

Foreign Intelligence.

BUONAPARTE'S RETREAT FROM SYRIA.

Sir Sidney Smith to Lord Nelson,
Tigre, at Acre, May 9, 1799.

MY LORD,

I HAD the honor to inform your Lordship by my letter of the 2d instant, that we were busily employed completing two ravelins for the reception of cannon to flank the enemy's nearest approaches, distant only 70 yards from them. They were attacked last night and almost every night since, but the enemy have been each time repulsed with considerable loss; the enemy continued to batter in breach with progressive success, &c. have nine several times attempted to storm, but have as often been beaten back with immense slaughter. Our best mode of defence has been frequent sorties to keep them on the defensive, and impede the progress of their covering works. We have thus been in one continual battle ever since the beginning of the siege, interrupted only at short intervals by the excessive fatigue of every individual on both sides. We have been long anxiously looking for a reinforcement, without which we could not expect to be able to keep the place so long as we have. The delay in its arrival being occasioned by Hassan Bey's having originally received orders to join me in Egypt. I was obliged to be very peremptory in the repetition of my orders for him to join me here; it was not however till the evening of the day before yesterday, the 5th day of the siege, that this fleet of corvettes and transports made its appearance. The approach of this additional strength was the signal to Buonaparte for a most vigorous and persevering assault, in hopes to get possession of the town before the reinforcement to the garrison could disembark.

The constant fire of the besiegers was suddenly increased ten fold, our flanking fire from a float was as usual, plied to the utmost, but with less effect than heretofore, as the enemy had thrown up epaulements and traverses of sufficient thickness to protect him from it. The guns that could be worked to the greatest advantage, were a French brass eighteen pounder in the Light house caille, manned from the Thebus. Under the direction of Mr. Scorder, master's mate; and the last mounted 2½ pounder in the North ravelin manned from the Tygre, under the direction of Mr. Jones, midshipman. These guns being within grape distance of the head of the attacking column, added to the Turkish musquetry, did great execution. And I take this opportunity of recommending these two petty officers, whose indefatigable vigilance and zeal merit my warmest praise. The Tygre's two 68 pound cannonades, mounted in two gorges lying in the Mole, and worked under the direction of Mr. Bray, carpenter of the Tygre, one of the bravest and most intelligent men I ever served with, threw shells into the centre of this column with evident effect, and checked it considerably. Still, however, the enemy gained ground, and made a lodgment in the second story of the NE. tower; the upper part being entirely battered down, and the ruins in the ditch forming the ascent by which they mounted. Daylight showed us the French standard on the outer angle of the tower. The fire of the besieged was much slackened in comparison to that of the besiegers, and our flanking fire was become of less effect, the enemy having covered themselves in this lodgment, and the approach to it by two traverses across the ditch, which they had constructed under the fire which had been opposed to them during the whole of the night, and which were now seen composed of sand bags and the bodies of their dead, built in with them, their bayonets only being visible above them. Hassan Bey's troops were in the boats, though as yet but half way on shore. This was a most critical point of the contest; and an effort was necessary to preserve the place for a short time until their arrival.

I accordingly landed the boats at the Mole, and took the crews up to the breach armed with pikes. The enthusiastic gratitude of the Turks, men, women and children, at sight of such a reinforcement, at such a time is not to be described.

Many fugitives returned with us to the breach, which we found defended by a few brave Turks, whose most destructive missile weapons were heavy stones, which striking the assailant on the head, overthrew the foremost down the slope, and impeded the progress of the rest. A succession, however, ascended to the assault, the heap of the ruins between the two parties serving as a breast work for both, the muzzles of their muskets touching, and the spear heads of the standards locked. Gezza Pacha hearing the British were on the breach quitted his station, where according to the Turkish ancient custom, he was fitting to reward such as should bring him the heads of the enemy, and distributing musket cartridges with his own hands. The energetic old man coming behind us, pulled us down with violence, saying if any harm happened to his British friends, all was lost.

