; fifteen gun boats, eight mortar boats, ten or twelve fire ships in the rivers, beside what shipping they have at Ceuta, and cruising to the eastward.

Landport bridge is taken down, and

it

it is reported that both the slopes are to be levelled, and only a timber ascent made, that in case of any emergence may be set on fire, to prevent the enemy's entrance into the ditch under Grand Battery.

Our working parties are employed in erecting splinter proof upon the batteries on the hill, as a cover from the bomb shells when they explode in the air, which the Spaniards have practised of late.

20th. Wind N. W. This morning upon a ship being discovered by the enemy in the offing, they hoisted a signal on the tower at Cabritta, which not being answered, a xebec, and sloop that lay at the Point, slipped out, and bore down under a pressure of sail.—The xebec having got a-head, fired a broadside at her, which was directly returned by the ship; the sloop now came up and fired a few guns, notwithstanding which, she continued her course, and got safe in, without any loss. She proves to be the Antigallican store-ship, in eight days from Falmouth. The enemy, apparently, are not so attentively employed on the isthmus as formerly.

21st. The regiments in the town and southward, exchanged quarters this forenoon.

Very little work done by the enemy —The gun-boats brought over by the Vernon, are getting in great forwardness in the New Mole-yard.

22d. Several parties employed daily in bringing fascines into the Spanish camp. We suppose that the want of these materials has been the occasion of their ceasing from work these three days. Forts Barbary and Phillipe, the Black Battery and lines, fired this afternoon, minute guns, with shot upon the garrison.

24th. This forenoon an experimental trial was made with one of our gun boats mounted with an eighteen pounder. The first and second shot fired horizontally recouched three or four times ; the third had a degree of elevation, and went a distance in the bay. The naval commander promises great success from them, when the twelve are finished. All hands busy at work upon them.

25th. This morning a deserter from the volunteers of Argon came in, and confirms a former account of ships being

preparing for the purpose of attacking this garrison, lined with cork and junk to prevent the penetration of our shot. A few working parties again appear on the isthmus, but their labours are executed under cover.

27th. This day one of our long boats going from Ragged Staff to the New Mole with iron, sprung a leak and went to the bottom, unfortunately a man and a boy were drowned.

28th. Wind W. S. W. This morning two ships brig rigged, appeared in the gut, with their heads standing to the East—The Spanish towers made a signal of an enemy being at hand, upon which two xebecs, and eight gun boats went out, in order to secure them, but were unexpectedly disappointed, they proving to belong to the French. The rapidity of the current, and the wind having shifted to the north west, the xebecs and gun boats drove to the eastward.

30th. The enemy's works appear to be executed according to their wishes, for notwithstanding we only now and then discharge a few rounds of shot and shells, they have not taken the opportunity of doing any work. In the Spa-

nish camp, a numerous army are seen—the whole common at the foot of Santa Roque, is become a town and place of habitation, where a grand display of slaughtering instruments are exhibited, and the most renowned engineers, experienced artillerists, and approved soldiers and seamen, are bent upon our extirpation from this heart-galling rock. That their views and intentions may be frustrated, is the sincere and hearty wish of

Your affectionate Son.

LETTER XXXII.

Gibraltar, May 1st, 1782.

Hon. Father,

EVERY opportunity that offers of writing to you, I readily embrace, and find an infinite satisfaction in the employ. The reciprocal affection that has so long subsisted between us pleasingly excites the labours of my pen, and conscious that your bosom feels for my absence and situation, I should consider myself unpardonable in any omission.

The

The enemy continue the siege, and are getting in forwardness the most studious preparations for an attack. It is beyond dispute that the contention ~~will~~ shortly be finally adjusted.

4 8th. Last night wind E. Sailed the *Cerberus*, and *Apollo* frigates, *St. Ann*, *Vernon*, *Mercury*, and *Antigallican* storeships, the *Betsey*, *Thompson*, *Loyal Briton*, and *Valiant* transports, at which time two Spanish frigates and three xebecs were cruising in the gut. They had not been long under sail, when rockets were thrown up at *Algaziras*, and answered at *Cabritta Point*. About an hour after a firing was heard in the gut, and continued for some time tolerably brisk; and this morning we had the mortification to view the enemy, returning with the three last named transports, being the only defenceless vessels that sailed from hence. Their sails were very much torn, and it is supposed the enemy alone directed their fire upon them, not liking to attack the storeships, they having a formidable appearance in the night. Thus victorious they entered the bay in triumph, and conducted their prizes

prizes, manned with only about twenty-one men, to the port of Algaziras, there to recount the dangers of the battle, and to regale themselves with the spoil.

