

exchange of money, one pound three shillings and four pence halfpenny, and the tongue for eight shillings and three halfpence. {

GARRISON ORDERS.

"When the advanced gun boats discover the approach of the enemy's gun boats, they will fire a gun, and burn several false fires. If they should observe the approach of boats, which they suppose to contain troops, they will fire a gun, and throw up several rockets, when the men of war will beat to arms, and if the drummers of the guards and garrison have not beat to arms before, they will immediately take it up from the frigates."

18th. Yesterday evening wind W. a ship of the line, three large store ships, and eight other vessels arrived at Algaziras from the westward. It is the general opinion of the garrison that the three large ships are for the purpose of making floating batteries, to co-operate with those now preparing over the way, as they are hauled in under the land.

This afternoon wind S. E. three frigates and between seventy and eighty transports under French colours, with
troops

troops on board arrived and anchored on the enemy's side. We conjecture they have brought a reinforcement of near six thousand men. Our prams fired several shot at four of the enemy's gunboats that came within reach of the guns—a shot went through the sail of the headmost when they made off.

20th. The troops arrived in the French transports have began disembarking, several boats already landed at the pier of the Orange Grove. A vessel with a Spanish ensign above the English was carried into Algaziras. The enemy are busy in unrigging the three last store ships, and cutting down their sides. The fire from the land side continues.

21st. A boat came over last night from Algaziras with two men, taken in the settee on the 17th, they cut the boat adrift and made their escape. They report that the Spaniards are in high spirits, and great expectation, from ten cork ships which are getting ready with all possible expedition, whose strength and form will be impregnable both against shot and shells. We shall of course find stubborn work with them.

The French troops finished landing
this

this day, and are encamped on the left of the Spanish army, they take up a considerable tract of ground. From accounts received, the enemy's land forces are now thirty thousand strong.

22d. The Spaniards are very busy on their ten war ships, and have cut down the sides of the three latter arrived. The land batteries have not discharged many shot this day, from which we imagine they are contemplating other works.

24th. The enemy have been silent these three days past, every thing on the isthmus wears a different appearance. It is imagined that a new arrangement of affairs has taken place, and that Duke de Crillon, succeeds General Alvarez in command. The enemy are still employed on the floating batteries.

27th. All quiet on the isthmus excepting now and then a shot for diversion, which sometimes we return and sometimes not. Our Governor has taken this opportunity of repairing and strengthening the works and batteries. Several strong working parties employed to the northward.

29th. Little fire from the enemy. The floating batteries are forwarded with

incredible expedition. The enemy have began forming something over the deck of one of them, intended we suppose for a splinter proof, time will manifest the use of it.

I remain, hono'd Father,

Affectionately yours.

LETTER. XXXIV.

Gibraltar, June 1st, 1782.

Hon. Father,

THE enemy on the land side, observe a great tranquility, but for what reason we cannot determine, unless they are reserving their ammunition for the day of attack. On our part we are well satisfied, as it affords us the opportunity of repairing the works that were shattered and damaged. This morning we fired five or six shells upon the enemy's works, which they answered with one shot.

The construction of the cover of one of the floating batteries, is much resembling

bling the roof of a house ; but at the distance they now are, I cannot pretend to give an exact description. The general opinion of the garrison is, that the enemy will find a great difficulty to bring them on, as they must be very heavy from the quantity of timber. The regiments in the garrison have been practising for several days the firing of ball from the line-wall at a target in the sea.

3d. One wing of the Spanish army struck their tents this morning, and removed to another part of the common, for convenience. Some few shot and shells from the enemy.

6th. The floating batteries are not yet compleat ; they have begun to roof a second, so that we imagine they will be all finished in the same manner. The enemy keep up a moderate fire.

GARRISON ORDERS.

" The men will receive six ounces of raisins or currants, in lieu of a quarter of a pint of oil, till further orders."

7th. Wind W. Early this morning a brig from the westward was discovered in the offing—The Spanish towers hung

out the signal of an enemy, when a xebec and four gun boats pushed out—the boats soon came up with her, and began a fire, which she returned and kept them off—the xebec then bore down and boarded her manfully, and shortly after we observed a Spanish ensign hoisted over the English. She was conducted in triumph to Algaziras. We feel a sensible uneasiness in not having a force sufficient to protect any vessel standing for the bay. It must be very distressing after a vessel has escaped crossing the sea, to be taken in sight of their destined port, and sometimes almost within reach of the garrison guns.

This afternoon arrived from the westward, and anchored at Cabritta, a frigate and a xebec. We expect some other vessel is in sight of the coast.

10th. The enemy keep working on the cork ships, roofing them over, which makes them have a very odd appearance. A serjeant is missing, supposed to have deserted.

11th. This afternoon four men belonging to one of the prams, went in a boat to the enemy. We fired at them, but too late to prevent their escape.

The

The serjeant missing on the 10th, was found at the back of the rock, half way down, but for want of a rope could not get any further.

13th. This morning a soldier deserted from the Queen's Lines Guard. A prophet is taken up, and sent on board the Provost-ship. Like Jonah warning the city of Ninneveh, so he publicly avowed that within six weeks, six days and six hours from last Saturday at twelve o'clock, the garrison would be taken, and the Governor killed. He is a soldier belonging to the 73d regiment, and at the expiration of the time there is not any doubt but he will suffer for his folly.

