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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Translated for the New-York Gazette.

From the Lisbon Gazette of Jan. 29.

Extract of two despatches from his excellency lord Wellington. Count of Vimieiro, addressed to his excellency Don Miguel Pereira Forjaz, from his Head Quarters at Gallegos, dated on the 20th and 21st Jan. 1812.

Most Illustrious & Excellent Sir,

I informed your excellency in my despatch of the 9th of this month, that I had attacked the place of Ciudad Rodrigo, and on the 15th I announced the progress of the operations up to that day. I have now the pleasure of acquainting your excellency that we took the place by assault last evening.

We continued employed from the 15th to the 19th, in completing the second parallel and the communications with it, and in sapping nearly as far as the crest of the glacis. — In the night of the 15th, we also advanced a branch of a mine from the left of the first parallel to the declivity of the height in the direction of the convent of St. Francisco, taking a position from which the walls of the faussebraye* of the place were visible, and in which point a battery of seven pieces was constructed and finished, so as to open on the morning of the 18th.

The batteries of the first parallel continuing at the same time, their fire had not on any occasion done great damage to the works, but had also opened breaches in the walls of the faussebraye and in the principal walls, which breaches were considered practicable; and the battery on the declivity of the height, which was begun on the 15th, and opened its fire on the morning of the 18th, likewise succeeded in opening another breach more to the left, and in front of the suburb of San Francisco. I consequently determined to assault the place, altho' the approaches had not yet reached the crest of the glacis, and the counter scarp of the de la fosse ditch was untouched.

In conformity to my determination the attack was made yesterday evening in five different columns, composed of the troops of the third and light division, and of the brigade under the command of brigadier general Pack. The two columns of the right were led by lieutenant col. O'Toole of the 2d Portuguese chasseurs, and major Rige of the 5th regiment—it being the object of these two columns to protect the march of major general Mackinnon, whose brigade formed the 3d column and proceeded to the breach made in the wall of the faussebraye—these 3 columns were composed of the troops of the 3d division, and were all commanded by lieutenant general Picton.

The 4th column, composed of the 43d and 52d regiments, and part of the 95th, all belonging to the light division under the orders of major general Crawford, attacked on the left in front of the suburb of San Francisco, covering at the same time the left of the attack; that the 3d division was making at the principal breach.

The 5th column, composed of General Pack's brigade made a false attack upon the south front of the place—Besides these five columns the 94th regiment, belonging to the 3d division, proceeded along the ditch in two columns upon the right of major general Mackinnon's brigade, for the purpose of protecting the descent of that corps to the ditch, its attack upon the breach of the faussebraye, and facilitating the destruction of the obstacles, which it was supposed the enemy might oppose to its progress.

All these attacks were made with success, and brigadier general Pack, exceeded my hopes, by converting his false attack into a real one; and his advanced guard, under the command of major Linch, having pursued the enemy's troops that garrisoned the exterior works as far as the faussebraye, made prisoners of all who opposed it.

Major Rige of the 2d battalion of the

5th regiment, after scaling the wall of the faussebraye, assaulted the main wall at the principal breach, in conjunction with the 94th regiment commanded by lieutenant colonel Campbell which had marched along the ditch at the same time, and had mounted by the breach of the faussebraye, both entering before the brigade of major general Mackinnon. These two regiments not only covered effectually the march of major general Mackinnon's brigade from the trenches by their first movements and operations, but also preceded it in the attack.

Major general Crawford and major general Vandeleur with the troops of the light division on the left were also considerably advanced, and in less than half an hour after the commencement of the attack, our troops had possessed themselves of the walls of the place, and formed on the platform, which obliged the enemy to surrender, having suffered great loss during the conflict.

I am very sorry to have to add that our loss has been great, particularly in officers of the first rank and estimation in the army. Major general Mackinnon after having bravely mounted the breach, was unfortunately killed by the explosion of a powder magazine that the enemy had near it, and after having in the most skillful manner led the troops under his command. Major general Crawford also received a severe wound when he was leading to assault the light division, and I fear that I shall be for some time deprived of his services. Major general Vandeleur was likewise wounded, but not so severely, and was able to continue in the field until the end of the action.

I have also to add lieutenant col. Cockburn of the 52d regiment, and major George Napier, who commanded the detachment of the light division destined to mount first the breach and was wounded at the top of it.