This amiable contest as to who should defend the breach, occasioned a rush of Turks to the spot, and thus time was gained for the arrival of Hassan Bey's troops.—I had now to combat the Pacha's repugnance to admitting any troops to his Albanians into the garden of his Seraglio, becoming a very important post as occupying the Terra-plein of the Ramparts. There was not above two hundred of the original thousand Albanians left alive. This was no time to debate, and

I overruled his objections by introducing the Chifflick regiment of one thousand men armed with bayonets, disciplined after the European method under Sultan Selim's own eye, and placed by his imperial Majesty's express command at my disposal. The garrison, animated by the appearance of such a reinforcement, was now all on foot, and there being consequently enough to defend the breach, I proposed to the Pacha to get rid of the object of his jealousy, by opening his gates to let them make a rally and take the assailants in flank; he readily complied, and I gave directions to the Colonel to get possession of the enemy's third parallel or nearest trench, and there fortify himself by shifting the parapet outwards. This order being clearly understood, the gates were opened, and the Turks rushed out; but they were not equal to such a movement, and were driven back to the town with loss. Mr. Bray, however, as usual, protected the town gate efficaciously with grape from the sixty-eight pounders. The fortie had this good effect, that it obliged the enemy to expose themselves above their parapets, so that our flanking fire brought down numbers of them, and drew their forces from the breach, so that the small number remaining on the lodgment were killed or dispersed by our few remaining hand grenades thrown by Mr. Savage, midshipman of the Thebus. The enemy began a new breach by an incessant fire directed to the southward of the lodgment, every shot knocking down whole sheets of a wall much less solid than that of the tower on which they had expended so much time and ammunition.

The groups of Generals and Aids-du-Camp which the shells from the sixty-eight pounders had frequently dispersed, was now re-assembled on Richard Cœur de Lion's Mount. Buonaparte was distinguishable in centre of a semi-circle; his gesticulations indicated a renewal of attack, and his dispatching an Aid-du-Camp, shewed that he waited only for reinforcement. I gave directions for Hassan Bey's ships to take their stations in the shoal water and made the Tygre's signal to weigh and join the Thebus to the northward. A little before sunset a massive column appeared advancing to the breach with a solemn step. The Pacha's idea was not to defend the brink this time, but rather to let a certain number of the enemy in, and then close with them, according to the Turkish mode of war. The column thus mounted the breach unopposed, and descended from the rampart into the Pacha's garden, where in a very few minutes, the bravest and most advanced among them lay headless corpses, the fabric, with the addition of a dagger in the other hand, proving more than a match for a bayonet; the rest retreated precipitately; and the commanding officer who was seen manfully encouraging his men to mount the breach, and who we have since learnt to be General Lafine, was carried off, wounded by a musket shot. General Rombaud was killed. Much confusion arose in the town from the actual entry of the enemy, it having been impossible, nay impolitic, to give previous information to every body of the mode of defence adopted, lest the enemy should come to a knowledge of it by means of their numerous spies.

The British uniform, which had hitherto served as a rallying point for the old garrison wherever it appeared, was now in the dusk mistaken for French, the newly arrived Turks not distinguishing between one hat and another in the crowd: And thus many a feverish blow of a fabric was parried by our officers, among whom Col. Douglas, Mr. Ives, and Mr. Jones had nearly lost their lives, as they were forcing their way through a torrent of fugitives. Calm was restored by the Pacha's exertions, aided by Mr. Trotter, just arrived with Hassan Bey, and thus the contest of twenty-five hours ended, both parties being so fatigued as to be unable to move.

Buonaparte will, no doubt, renew the attack, the breach being, as above described, perfectly practicable for fifty men abreast; indeed the town is not nor ever has been defensible according to the rules of art, but according to every rule it must and shall be defended; not that it is worth defending, but we feel that it is by this breach Buonaparte means to march to further conquests. 'Tis on the issue of this contest that depends the multitude of spectators on the surrounding hills, who wait only to see how it ends to join the victory, and with such a reinforcement for execution of his own projects, Constantinople and even Vienna must feel the shock.

Be assured, my Lord, the magnitude of our obligation does but increase the energy of our efforts, in the attempt to discharge our duty, and though we may, and probably shall be overpowered, I can venture to say that the French army will be so much farther weakened before it prevails, as to be little able to profit by its dear-bought victory. I have the honor to be, &c.

W. SIDNEY SMITH.

Rear Admiral NELSON.

Tigre, at anchor off Jaffa, May 30.

MY LORD,

THE providence of Almighty God has been wonderfully manifested in the defeat and precipitate retreat of the French army; the means we had of opposing its gigantic efforts against us being totally inadequate of themselves to the production of such a result. The measure of their iniquities seems to have been filled by the massacre of the Turkish prisoners at Jaffa in cool blood, three days after their capture; and the Plain of Nazareth has been the boundary of Buonaparte's extraordinary career.