14th. This morning came in a deserter from Spain: He says that there are forty-four battalions in camp; that Duke de Crillon has made a thorough survey of all the works, and gone to Madrid to report to his Catholick Majesty. The enemy have not completed any of the floating batteries—they have began this morning forming a boom across the harbour to Algaziras, for the protection of their shipping—We flatter ourselves that they are apprehensive of the arrival of our fleet.

16th. Wind W. The French convoy sailed to the eastward, and the men of war are in readiness to weigh. The boom at Algaziras is lengthening considerably. From these circumstances we conjecture that we shall shortly find relief. The floating batteries come on apace.

17th. The boom is lengthened about two thousand yards and covers all the floating batteries. The Spanish cruisers are very alert, and neither trust to colours or signals. The enemy have begun a battery near Tarifa, (from the account the deserter gives that came in on the 14th) and that six hundred men are detached for that purpose.

18th. Wind E. Six large boats arrived from the eastward at Algaziras—they appear to be new, and of the construction of their gun boats. The enemy keep working day and night at the floating batteries; the roof of one is quite finished, and is much like the top of a house, having a gradual ascent from head and stern. Three mortar boats came out of the river, and have gone to the Orange Grove. On the land side, nothing new appears, and what work is

done by the enemy is within the batteries.
A brisk fire from their forts.

19th. The boom at Algaziras is extended the length of the town, and all the cruizers are on the inside; the bomb ketch which lay at the Orange Grove, weighed anchor, and has taken her station at the same place. The old pastime of shot and shells cannot be forgot, we keep playing away manfully. A sailor who happened to be in town when a shell burst over his head, exclaimed (with the usual oath, for which they are so much distinguished) "*D--n me but the Spaniards have got a battery in the air.*"

21st. All hands busy at work on the opposite shore—three of the floating batteries are roofed over. The regiments exchanged quarters this day.

23d. Wind W. A large xebec arrived and anchored at Algaziras. The enemy have nearly roofed another of the floating batteries, and the three last that were taken in hand, are in great forwardness.

24th. The serjeant taken at the back of the rock on the 11th, was executed for the same, and died with penitence becoming his unhappy situation.

25th. Wind strong E. Arrived the St. Philip's Castle, and General Murray sloop of war, from Leghorn—they have brought provision for the garrison, with five officers and seventy five Corsicans. They bring the agreeable intelligence of Admiral Rodney having defeated the French, and taken the Ville de Paris of 110 guns, with four other line of battle ships. Our Governor ordered a salvo from the batteries, and a feu de joye to be fired, which you will perceive by the

GARRISON ORDERS.

“ Parole Rodney, *A feu de joye to be fired this day to celebrate the victory gained by his Majesty's fleet, under the command of Sir George Rodney, over the French fleet in the West Indies. All the ordnance from the rock guns to Princess Carolina's inclusive to be fired at one o'clock, beginning at the rock gun shotled. At six in the evening the regiments will take post on the line wall, in the following order, drawn up two deep.*

“ *The 72d regiment right to the Prince Hesse's battery; 12th join the left of 72d; the two town companies of artillery on the King's bastion; the 39th on the left of the 12th; Lieu-
tenant*

tenant-general Reden's, left of 29th; Major-general La Mott's left of Reden's; 73d right at Ragged-staff; 56th on the left of 73d; the three South companies of royal artillery, in the New-Mole fort—Two rockets will be thrown up on the right, as a signal to begin the first round—two from the left when the fire returns from thence for the second round; and two more from the right for the third round. Three cheers when the firing is finished, to begin on the right, and pass along in the same manner as the firing did."

The shipping and gun boats fired and cheered at one o'clock, and the greatest spirit and satisfactory joy crowned the whole.

I hope this success will contribute to distress and dispirit our foes, who vaunting of their power, bluster and threaten, and claim victory as their own. Their impregnable floating batteries will shortly be tried, and though the Spanish gazettes boast of unborn achievements, yet there is not the least doubt but our red hot pills will effectually answer our purpose. They must be of an amazing construction if blazing twenty-four and

thirty-two pounders will not burn them. Of this the day of trial will decide.

This being St. James's day, the enemy's ships were dressed and saluted three times — The enemy roofed over another floating battery.

26th. Wind W. Arrived a small settee from Portugal with wine and fruit. She has brought a confirmation of the glorious defeat of the French. The enemy endeavoured to take her, but were too late in getting out.

30th. The floating batteries come rapidly on, another of them is roofed over. On our part as we are convinced they are intended to attack the place, we as anxiously wish for their speedy equipment; to give the decisive stroke, and to determine whether Britannia or Gaul and Iberia shall be victorious. It will be hot and stubborn work if they are of the strength that is reported, namely bomb-proof that will resist a shell which weighs two hundred before it is discharged from the mortar, and when it descends, is supposed to fall thirty tons weight.

I am, honor'd Father,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXV.

Their blooming hopes soar high in the delusion,
To gain possession of this envied place,
And on the battlements Spain's ensigns spread.

Gibraltar, Aug. 4, 1782.

Hon. Father,

THE foe, ere long, will make their
promised storm—their batteries are
completed, and their junk ships almost
ready. A numerous army encamped,
and boats for landing their troops are in
the rivers. It is probable that this month
will be the grand decision of the combat,
and we heartily wish it, as we are almost
worn out with constant toils, harrassing
expectations, and a severe cannonade.