9th. Wind W. S. W. This forenoon arrived from the westward, one line of battle ship, convoying eight large store-ships or Indiamen. From the appearance of their rigging and sides, which is dry and shabby, and having but a few hands on board, we cannot imagine from what part they have arrived, or what occasion brought them in here. All hands busy about the Spanish camp.

10th. Wind S. E. Arrived a Portuguese settee, from Tetuan, with about 30,000 oranges, and a few pipes of oil. She was cleared out for Cadiz, but smuggled herself in here, where they will find a good market for their cargo—Oranges are sold for a rial each, about four pence three farthings sterling.

13th. The eight large ships that arrived over the way the 9th instant, are hauled close to the shore and are unrigging, and those that arrived on the 24th March have proceeded to the Orange Grove. It is currently reported that they
are

are lined with cork, and are to be converted into batteries, but most people think they are more fit for fire-wood, than attacking a fortress.

15th. The store ships at Algaziras are quite unrigged, and a great many hands employed upon them clearing their decks. The land fire is maintained with spirit, but very little work seemingly going forward on the isthmus.

20th. Last night three soldiers in attempting to desert from the heights of the rock, fell from a precipice, and were found dead under the Sugar-loaf, lying near each other. They had procured a rope and fastened it to a cleft of the rock, but it was not of a sufficient length to reach the bottom.

22d. Arrived a xebec and a galley, from the westward, at Algaziras. The enemy are employed upon two of the store ships cutting their sides down.

25th. The enemy continue working on the two store ships at Algaziras, and appear to be thickening with pieces of timber and other materials, their larboard sides—several ports have been already cut. From this it is evident they are intended for floating batteries. Wind E.

The

The other store ships that lay at the Orange Grove, sailed from thence to the westward, having discharged their lading, which is supposed to be ordnance stores.

Arrived the St. George xebec, with a small supply from Leghorn, having on board twelve Corsicans, including one officer, who had voluntarily come to offer their service in the defence of this place. They mention that several more are preparing to embark on the same expedition.

26th. Arrived the John, Tartan, from Leghorn, with a supply of wine and oil. She brings intelligence that we may be assured of a vigorous attack, as soon as the Spanish ships are ready, which will be made so strong and of such a nature, that they will neither burn nor batter.

The Spanish hospital last night took fire and is entirely consumed.

27th. Wind S. E. Yesterday evening near one hundred sail of transports, and a bomb-ketch, arrived and anchored between Algaziras and Orange Grove, and this morning we perceived they were very full of men, which are supposed to be troops.

28th.

28th. A considerable body of troops were landed from the transports this forenoon, and marched into the Spanish camp. The enemy have hauled two transports in, and have began to lay them up. — The two large ships that the enemy have been working at, have each of them fourteen or fifteen port holes cut in their larboard sides.

A flag of truce was received from Spain, but her message is mere conjecture with the public. Some say she has brought a demand from the Spanish General, for the surrendering of the fortress; but this I am confident, never will be done, while we have an ounce of bread, and a round of ammunition.

30th. An English Tartan was taken to the eastward and towed by the enemy into Algaziras, with her colours reversed. It is asserted that the vessel is the one that Patron Prati's sailed with from this port some time past to Algiers for supplies.

Our twelve gun boats in New Mole-yard are nearly finished: several are already in the water, and lie very snug— We are very anxious to make trial of them with the enemy. A boat went out this

this day with a flag of truce into the bay, with the Governor's answer to theirs, received the 28th instant.

The ships at Algaziras are getting pretty forward ; a number of hands are employed upon them, but most of the garrison are of opinion from their construction, that they will be found of very little use when they attack our walls, as they never will be able to tow them near enough to do any material execution, for should they daringly come on, their boats will be inevitably cut off by grape shot from the garrison.

We shall have pretty sport soon—I hope to survive to send you an account of the particulars, wherein a victorious repulse, I trust, will be found ; and probably before you receive this letter, the battle will have taken place and the contest be decided.

With a heart glowing with zeal for the honour of my King, the welfare of Britain and her dependencies, permit me to conclude, with the most cordial love and esteem,

Yours, &c.

Letter

LETTER XXXIII.

Gibraltar, June 1, 1782.

Hon. Father,

THE enemy labour constantly at equipping the store ships for service—from the lights observed at Algaziras last night, we imagine they were busy at work—the masts of most of them are taken out.

This morning died here, Brigadier General Stanton, of the 97th regiment.

3d. Wind E. This day a convoy of near fifty sail of different sizes, arrived from the eastward at Algaziras, with stores and provision for the use of the army and navy. The cannonade continues pretty brisk on both sides, but we have had only a few wounded.