He raised the siege of Acre on the 20th of May, leaving all his heavy artillery behind him, either buried or thrown into the sea, where however it is visible, and can easily be weighed. The circumstances which led

to this event, subsequent to my last dispatch of the 9th instant are as follow:

Conceiving that the ideas of the Syrians as to the supposed irresistible prowess of these invaders must be changed, since they had witnessed the checks which the besieging army daily met with in their operations before the town of Acre, I wrote a circular letter to the princes and chiefs of the Christians of Mount Lebanon and also to the Sheiks of the Druzes, recalling them to a sense of their duty, and engaging them to cut off the supplies from the French camp. I sent them at the same time a copy of Buonaparte's impious proclamation, in which he boasts of having overthrown all christian establishments, accompanied with a suitable exhortation, calling upon them to chafe between the friendship of a Christian Knight and that of an unprincipled renegade.

This letter had all the effect that I could desire, they immediately sent me two ambassadors, professing not only friendship but obedience; and assuring me that in proof of the letter they had sent out parties to arrest such of the Mountaineers as should be found carrying wine and gun powder to the French camp, and placing eighty prisoners of this description at my disposal. I had thus the satisfaction to find Buonaparte's career further northward effectually stopped by a warlike people, inhabiting an impenetrable country.

Gen. Kleber's division had been sent eastward towards the fords of the Jourdan, to oppose the Damascus army; it was recalled thence to take its turn in the daily efforts to mount the breach at Acre, in which every other division in succession had failed, with the loss of their bravest men, and above three fourths of their officers. It seems much was hoped from this division, as it had by its firmness, and the steady front it opposed in the form of a hollow square, kept upwards of ten thousand men in check during a whole day in the plain between Nazareth and Mount Tabor, till Buonaparte came with his horse artillery and extirpated these troops dispersing the multitude of irregular cavalry, by which they were completely surrounded.

The Turkish Chifflick regiment having been censured for the ill success of their rally, and their insolence in the attack of their garden, made a fresh rally the next night, Saliman Aga the Lieut. Col. being determined to retrieve the honor of the regiment by the punctual execution of the orders I had given him to make himself master of the enemy's third parallel, and this he did most effectually; but the impetuosity of a few carried them on to the second trench, where they lost some of their standards, though they spiked four guns before their retreat. Kleber's division, instead of mounting the breach according to Buonaparte's intention, was thus obliged to spend its time and strength in recovering these works, in which it succeeded after a conflict of three hours, leaving every thing in statu quo except the loss of men, which was very considerable on both sides. After this failure, the French Grenadiers absolutely refused to mount the breach any more over the putrid bodies of their unburied companions, sacrificed in former attacks by Buonaparte's impatience and precipitation, which led him to commit such palpable errors as even seamen could take advantage of. He seemed to have no principle of action but that of pushing forward, and appeared to stick at nothing to obtain the object of his ambition, although it must be evident to every body else that even if he succeeded to take the town, the fire of the shipping must drive him out of it again in a short time; however, the knowledge the garrison had of the inhuman massacre at Jaffa, rendered them desperate in their personal defence. Two attempts to assassinate me in the town having failed, recourse was had to a most flagrant breach of every law of honor and of war.

A flag of truce was sent into the town by the hand of an Arab Dervise with a letter to the Pacha proposing a cessation of arms for the purpose of burying the dead bodies the stench from which, became intolerable, and threatened the existence of every one of us on both sides, many having died delirious within a few hours after being seized with the first symptoms of infection. It was natural to us to be consequently on our guard during the conference. While the answer was under consideration, a volley of shot and shells, on a sudden, announced an assault, which, however, the garrison was ready to receive, and the assailants only contributed to increase the number of the dead bodies in question, to the eternal disgrace of the General, who thus disloyally sacrificed them. I saved the life of the Arab from the effect of the indignation of the Turks, and took him off to the Tigre with me, from whence I sent him back to the General, with a message which made the army ashamed of having been exposed to such a merited reproof. Subordination was now at an end, and all hopes of success having vanished, the enemy had no alternative left but a precipitate retreat, which was put in execution in the night between the 20th and 21st inst. I had above said that the battering train of artillery (except the carriages, which were burnt) is now in our hands, amounting to twenty-three pieces. The howitzers and medium twelve pounders originally conveyed by land with much difficulty; and successfully employed to make the first breach, were embarked in the country vessels at Jaffa, to be conveyed coast-wise, together with the work among two thousand wounded, which embarrassed the march of the army. This operation was to be expected. I took care, therefore, to be between Jaffa and Damietta before the French army could get as far as the former place. The vessels being hurried to sea, without fauten to navigate them, and the wounded being in want of every necessary, even water and provisions, they steered straight to his Majesty's ships, in full confidence of receiving the favors of humanity, in