The enemy have brought several fire
ships out of the rivers; the floating bat-
teries have a very ugly and odd appear-
ance: We think they are mounting ord-
nance in one to-day, as a great number
of boats were along-side.

The Corsicans that arrived here from
Leghorn, are formed into a company, viz.

Signor Antonio Leonettie, Captain;
Phillippo Massaraia, Captain Lieutenant;

K k 2

.Georgio

Georgio Alexandria Michili, First Lieutenant ; Leonardo Monti, Adjutant, with the rank of Lieutenant ; Angelo Raffaelli, second Lieutenant ; Luigi Cotie, Chaplain ; four serjeants, four corporals, two drummers, and sixty-eight private men. Total eighty-four.

7th. A deserter from the enemy came in, and says, that the floating batteries are almost ready, and that one has been tried with ball, and answers their expectations.

8th. Wind W. Arrived two vessels under Imperial colours, from the westward, at Algaziras, and the line of battle ship sailed from that place to the Orange Grove, supposed to take in powder and stores. The floating batteries are very near finished. The enemy fire with spirit from the land side.

Wind E. This day arrived a French twenty gun ship, on the opposite side. Several parties are employed on the strand, beyond the Spanish lines, we suppose for the purpose of erecting a battery, they being apprehensive of a visit in that part, whenever our fleet arrives.

11th. The ship that came in yesterday has removed to the Orange Grove, probably

bably to discharge her cargo. The enemy keep labouring at their junk ships, and have taken the masts out of one of them, but most people are of opinion they never will be able to bring them over without sails.

12th. The enemy have put smaller masts into the ship that they dismasted yesterday, and are very busy rigging her—From this it is evident they mean to sail to their anchorage. From what opinion we can at present form, we imagine from their closeness, and wanting air, that they will find an inconvenience in working their guns with briskness.

13th. Wind, W. Sailed the Eliza brig for Leghorn. The vessels arrived under Imperial colours, sailed to the Orange Grove. They enemy are very busy in rigging two of the floating batteries.

14th. Arrived a frigate under French colours, from the westward, at Algaziras—Four gun boats fired at her, apprehending she was an enemy, until she displayed her colours.

The enemy have taken out the masts of four of the batteries, and replaced them with others much smaller, the two that were rigging have bent their sails---

• We

We imagine they will shortly all of them be ready.

During the course of last night, the enemy erected a work composed of sand bags, extending obliquely from the eastern shore, towards the center of the Spanish lines. It is computed from its length and height, and having so short a space of time to complete it in, only about six hours darkness, that there were not less than ten thousand men employed in the execution of it--At present it is masked, but there is not the least doubt but the enemy intend it for a battery.

17th. The enemy have hauled out one of their floating batteries--being perfectly finished; she has a very awkward and surprising appearance, and lies very low in the water. They are very attentive in equipping the others. Wind W. arrived a cutter from the westward, and saluted the Admiral with eleven guns, which he returned with three. A tolerable brisk cannonade from the enemy's forts and lines.

18th. About eleven o'clock this forenoon the enemy made a grand display in the bay--seven barges with crimson awnings proceeded from Algaziras attended

by

by twelve gun-boats to the Orange-Grove. In half an hour after their arrival, they put off in the same order, upon which the shipping immediately dressed, and the Admiral gave a salute of twenty-one guns—the other shipping also fired, and the gun-boats each discharged their ordnance. A frigate got under weigh from Algaziras, and under a gentle sail went to meet the barges, which when she had come half way she gave a salute of twenty-one guns; the gun-boats fired alternately until the barges got to Algaziras, when another royal salute was given. The barges then went on board the junk-ship hauled out yesterday, and a discharge of cannon continued while the visitors remained on board—Having gratified their curiosity in the examination of the floating battery, they went on board the Admiral's ship to dine, and regale themselves, and drink a hearty bumper in success to their undertaking, where they continued till six o'clock in the evening, when, in the same procession they came in, and returned to the pier at the Orange-Grove, and on their landing another salute was given. Some are of opinion that this rejoicing is occasioned

caſioned by the arrival of a Prince of the blood, and others that it is the Admiral who is to command the floating batteries.

19th. This forenoon a flag of truce from the Orange Grove came over, and rowed along pretty near our line wall, until ſhe came oppoſite Ragged-ſtaff, when one of our boats went out with Captain Vallotin, of the 56th regiment (chief Aid-de-camp to the Governor) and ſpoke to her, and ſoon afterwards returned—The boat kept very cloſe in with the ſhore, making a ſurvey of the works, when the Repulſe, an advanced gun-boat, fired a ſhot as a caution for her to keep her proper diſtance. Soon after Captain Vallotin returned to the flag of truce which brought a handsome preſent of fruit and game for the Governor, from Count de Artois, whoſe arrival in the Spaniſh camp occaſioned yeſterday's rejoicing. The floating batteries are rigging with the utmoſt expedition. The day of trial is very near at hand, I hope we ſhall acquit ourſelves in the defence of this place with honour and ſucceſs.

This morning our Governor ſent out a flag of truce to the enemy, with a return for the preſent received yeſterday.

I am confidently told, it consisted of a cask of beef, pork, and butter, a cheese, a puncheon of rum, a sheep and a goat, some poultry, and a quantity of potatoes, "with the General's compliments to the Count, thanking him for his kindness, and assuring him that he did not want any refreshment." This was policy, and to make the enemy believe that our situation was not so deplorable as they imagined, though, I assure you that the boat load we sent out, would have been thought an estate by many opulent families in this place.