GARRISON ORDERS.

"The royal standard to be hoisted to-morrow
—The Governor desires to meet all the officers
not on duty, on their respective parades, at
guard mounting to-morrow, to congratulate
with them on the anniversary of his Majesty's
birth-day.

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“ Such ordnance to be fired at the enemy's works, as shall be ordered by the commanding officer of the royal artillery, beginning at one o'clock.”

4th. The royal standard was hoisted this morning on the flag-staff in town, and on board the Brilliant in the New Mole—at one o'clock the northernmost batteries fired forty-four rounds of shot and shells upon the enemy's forts and works in honor of his Majesty's birthday. The shipping in the New Mole, and our twelve gun boats arranged in a line from the Tanks to the pier of the New Mole-head, also performed a salute, and gave three cheers. The enemy maintained a brisk fire the whole day. The floating batteries, or cork ships, at Algaziras, are forwarding with all possible diligence.

6th. A hot fire from the land batteries, upon our works and parties, which is as spiritedly returned from our heights.

Captain Wideburg, of Reden's regiment of Hanoverians, was wounded this day.

The Spaniards have a great many hands employed upon seven ships at Algaziras;

gaziras; most of them have ports cut in their sides, but none of them appear to be finished.

7th. This forenoon our artillery had some red hot shot experimental practice, and a vessel wrecked off Prince Orange's battery, which succeeded pretty well—An unfortunate accident happened by a gun unexpectedly going off, which killed the gunner in the embrasure, and wounded three other men. A constant fire from the Rock Gun, upon the enemy's works on the isthmus.

GARRISON ORDERS.

"One quarter and half of a pint of vinegar to be issued to every ration, till further orders."

The surgeons of the different corps are of opinion, that this will be a great preventative in the sad effects of the scurvy.

10th. The men employed upon the seven floating batteries, work with the greatest assiduity, but as yet we cannot form any judgment of their utility or construction.

Early this morning the Spanish gun and mortar boats made an excursion in

the Bay, and discharged their ordnance upon the garrison.—They fired very warm for an hour and three quarters, during which time we had several men wounded. A soldier is missing, supposed to have deserted.

11th. This forenoon a thirteen inch shell fired from the enemy's works, fell upon a magazine on Princess Ann's battery, where there were many men at work and on duty; it forced its way through the splinter-proof which covered the magazine door, burst it open, and in the explosion blew up the magazine. Our loss on this occasion is as follows, viz. fifteen men killed, and twenty-one wounded, some of them in a dangerous way. Scarce had the explosion taken place, when the enemy began a cannonade and bombardment, from every battery they had any ordnance mounted on, particularly directed to the place where the accident had happened: The garrison kept pouring upon them heavy discharges of shot and shells, which they sustained with the firmest resolution.

The man missing the 10th instant, was taken this day by a party of men at the back of the rock, and sent on board the Provost

Provost-ship, a place of safe confinement, as we have not a garrison goal.

13th. The enemy labour excessive hard at their cork ships; their whole invention seems to be engaged in their equipment. It is supposed that in five or six weeks they will be completed and ready for action, but the enemy will never be able to get them off, whenever they cast anchor against the walls, so that if they are not successful in taking the place, they will be compelled to abandon them to our fire.

This day a soldier deserted from a guard at Landport, the centinels fired at him, but he made his escape.

14th. Wind E. A French frigate convoying a number of small craft, arrived on the enemy's side from the eastward. About two this afternoon a Spanish xebec was becalmed near the garrison. The Southward batteries and Prams at New Mole-head fired upon her, and Captain Curtis of the Brilliant, with twelve gun boats rowed out towards her. She perceiving her situation, fired a gun as a signal for assistance, while our twelve gun boats kept constantly raking her. The enemy sent over several small cruizers

ers to her relief, when unluckily a breeze sprung up, and they towed her out of the reach of our guns. Had it continued a calm much longer, she must have been under the necessity of striking.

15th. The xebec that we engaged yesterday, is observed to be upon her keel, repairing the damage she received from our fire.

17th. Wind E. A settee from the eastward was carried into Algaziras under English colours by a Spanish cruizer; in all probability it was laden with cattle for the garrison, which is much wanted and sells at a great price; beef four shillings and ten pence halfpenny per pound, and mutton five shillings, and five shillings and two pence per pound; you may judge of the scarcity when a bullock before he is killed, almost every pound of him is purchased, and the liver sold for one shilling and three pence per pound at the slaughter-house door, where a crowd of women and children mostly are fighting for the same; it being termed by us a dainty dish when fried. A bullock's head, without a tongue, has been sold for seven dollars and a half, which is according to the exchange