which they were not disappointed. I have sent them on to Damietta, where they will receive such further aid as their situation requires, and which it was out of my power to give to so many. Their expressions of gratitude to us were mingled with execrations on the name of their General, who had, as they said, thus exposed them to peril rather than fairly and honorably renew the intercourse with the English, which he had broken off by a false and malicious affection, that I had intentionally exposed the former prisoners to the infection of the plague. To the honor of the French army, be it said, this assertion was not believed by them, and it thus recoiled on its author. The intention of it was evidently to do away the effect which the proclamation of the Porte began to make on the soldiers, whose eager hands were held above the parapet of their works to receive them when thrown from the breach.

He cannot plead misinformation as his excuse, his aid-camp, Mr. Lallemand, having had free intercourse with these prisoners on board the Tigre when he came to treat about them; and having been ordered, tho' too late, not to repeat their expressions of contentment at the prospect of going home. It was evident to both sides that when a general had recourse to such a shallow, and at the same time, to such a mean artifice as a malicious falsehood, all better resources were at an end, and the defection in his army was consequently increased to the highest pitch.

The utmost disorder has been manifested in the retreat, and the whole track between Acre and Gaza, is strewn with the dead bodies of those who have sunk under fatigue, or the effect of slight wounds—such as could walk, unfortunately for them not having been embarked, the rowing gun boats annoyed the van column of the retreating army, in its march along the beach, and the Arabs harassed its rear, when it turned inland to avoid their fire. We observed the smoke of musquetry behind the sand hills from the attack of a party of them which came down to our boats and touched our flag with every token of union and respect. Imrael Pacha, Governor of Jerusalem, to whom notice was sent of Buonaparte's preparation for retreat, having entered this town by land at the same time that we brought our guns to bear on it by sea, a stop was put to the massacre and pillage already begun by the Nabulians.—The English flag, re-hoisted on the Consul's house (under which the Pacha met me) serves as an asylum for all religious and every description of the surviving inhabitants. The heaps of unburied Frenchmen lying on the bodies of those whom they massacred, two months ago, afford another proof of divine justice, which has caused these murderers to perish by the infection arising from their own atrocious acts. Seven poor wretches are left alive in the hospital, where they are protected and shall be taken care of. We have had a most dangerous and painful duty in disembarking here to protect the inhabitants, but it has been effectually done. Imrael Pacha deserves every credit for his humane exertions, and cordial co-operation to that effect. Two thousand cavalry are just dispatched to harass the French rear, and I am in hopes to overtake them in time to profit by their disorder; but this will depend on the assembling of sufficient force, and on exertions of which I am not absolutely master, though I do my utmost to give the necessary impulse, and a right direction. I have every confidence that the officers and men of the three ships under my orders, who, in face of a most formidable enemy, have fortified a town that had not a single heavy gun mounted on the land side, and who have carried on all intercourse by boats under a constant fire of musquetry and grape, will be able efficaciously to assist the army in its future operations. This letter will be delivered to your lordship by Lieut. Canes, first of the Tigre, whom I have judged worthy to command the Thebus as captain, ever since the death of my much lamented friend and coadjutor, Capt. Miller. I have taken Lieut. England, first of that ship, to my assistance in the Tigre, by whose exertions and those of Lieut. Summers and Mr. Atkinson, together with the bravery of the rest of the officers and men that ship was saved, though on fire in five places at once, from a deposit of French shells bursting on board her.

I have the honor to be, &c.