21st. Wind E. This morning we observed the Eliza brig that sailed from hence on the 13th returning from the eastward under a Spanish ensign, and also thirteen large boats which we imagine are for the purpose of landing troops, from their size it is not improbable but each of them may contain five hundred men—Six of the floating batteries are almost rigged—two completely equipped for battle.

22d. This afternoon our batteries poured upon the enemy's works a considerable discharge of shot, shells, and carcasses, and we had the satisfaction to set

the enemy's advanced isthmus work on fire, which burnt most furiously for an hour or better. A brisk fire was maintained on both sides with the firmest spirit and bravery, and the enemy were several times drove off their works, and forced to abandon a battery on the left of St. Carlos, termed the Mahon battery.

We fired from the garrison in the space of an hour near fourteen hundred rounds—the firing continued furious till nine o'clock, when the enemy rather slackened their fire. We had only three men wounded, but judge what loss the foe must have sustained, as they had a body of near two thousand men employed, in endeavouring to extinguish the fire.

23d. The enemy have roofed another floating battery, and are rigging those that are already roofed; one of them appears to have about twenty-six ports on one side. Our batteries keep playing away upon the isthmus, and we have been using every means to fire the enemy's works again, but all ineffectual.

24th. The sand-bag work erected on the 16th instant, consists of four batteries of sixteen guns each. The enemy are busy in nailing down their platforms, and

and getting all things in readiness to mount the ordnance—They will be able to scour our lines, and advanced posts from this work, and also in the rear, of which they are forming bomb batteries, so resolutely determined are they upon the capture of the old rock.

25th. The enemy had a rejoicing to-day on the sea side—in the morning at sun-rise, the ships dressed and fired, as did also the island at Algaziras—this was repeated again at noon, and at the going down of the sun. The floating batteries are almost ready.

26th. The St. Philip's Castle, and the ordnance store shipping that lay in Rosia Bay, hauled in this morning to the New-mole. The bay on our side is quite clear, as all our ships are now within the boom. From the situation of the place, it is whispered that the seamen are to be landed, and incorporated into a brigade, to act as soldiers within the walls, under the command of Captain Curtis, as Colonel. The enemy have eight of their floating batteries roofed—the day of battle is nigh at hand.

27th. This morning a deserter came in from Spain, and brings advice, that

the enemy have every preparation made on the land-side for the assault, and that they are only waiting for the junk ships, when they mean to attack us in every quarter---He also says that eight line of battle ships are expected from Cadiz, to act in conjunction with the flotantees. He was taken prisoner at Minorca, by Duke de Crillon, and insisted into a French regiment, but not liking to fight against his King and country, embraced the first opportunity of making his escape.

28th. Wind W. Arrived at Algaziras, six line of battle ships, two xebecs and a cutter. The ninth floating battery is almost roofed, but is much smaller than the others.

The deserter that came in yesterday, says, that on the night of the 16th, he was among the number that helped to erect the sand-bag work, and from the accounts in the Spanish camp there were about eleven thousand men employed to effect it, that had we fired towards the eastern shore, the greatest part must have been cut off.

29th. The crews of the men of war and other shipping in New-mole are landed,

landed, and employed in bringing their stores on shore. The seamen are in good spirits; and swear bitterly against the Dons.—This little reinforcement will be of great service to us. The enemy are brisk on the land side.

GARRISON ORDERS.

30th. "The officers and crews of his Majesty's ships being landed, are to be encamped at Europa, and to form the marine brigade. Captain Curtis commanding his Majesty's ships in the Mediterranean is appointed to serve as Brigadier General."

You would smile to view the tars handling their firelocks, and marching full accoutred, the boatswain's pipe all hands aloft—brace the yards, tacks and sheets, &c are no longer heard—the glittering beauties of the parade engage the attention, while whistling winds, and roaring billows are forgotten. Thus military equipped they long for battle, perform their evolutions and manœuvres, which on a parade might excite laughter, but amidst blazing cannon and clouds of smoke, every awkward appearance will be hid—If they prime
and

and load expeditiously, it is all that will be required, nor will they need to rest, shoulder, or poise.

I remain, honor'd Father,

Affectionately yours.

P. S. Inclosed are the copies of two letters, said to be written by the Duke de Crillon, and his Excellency General Eliott, on the 19th and 20th instant, I hope you will find as equal a satisfaction in the perusal as I have done.

Camp of Buenavista, August 19, 1782.

SIR,

HIS Royal Highness Comte d' Artois, who has received permission from the King, his brother, to assist at the siege as a volunteer in the combined army, of which their most Christian and Catholic Majesties, have honoured me with the command, arrived in this camp the 15th instant. This young Prince has been pleased in passing through Madrid,

drid, to take charge of some letters, which had been sent to that capital from this, and which are addressed to persons belonging to your garrison---his Royal Highness has desired that I would transmit them to you, and that to this mark of his goodness and attention, I should add the strongest expressions of esteem for your person and character; I feel the greater pleasure in giving this mark of condescension in this august Prince, as it furnishes me with a pretext, which I have been anxiously looking for these two months, that I have been in this camp, to assure you of the high esteem I have conceived for your Excellency, of the immense desire I feel of deserving yours, and of the pleasure to which I look forward of becoming your friend, after I shall have learnt to render myself worthy of the honor of facing you as an enemy. His Highness the Duke de Bourbon, who arrived here twenty-four hours after Comte d'Artois, desires also that I should assure you of his particular esteem.