I have much satisfaction in informing your excellency how general has been the good conduct, valor, patience and perseverance in great toils, exhibited by the generals, officers and troops of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and light divisions, and general Pack's brigade, who formed the siege and distinguished themselves in the operations of it.

Lieutenant general Graham has aided me in the direction of the details relating to the siege, besides doing the duty of general commandant of the 2d division, and I am much indebted to him for his advice and co-operation in bringing this enterprize to a happy conclusion.

The conduct of all who compose the 3d division, in the operations which they executed with so much gallantry and exactness on the 19th, after dark, visibly displayed the talents and knowledge of lieutenant general Picton and major general Mackinnon, who directed the said operations, and led the troops engaged in them; but I beg your excellency to permit me to call your attention particularly to the conduct of lieutenant col. O'Toole of the 2d regiment of chasseurs; of major Rige of the 2d battalion of the 5th regiment; of lieutenant col. Campbell of the 94th regiment; of major Manners of the 74th; and of major Gray of the 2d battalion of the fifth regiment of infantry, who was twice wounded during the siege.

I should do injustice to the 3d division if I were to omit stating that the soldiers who were employing in sapping belonging to the 45th, 75th and 88th regiment, who were commanded by the captain of engineers Maclean, captain Thomson of the 74th, and lieutenant Berasford of the 85th, and Macleod of the 45th distinguished themselves as much in the assault of the place as in the painful labors which they performed during the whole period of the siege.

I have already expressed to your excellency in my despatch of the 6th instant, my sense of the meritorious conduct of the major general Crawford, of lieutenant col. Cockburn, and of the troops of the light division in the assault of the redoubt of San Francisco, which took place in the evening of the 8th of this month. The conduct of these troops has been uniformly distinguished, as well on that occasion, as in the assault of the place, and in the course of the siege. There is nothing to which I can compare the gallantry with which the brave officers and troops of the light division marched, and performed the difficult operations that they were assigned to them, notwithstanding that all their officers and leaders were killed or wounded.

Allow me to call your excellency's par-

ticular attention to the conduct of major general Crawford, of major general Vandeleur, of lieutenant colonel Barnard of the 95th regiment, of lieutenant colonel Cockburn, of major Napier and Gibbles of the 52d, and of lieutenant colonel Maclean of the 43d.

The conduct of captain Dussey of the 43d, and of lieutenant Gurwood of the 52d, who was wounded, have also been particularly commended to me.

Lieutenant colonel Elder and the 3d chasseurs likewise distinguished themselves on this occasion.

The 15th and 16th Portuguese regiments commanded by colonels Hill and Campbell, which compose the brigade of general Pack, also distinguished themselves, and that general particularly commended major Linch.

In my despatch of the 15th I acquainted your excellency of the attack upon the convent of Santa Cruz by the troops of the first division, under the command of lieutenant general Graham, and of the attack upon the Convent of San Francisco on the 14th inst. conducted by major general the honorable C. Colville.

The former enterprize was executed by captain Larroche Stackenfels of the 1st battalion of the line of the Royal German legion, and the latter by lieutenant colonel Harcourt with the 40th regiment; that regiment remained from that time in the Suburb of San Francisco, and contributed essentially to the assault that was made upon the place on that side.

Although it did not fall to the lot of the 1st and 4th division to finish these operations, they however distinguished themselves during the progress of the siege, by the patience and perseverance with which they performed the necessary labors of it. The brigade of royal guards, commanded by major general H. Campbell has particularly distinguished itself in that branch of the service.

The engineer in chief, lieutenant colonel Fletcher, the major of brigade Jones, and the officers and soldiers of the royal corps of engineers, have equally distinguished themselves—the skill with which those officers directed the operations of the siege, is beyond all praise, and I pray your excellency to allow me also to call your attention to them.

Major Dixon of the royal corps of British artillery, and now added to the Portuguese, who for some time past has had the charge of the train of battering artillery long to this army, has directed the intricate details of the last operations, with the same knowledge and skill, that he displayed in the two sieges of Badajoz, and has in a high degree merited my approbation. The rapid effects, produced by the fire of our batteries, are a sufficient eulogium upon the officers, both of the British and Portuguese artillery, employed on this occasion. I must notwithstanding make particular mention of the major of brigade, Major Lakyten, Holcombe, Dynely and Dundas, of the British artillery—and the captains Costa, Cunha and lieutenant Silva of the 1st regiment of the Portuguese.

