

Extract of a Letter from the Select Committee at Bombay, dated July 28, 1781.

WE have given Orders for dispossessing the Dutch of their Factories at Broach and Surat. We have had Advice of the latter being effected, and have Reason to believe a considerable Property will be found belonging to the Dutch East-India Company, which shall be secured for the Benefit of the English East-India Company.

Whitehall, December 18, 1781.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Sir Henry Clinton to the Right Honourable Lord George Germain, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State; received, on the 16th Instant, by Lord Dalrymple, who arrived in the Swallow Packet, which left New York the 17th of November.

New York, November 13, 1781.

MY LORD,

IN my last Dispatch I had the Honor to acquaint your Lordship with my Fears respecting the Fate of the Army in Virginia.

It now gives me the deepest Concern to inform you, that they were but too well founded, as your Lordship will perceive by Lord Cornwallis's Letter to me of the 20th ult. a Copy of which, and the Papers accompanying it, being inclosed for your Information.

Had it been possible for the Fleet to have sailed from hence at the Time it was first imagined they would have been able to do, I have not the least Doubt that Lord Cornwallis would have been relieved by the joint Exertions of the Navy and Army; and I therefore cannot sufficiently lament that they could not have been made sooner.

Your Lordship will be informed by Lord Cornwallis's Letter to me, (a Copy of which accompanies this Dispatch) of the Force that was opposed to his Lordship in Virginia; besides which, by Rebel Accounts, which I have the Honor to inclose for your Lordship's Information, General Green seems still to have an Army acting in that Quarter; and there are, at this Instant, above 3000 Continental Troops at West Point and in its Vicinity.

My Dispatches will be delivered to your Lordship by Lord Dalrymple; and I cannot part with his Lordship, without testifying to you the high Opinion I have of his Merit, and my entire Approbation of his Conduct since he has been on this Service, acting as one of my Aides de Camp, having always shewn the greatest Attention to me, and highly distinguished his Spirit, by attending as a Volunteer upon every Expedition and Excursion which have taken Place since his being here.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Earl Cornwallis to Sir Henry Clinton, dated York Town in Virginia, October 20, 1781.

S I R,

IHAVE the Mortification to inform your Excellency, that I have been forced to give up the Posts of York and Gloucester, and to surrender the Troops under my Command; by Capitulation, on the 19th Instant, as Prisoners of War to the Combined Forces of America and France.

I never saw this Post in a very favorable Light; but when I found I was to be attacked in it, in so unprepared a State, by so powerful an Army and Artillery, nothing but the Hopes of Relief would have induced me to attempt its Defence; for I would either have endeavoured to escape to New York, by rapid Marches, from the Gloucester Side, immediately on the Arrival of General Washington's Troops at Williamsburgh, or I would, notwithstanding the Disparity of Numbers, have attacked them in the open Field, where it might have been just possible that Fortune would have favored the Gallantry of the Handful of Troops under my Command: But being assured by your Excellency's Letters, that every possible Means would be tried by the Navy and Army to relieve us, I could not think myself at Liberty to venture on either of those desperate Attempts: Therefore, after remaining Two Days in a strong Position in Front of this Place, in Hopes of being attacked, upon observing that the Enemy were taking Measures which could not fail of turning my Left Flank in a short Time, and receiving, on the Second Evening, your Letter of the 5th of September,

informing me, that the Relief would sail about the 5th of October, I withdrew within the Works on the Night of the 29th of September, hoping, by the Labour and Firmness of the Soldiers, to protract the Defence until you could arrive.

Every Thing was to be expected from the Spirit of the Troops, but every Disadvantage attended their Labour, as the Works were to be continued under the Enemy's Fire, and our Stock of Intrenching Tools, which did not much exceed 400, when we began to work in the latter End of August, was now much diminished.

The Enemy broke Ground on the Night of the 30th, and constructed, on that Night and the Two following Days and Nights, Two Redoubts, which, with some Works that had belonged to our outward Position, occupied a Gorge between Two Creeks or Ravines, which come from the River on each Side of the Town. On the Night of the 6th of October they made their first Parallel, extending from its Right on the River to a deep Ravine on the Left, nearly opposite to the Center of this Place, and embracing our whole Left, at the Distance of 600 Yards. Having perfected this Parallel, their Batteries opened on the Evening of the 9th against our Left; and other Batteries fired at the same Time against a Redoubt advanced over the Creek upon our Right, and defended by about 120 Men of the 23d Regiment and Marines, who maintained that Post with uncommon Gallantry. The Fire continued incessant from heavy Cannon, and from Mortars and Howitzers throwing Shells from Eight to Sixteen Inches, until all our Guns on the Left were silenced, our Works much damaged, and our Loss of Men considerable. On the Night of the 11th they began their second Parallel, about 300 Yards nearer to us. The Troops being much weakened by Sickness, as well as by the Fire of the Besiegers, and observing that the Enemy had not only secured their Flanks, but proceeded in every Respect with the utmost Regularity and Caution, I could not venture so large Sorties as to hope from them any considerable Effect; but otherwise I did every Thing in my Power to interrupt this Work, by opening new Embrasures for Guns, and keeping up a constant Fire with all the Howitzers and small Mortars that we could man. On the Evening of the 14th they assaulted and carried Two Redoubts that had been advanced about 300 Yards, for the Purpose of delaying their Approaches, and covering our Left Flank, and during the Night included them in their second Parallel, on which they continued to work with the utmost Exertion. Being perfectly sensible that our Works could not stand many Hours after the Opening of the Batteries of that Parallel, we not only continued a constant Fire with all our Mortars, and every Gun, that could be brought to bear upon it; but, a little before Day-break on the Morning of the 16th, I ordered a Sortie of about 350 Men, under the Direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Abercromby, to attack Two Batteries which appeared to be in the greatest Forwardness, and to spike the Guns. A Detachment of Guards, with the 80th Company of Grenadiers, under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Lake, attacked the one; and one of Light Infantry, under the Command of Major Armstrong, attacked the other; and both succeeded, by forcing the Redoubts that covered them, spiking 11 Guns, and killing or wounding about 100 of the French Troops who had the Guard of that Part of the Trenches, and with little Loss on our Side. This Action, though extremely honorable to the Officers and Soldiers who executed it, proved of little Public Advantage; for the Cannon having been spiked in a Hurry, were soon rendered fit for service again, and before Dark the whole Parallel and Batteries appeared to be nearly complete. At this Time we knew that there was no Part of the whole Front attacked, in which we could throw a single Gun, and our Shells were nearly expended. I had therefore only to chuse between preparing to surrender next Day, or endeavouring to get off with the greatest part of the Troops; and I determined to attempt the latter, reflecting, that though it should prove unsuccessful in its immediate Object, it might at least delay the Enemy in the Prosecution of further Enterprizes. Sixteen large Boats were prepared, and upon other Pretexts were ordered to