Permit me dear General to offer you a few little trifles for your table, of which I am sure you must stand in need, as I know

know you live entirely upon vegetables, I should be glad to know what kind you like best. I shall add a few partridges, for the gentlemen of your household, and some rie, which I presume will not be disagreeable in the excessive heat of this climate, at this season of the year---I hope you will be obliging enough to accept the small present I send with this letter.

I have the honor to be, &c.

His Excellency General Eliott, &c.

Gibraltar, August 20.

SIR,

I FIND myself highly honored by your obliging letter of yesterday, in which your Excellency was so kind as to inform me of the arrival in your camp of his Royal Highness the Comte d' Artois, and the Duke de Bourbon, to serve as volunteers at the siege. These Princes have shewn their judgment in making choice of a master in the art of war, whose abilities cannot fail to make great warriors. I am really overwhelmed with the condescension

descention of his Royal Highness, in suffering some letters for persons in this town to be conveyed from Madrid in his carriages. I flatter myself that your Excellency will give my most profound respects to his Royal Highness, and the Duke de Bourbon, for the expressions of esteem with which they have been pleased to honor so insignificant a person as I am.

I return a thousand thanks to your Excellency for your handsome present of fruits, vegetables, and game, you will excuse me however I trust, when I assure you, that in accepting your present, I have broken through a resolution, which I had faithfully kept since the beginning of the war, and that was never to receive, or procure by any means whatever, any provisions or other commodity for my own private use, so that without any preference, every thing is sold publicly here, and the private soldier (if he has money) can become a purchaser as soon as the Governor. I confess I make it a point of honor to partake both of plenty and scarcity, in common with my brave fellow soldiers, this furnishes me with an excuse for the liberty I now take of intreating your Excellency not to heap

any more favours on me of this kind, as in future I cannot convert your presents to my own private use. Indeed to be plain with your Excellency, though vegetables at this season are scarce with us, every one has got a quantity proportioned to the labour he has bestowed in raising them—the English are naturally fond of gardening and cultivation, and here we find our amusement in it, during the intervals of rest from public duty.

The promise which the Duke de Crillon makes to honor me, in proper time and place, with his friendship, lays me under infinite obligations—the interests of our Sovereigns being once solidly settled, I shall with eagerness embrace the first opportunity, to avail myself of so precious a treasure.

I have the honor to be, &c.

His Excellency Duke de Crillon, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XXXVI.

*Gibraltar, Sept. 1st, 1782.**Hon. Father,*

THE action has not taken place, tho' every day adds fresh convincing proofs of a speedy termination. The enemy strenuously exert themselves both by land and sea, they have hauled out five of their floating batteries in a line with the first, having bent their sails, and otherwise rigged them. On the isthmus is a battery almost within pistol shot, sufficient of itself

To frighten a whole legion of infernals,
When told they must withstand its mighty foam-
ings.

In the camp of Santa Roque, is an army of fifty thousand men, not worn out with the heavy toils of war, but healthful and vigorous, while our garrison deprived of all nourishment, and almost as feeble as old age for want of succour, can muster very few more than five thousand men and boys, including sick, wounded, and disabled, to repulse the efforts of such a superior force.

M m 2

But

But as we're actors——Europe the spectators,
 I trust we shall perform in this great cause,
 As men determined to maintain the right
 Of George our King, and Britain's fame and wel-
 fare.

Although the foe have made a hec't'ring boast,
 That each discharge from land and sea we'll find,
 Two thousand shot and shells from guns and
 mortars;
 Will constantly be show'ring on the garrison.

3d. Wind E. Two French line of
 battle ships, which seemingly stood for
 the westward came into Algaziras, on a
 frigate's speaking to them.

The enemy's naval force now stands
 thus—Nine ships of the line, three fri-
 gates, four xebecs, eight gallies, two
 cutters, one French ship of twenty guns,
 nine floating batteries complete, one
 ditto almost finished, one bomb ketch,
 about one hundred gun and mortar
 boats, beside boats for landing troops.

6th. The enemy have been assidu-
 ously employed in mounting guns in
 their sixty-four gun battery—We have
 kept almost an incessant fire from the
 rock gun upon it, but it being so thick
 covered over with sand, the shot make
 very little penetration. An additional
 field officer is ordered to take post in
 the

the lines, and a reinforcement to the New-mole guard. The Corsican company that were embodied August 4th, are ordered for duty to-morrow. Every one that is able to fire a musquet, or carry a shot, must take post upon any alarm. The tenth floating battery is roofed, and they have begun to rig her—a few days more and then we shall fall to it ding dong.

7th. Three of the floating batteries loosed their sails, and got under way, they proceeded to the Orange Grove, and were near three hours in performing their passage notwithstanding they had a favourable wind: They appear to be very heavy and ill-going vessels—I suppose there was not a perspective in the garrison but what was employed in the examination of their form and rigging.

GARRISON ORDERS.

“The marine brigade to take Europa advance, and Little-bay guards to-morrow.”

Reinforcements are ordered likewise to Prince's-lines, Landport, Waterport, Main and Ragged-staff guards.

8th.