I must also very particularly call the attention of your excellency to the conduct of major Sturgeon of the corps of artificers: That officer constructed and threw over the Aguada a bridge, without which the enterprise could not have been attempted; besides that service, he rendered important assistance of lieutenant general Graham, and to myself, in reconnoitering the place, preparatory to forming the plan of the attack—and lastly, he guided the 2d battalion of the 5th regiment, and the 2d regiment of Portuguese chasseurs to the point of attack at the assault.

The adjutant general, and the deputy quarter master general, with the officers of all their respective departments, have given me every kind of co operation in this service; and the officers of my staff have done the same; and I have much satisfaction in adding, that notwithstanding the season of the year, and the increase of the difficulties in providing the troops with provisions, the whole army has been well provided, and all the branches of that service well attended to, by the indefatigable efforts of commissary general Bisset, and the officers of his department.

Field marshal Don Carlos de Espana, and Don Julian Sanches observed the movements of the enemy upon the Tormes during the operations of the siege, and I am much obliged to those officers, and in general to the inhabitants of Castile, for the assistance that they have afforded me. The said inhabitants have invariably man-

ifested their hatred of French tyranny, & their desire of contributing by all possible means to destroy it.

At another opportunity I shall transmit to your excellency a detailed account of the effects that we found in the place; but I believe there will be found 184 pieces, including the battering train of the French army, and a great quantity of ammunition.

We have taken prisoners the governor general Barrier, with about 78 officers and 1700 soldiers.

God preserve your excellency many years.

Head quarters at Gallegos, 20th Jan. 1812.

(The French loss was 70 officers and 1630 soldiers, prisoners. Total 1709.)

The loss of the allied army, from the 16th to the 19th, was, Portuguese, killed, wounded and missing, 118—English ditto 631.

In the town of Rodrigo the English found an immense quantity of military stores and 125 pieces of artillery.)

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Munday, March 30.

Mr. Bleeker presented the petition of a British subject, praying permission to import goods to the amount of one hundred and twenty thousand pounds sterling from Great-Britain, being the amount of a legacy from a deceased person to his connections in the United States, which sum he states he knows of no other mode of remitting, not being able to purchase bills, and the laws of England prohibiting the exportation of specie.—Referred to the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

Mr. Mitchell presented the petition of the American Fur Company, praying leave to import into the United States certain British goods, &c.—Referred to the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

Mr. Seybert presented the petition of sundry persons in Philadelphia, stating they are regularly importing merchants, and previous to the proclamation of Nov. 1810 they had ordered certain British goods, which they pray permission to import.—Mr. S. moved to refer this petition to the committee to whom similar petitions have been referred.

Mr. Rhea objected to the reference of the petition, because he said it was holding out a vain hope, inducing the petitioners to believe that Congress would grant that the prayer of their petitions, which he believed there was not a majority disposed to do. If gentlemen were anxious to accomplish the object these various petitions have in view why did they not lay on the table a resolution for repealing the non intercourse law, which it was desired by these petitioners to have remitted in relation to them? This would be meeting the question in a proper manner.

Mr. Seybert expressed his confidence that this petition would be permitted to take the same course as other petitions. He could not conceive why the gentlemen should have thought proper to object to the reference of this petition, we had this morning let others of the same tenor pass without objection. It was strange indeed that the gentleman should particularly wish to prevent his constituents from receiving the same attention that others had done. As to the encouragement of a vain hope, &c. the gentleman would find on his file a bill embracing such cases as that of the petitioners, which was some time ago reported by the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures; and as it would no doubt soon be acted on, the gentleman would then have an opportunity to make his objections to the principle.

Mr. Rhea wished it to be understood that he had no intention to debar any persons from the right of petitioning, but merely to prevent the encouragement of a delusive hope which he did not believe would be realised, of the relaxation of the law in favor of these persons.

The petition was referred. Mr. Morrow presented the petition of sundry inhabitants of the Orleans territory which states, that, owing to their ignorance of the laws they had not registered certain claims to land as the law requires, and pray that some relief may be extended to them in this case.—Referred to the committee of Public Lands.

Mr. Newton, from the commercial committee, made an unfavorable report on the petition of Eben Rollins, which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Cholson reported a bill for the reg-

* The fausse-braye is an elevation of earth about 3 feet above the level, which runs round the foot of the rampart on the outside.—Edit.