8th. This morning Lieutenant General Boyde took post on Grand battery, having the command of all the batteries, and the necessary arrangements being made from the rock gun to the Old-mole Head, we began a furious cannonade of red hot balls upon the enemy's Mahon battery (mounted with six pieces of ordnance) and other lines of approach, together with a supply of shells and carcasses—The most intoxicating joy gained possession of the soldiery, and every heart and hand was chearfully employed, and while gazing crouds who had taken post upon Andalusia's hills, beheld the volleys of destruction that flew in showers, and the sad effects that were productive of the red flaming balls, our men rejoiced and made a pastime of the dire employ. The foe withstood our fire with intrepidity until most of their works and thirteen gun battery next the bay, were blazing in several places, and strewed over with mangled limbs and dead bodies. Several parties appeared upon their glacis; and in an undaunted manner tore up the fascines—Some kept pouring of baskets of sand upon the parts that were on fire, and others running to the

the sea for buckets of water, Thus they stood, while showers of balls fell on every side, and many were observed to be knocked off the works. I assure you it was a horrid scene of slaughter, and the enemy were constrained to cease their cannonade to save the remainder of their men. The fire continued in this spirited manner from seven till near one o'clock, during which we had several killed and wounded, among whom are Lieutenant Boag of the Royal Artillery, and Ensign Gordon, of the 58th regiment, but not mortally. The battery which mounted thirteen pieces of cannon were entirely consumed.

9th. This morning between four and five o'clock, the enemy opened their sixty-four and other batteries, amounting to about one hundred and thirty pieces of cannon and eighty mortars, with the greatest spirit upon the garrison, which we immediately answered—Their sixty-four gun battery was an incessant volley the whole time, which lasted most of the day, and the distance being so short, their shot reached the walls almost as soon as you perceived the flash; so quick was the discharge that the balls rolled along the streets.

streets by dozens ; this was by way of retaliation, for the unexpected compliment we paid them yesterday. Lieutenant Wharton, of the 73d regiment, and several men wounded. The enemy remove their floating batteries to the Orange Grove as fast as they get them ready—there are two of them that have not got their sails bent.

Wind E. Their line of battle ships, nine in number, viz. seven Spanish and two French, accompanied by a xebec and frigate, stretched over in a line from the Orange Grove, this forenoon, and fired upon the garrison until they passed Europa, when they tacked again and returned firing the same way, they then stood to the opposite side, where they lay with their sails loose until near sunset, when they again stretched over, and under a gentle sail directed their fire on the southward, in the same manner as before, continuing their course to the eastward, at which time their gun boats came over, and rowed in a line under the King's Bastion, and began a fire, but our batteries gave them such a smart reception, that they found it convenient to withdraw. The 97th regiment which
lended

landed last March, are ordered to do duty.

10th. About one o'clock this morning the nine line of battle ships returned from the eastward, and fired upon Europa and the southward encampments : They continued a brisk cannonade until they came near the King's Bastion, when they stood over to the Orange Grove and anchored--several seamen at Europa and others, were wounded thereby. They repeated this manœuvre again this forenoon, but they having been frequently struck by our shot, they have come to an anchor on their own side, where we observe two of them repairing. From the land side they also maintain a brisk fire, and their sixty-four gun battery represents an entire blaze—It is apprehended that we shall suffer considerably from this work.

11th. Between nine and ten o'clock this evening, the enemy advanced to Bay-side, and set fire to the pallisadoes at that place, which burnt very freely for some time, when one of them again advanced, observing it rather decaying, and put fresh fire to those that were not consumed, notwithstanding the guards in

the lines and at the advanced posts, discharged their musquetry upon him : The gun and mortar boats came over at the same time, and poured a brisk salute of shells and shot for above two hours—Some few killed and wounded upon the occasion.

12th. This morning we perceived a great part of the pallisadoes burnt down, sufficient to admit eight men abreast—From this circumstance we imagine they will not be long before they make the assault. From the isthmus and forts they keep a constant fire, and this morning as I came off Landport Guard, crossing the Esplanade, I observed a soldier before me, laying on the ground, and his head somewhat raised, and supported on his elbows ; I ran to him, imagining the man had life, and lifted him up, when such a sight was displayed to my view, that I think I never shall forget---a twenty-six pound ball had gone through his body, and his entrails as they hung out from the orifice were of a most disagreeable resemblance ; whether it was from the force of the ball, or their natural colour, I cannot pretend to determine---The shot from the enemy was dropping
on

on every side, and as I found his life was gone, I left him on the same spot, and made the best of my way to the southward.---A party of men buried him soon afterwards. The floating batteries at the Orange Grove have been taking in stores, &c. yesterday and to-day. The other two have also arrived there.

Several boats have been brought out of the rivers to the Orange Grove; some of them seem to have a kind of a cover, which we suppose is to shelter them from our musquetry, when they come near the shore. The wind being westerly, we shall expect the junk ships to embrace this opportunity. The enemy have erected stands or booths around the shore, lined with crimson or scarlet, where the nobles and grandees will take their seats.

A report is just circulated that a fleet are observed in the gut---we hope it is the British coming to our relief---every one seems impatient to discover their colours: A gentleman who has been taking a view says they are French and Spanish men of war; if so our fate is inevitable.

The fleet are now distinguishable by the naked eye, they are ships of force,

under French and Spanish colours, standing for the bay. The garrison are greatly agitated and disappointed in their expectations. Will you believe me Father, there are forty-four sail of the line, exclusive of the nine already on the station, which are now anchoring between Algaziras and the Orange Grove. If we can withstand this force we may bid defiance to all the world.

This afternoon the gun and mortar boats came daringly on, as much as to say, "Ye dogs surrender." but luckily a shot struck one of them, when she disappeared---the rest soon afterwards retired. Major Lewis of the royal artillery, was wounded this day.

A reinforcement is ordered to Queen's lines and in the different picquets, nine of which are to take post in town.

That our enemies may be defeated is the sincere and hearty wish of your

Dutiful Son.

LETTER

LETTER XXXVII.

Gibraltar, Sept. 13, 1782.

Seven o'clock in the morning.

Hon. Father,

TO arms! to arms! is all the cry—
the enemy's floating batteries have
weighed anchor, and are now under sail
with a fine breeze at N. W. Their co-
lours wanton in the wind with gaudy de-
corations for the battle, while thousands
of spectators from yon glittering shore,
impatient wait to triumph in their suc-
cess. They have now tacked with their
heads towards the garrison, and what
is remarkable, they work them without
a man being exposed or seen.

* * * * *

Half past nine o'clock.

The floating batteries have just brought
too, between the Old Mole and South
Bastion, within eight hundred yards of
the

the walls, a very bold manœuvre—adieu! Victory or death will crown our cause--- The garrison have begun firing upon them---the bay and rock is not to be described by words.

Half past eleven at night.

Tired and fatigued I sit down to let you know that the battle is our own, and that we have set the enemy's ships on fire. When they came on at nine o'clock this morning, they proceeded successively to their different stations, and as they moored began to fire with the utmost alacrity; at the same time we began a discharge of cold shot upon them, but to our great astonishment we found they rebounded from their sides and roofs, even a thirteen inch shell would not penetrate one! however we were not much disheartened, although we had several killed, but with all possible

fible speed we kindled fires in our furnaces, and put in our pills of thirty-two pounds weight to roast. If you could have peeped over the rock, and viewed our several employs, you could not have forbore smiling; some stationed to work the guns, like Ethiopians black by rubbing their faces with their hands dirtied with powder—the sons of Vulcan were blowing and sweating, while others were allotted to carry the blazing balls on an iron instrument made for that purpose, but as these did not afford a sufficient supply for the batteries, wheel barrows were procured filled with sand, and half a dozen shot thrown into each. The fire was returned on our part without intermission, and equally maintained by the foe, but the continual discharge of red hot balls, kept up by us, was such, as rendered all the precautions taken by the enemy in the construction of the float-tees of no effect, for the balls lodging in their sides, in length of time spread the fire throughout—This we found to be the case repeatedly during the day, though the foe frequently kept it under, but a continuance of the same inconvenience, rendered it impossible at last to work

their guns. Just at the close of day-light we observed one of the largest to be on fire in several places, and soon after another in the same condition. This gave the troops additional courage, and the fire was redoubled upon the remaining eight. The Spanish land batteries co-operated with a view of dividing our attention, and to flank the different batteries that were pouring their discharges on the junk ships, but this did not effectually accomplish their designs, as the ordnance mounted on the heights of Willis's, &c. supported a hot cannonade upon their works, which tended to abate their fire. We had the inconsiderable loss of Captain Reeves of the royal artillery, killed; Captain Grove Seward, and Lieutenant Godfrey of ditto; Lieutenant Witham, of 58th, and Captain Alexander M'Kenzie of 73d regiments, wounded, beside several non-commissioned officers and men killed and wounded.

What with the heat of the day, the forges, furnaces, and piles of flaming shot, amidst clouds of smoke and sulphur, accompanied with heavy toil, you may judge we found ourselves very feeble and thirsty, and in this situation a drink of
water

water which was all the allowance could scarce be procured. . An † officer, who commanded a battery, observing the men at the guns almost exhausted with drought he cheerfully took a keg, which holds about a pail, went to the fountain, filled it with water, and brought it through the enemy's fire to the men on the battery.

One o'clock in the morning.

The floating batteries have ceased firing, and one of them has just broke out in flames, the hands on board them are throwing rockets as signals for assistance—Captain Curtis, with a body of seamen, have just arrived at the New-mole, to man our gun boats to prevent the enemy from escaping—A report is now received that an officer and eleven men were drove on shore, upon a piece of timber, being part of a floating castle that was sunk by a shell from the garrison, as she was steering to co-operate with the flotantees.

Day break.

14th. Our bay appears a scene of horror and conflagration, the foe are be-

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O o

wailing

† Lieutenant Galpin of the 72d Regiment.

wailing their perilous situation, whilst our gun boats are busily employed in saving the unhappy victims from surrounding flames and threatening death, although the enemy from their land batteries inhumanly discharged their ordnance upon our tars to prevent their affording them relief. But never was bravery more conspicuous, for notwithstanding the imminent dangers which were to be apprehended from so daring an enterprize, yet our boats rowed along side of the floating batteries, though the flames rushed out of their port holes, and dragged the sufferers from their desperate state—the contempt paid by the British tars to the enemy's fire, of round and grape shot, and shells, will ever do honor to Old England. Our gun boats have been chasing two of the enemy's small craft, who had left the floating batteries, but have only captured one.

To hear the lamentations of the crews,
The groans, the cries, that through the flames
resound,

Imploring our assistance from the danger,
Of fire and water—ready to devour ;
Words are too weak to give a just description !
One of their ships blew up with dreadful noise,
While Curtis grappled to her scorching sides,

The

The blazing beams, the masts, the yards and
 carriages,
 In the explosion scatter'd in the air,
 And cover'd o'er the sea with foaming wreck.

Seven o'clock.

The enemy's ships are blowing up one after another half full of men, and our boats having staid as long as possible, they now returned with a body of prisoners. A remarkable instance of providence I cannot help mentioning—A young boy on board one of the floating batteries, which was almost in an entire blaze, observing our boats making for shore, got upon the head, wept and cry'd, and in the Spanish tongue called for help; his intreaties prevailed, and one of our boats notwithstanding the immense danger which threatned, rowed towards him, which he perceiving, jumped into the sea, and at that very instant the ship exploded, with the greatest part of the hands on board—The boat soon after took the boy up.

Eight o'clock.

Captain Curtis is arrived at Newmole, with about four hundred prisoners

ers including officers, some of them miserably wounded and scorched, the boat that he was in overfet in the explosion of the first floating battery, by which his coxswain was lost. As the Spanish officers came past a furnace at the New-mole, in which there were about one hundred red hot balls, and some of them melted with the excessive heat, they shrugged their shoulders and gave a piteous groan at what their eyes beheld.

Our seamen are bringing the trophies of victory on shore, one has just landed with the royal standard of Spain, which was intended by the foe to be hoisted on these battlements. The hills and heights were covered with spectators, when the tars began their procession, incessant shouts and repeated acclamations continued from the Mole to the South-parade, where the Governor and principal officers were congratulating each other on the occasion, to whom they carried the colours, which sensibly pleased our gallant chief who joined the crowd in three cheers, and presented the tars with some gold as a reward.

Each heart and soul's inflam'd with highest
 pleasure,
 To view Iberia's ensigns in our hands ; [ard,
 While every Briton crowds around the stand—
 To prize the grand display of glorious conquest.
 Some smile—then view—carefs—admire—
 shake hands,
 And with a heart felt zeal, recount the battle ;
 King George and victory re-echoes round,
 While Andalusia's shore weeps at the sound.

Nine o'clock.

The prisoners are by a guard landed,
 and escorted to Windmill-hill, except
 the wounded who were conducted to the
 Naval Hospital, where every care and
 tenderness will be shewn them—some
 of them were most horrid spectacles, one
 in particular I cannot help mentioning,
 who was carried by four men on a hand
 barrow—He had received a wound in
 his face, so that his nose and eyes were
 separated from his head, hanging by a
 piece of skin, and the motion of the
 men that carried him, occasioned its
 flapping backwards and forwards much
 resembling a mask, though he must have
 felt the most sensible agony, yet he look-
 ed round him with great complacency,
 as he passed the numerous crowds of peo-
 ple.

Ten o'clock.

The floating batteries have not all exploded—One of them has almost burnt to the water's edge, the crew having thrown the powder overboard. The enemy's land batteries maintain their fire upon the garrison, spitting forth their venom'd rage, while on the opposite shore confusion and consternation visibly appears. The nobles and grandees who had assembled to view the capture of the place are withdrawing from the Spanish camp, to carry the direful news to Philip's court, who impatient waits to hear the expected joyful tidings, but what will be his surprize when he hears that the all victorious impregnable flotantees are lost, and that flaming balls effected their ruin.

It must be a galling vexation to our foes, to behold their royal standard displayed upon our South Parade---where it is tyed to a gun and reversed.

Four o'clock in the afternoon.

The last battery has just exploded off the Old-mole Head; our red hot shot had not fired her, and it being found impracticable to warp her in here, it was judged

judged expedient to detach a boat to set her in flames, which accordingly they effected without any injury from the land batteries. Those formidable machines, the admiration of Spain, and in whose atchievements centered all their pride, are no longer dreadful, nor appear with threatening aspect.

While princes, dukes, and grandees on yon hill,
Behold the sad effects of our hot pills ;

* Morena in convulsion fits was thrown,
His junk slips burnt—his promis'd honor's flown.

† Cordoya with his fleet moor'd in the bay,
Ne'er with'd against the British walls to lay.

‡ The Prince of Nassau, who was sent to seize,
And from brave General Eliott take the keys ;
Midst disappointment, rage, and dire disgust,
Renounc'd his glory and the service curst.

• The enemy during the day extinguish'd the fire, by the assistance of engines, which supplied them with a vast quantity of water, but the continual and excessive discharge of red hot balls, intirely frustrated their purpose, and they were constrained to desist from the use of water,

* The Admiral commanding the floatanters.

† The Spanish Admiral commanding the combined fleet.

‡ A Prince of the Blood.

ter, as it was found that the battering they had received, opened the caulking, and let the water run between their decks, instead of the channels that were made in their sides to receive it, so that they were apprehensive of their powder being damaged. The construction of these machines was excellent, for the enemy being sensible that we should fire red hot balls, though they did not imagine so fast, nor unless the gun was elevated, had judiciously contrived conveyances in the larboard sides for continual circulation of water, which was furnished by working of the engines. From the nicest calculation the floating batteries received upwards of five thousand red hot balls of twenty-four and thirty-two pounds weight.

The inclosed are copies of returns, wherein you will find the strength of the garrison, the names of the floatantees and their strength, with the number of prisoners saved by our boats; and since victory has crowned our arms, with satisfaction I conclude, being impatient for you to hear the account, and beg leave to subscribe myself,

Your dutiful Son