W. SIDNEY SMITH.
Rt. hon. Lord Nelson, Rear
Admiral of the Blue, &c. }
[Here follows a list of the killed and wounded.]

FURTHER OF BUONAPARTE.
The letter of Sir Sidney Smith, covering the preceding, was dated 16th June, 1799, at which time he was off Mount Lebanon. Accounts from Constantinople of July 23, state, "That at Gaza, in a mutiny of the French troops, Buonaparte narrowly escaped assassination; that Gen. Kleber at length restored order; and the army being mulctured was found to be only 2800 strong.—The Grand Vizier was in rapid pursuit of the French, and was expected speedily to reach Damascus. Still further accounts (Constantinople, Aug. 10) say that Aboukir and Rosetta in Egypt, had been captured by the allied arms, which were proceeding against Alexandria.—Some of the Turks wounded in the assault of Aboukir, have arrived at Constantinople. Sir Sidney Smith commanding the Turks in the assault, in which 150 Frenchmen were put to the sword. Several sacks of French ears, have been transported to the Grand Seigneur.

FRANKFORT, Sept. 17.
A considerable part of the French army has recrossed the Rhine near Manheim.

Four thousand men, under the command of the General of Division of Ayal, entered Mentz last night, where the Commander in Chief Muller is also arrived. It is feared, that the armed peasants might be attacked before the arrival of the Austrians. They are about 7000 men strong, and ready to meet the enemy. The Archduke's headquarters are expected to arrive to-day in the neighbourhood of Heidelberg, from Wisloch.

DARMSTADT, Sept. 19.

The grand plan of the Archduke Charles, to shift the theatre of war to the left bank of the Rhine, develops itself rapidly. At the moment the French feared that the Archduke would attempt to turn Massena from the side of Donaueschingen (for which purpose he had sent some of his troops to Basle) he rapidly broke up in four columns towards the Neckar, quite in an opposite direction. The first of these columns is already in the Bergstrasse, forming a semi-circle, which extends to within three miles of Manheim, and from thence to Bruchsal and Durlach. In neither of these points the French would make a stand. It is generally believed, that the Archduke will cross the Rhine, but it is not known in which quarter. Great quantities of pontoons follow his army.

BRUSSELS, September 19.

Letters from the Rhine announce that the Austrians and peasants have crossed the Nidda at several points, and have obliged the French to retreat that river.

It appears by the dispositions of the 20,000 men with the people of the country of Mentz, and thereby cause our Generals to detach a force to the left bank of the Rhine; and thus he hopes that we shall be obliged to send a part of the forces destined for Holland to the Rhine.

On the 15th arrived here the Marquis de Musquiz, Spanish Envoy Extraordinary to the Court of Berlin; he going to succeed the Chevalier Azara at Paris.

All the troops in our neighboring departments, and on the coasts, are marching for Batavia.

A great number of Dutch officers of the Prince's party, after the contest of Holland by the French, retired into Belgium: they have now set off, it is said for Westphalia, to join the Stadholder.

Gen. van der Duyn, who resided at Brussels, set off with so much precipitation, that he did not get his passport.

VIENNA, September 14.

Six thousand Russians, which are arrived on the frontiers of the Austrian part of Poland, will march in six divisions through Upper Hungary.

STUTTGARD, September 20.

An Imperial officer passed this day through this city, to bring the account of the capture of the forts of Tortona, to the Archduke. The garrison consisting of 1044 men, left it on the 11th; agreeable to the convention of August 24th. The Austrians found about 100 cannon in the citadel. The terms of capitulation are as yet unknown. The garrison flattered itself to be relieved by the armies of Moreau and Championet, but the position of the Austrians made this impossible.

According to letters from Schaffhausen, of September 18, nothing had taken place in Switzerland.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE time being fixed on, when the MILITARY LAND (commonly called Loxos) WARRANTS, granted to the United States' army, are to be registered and located,—the subscribers have explored that tract of land on which those warrants are to be laid; with a view, and for the purpose of offering their services as locators.

We take the liberty of suggesting, that we were at least as well acquainted with the situation, quality of the soil, &c. of the different townships in the aforesaid tract, as any other person; this will, perhaps, appear more clearly, by observing, that WILLIAM C. SCHENCK assisted in running the Indian boundary line; at which time he considerably traversed that tract; he also assisted in surveying and laying it off into townships, and at other times ranged over it, to gain information. But to obtain a more complete and accurate knowledge, we have lately spent between two and three months, with several assistants, in particularly examining the different townships and quarter townships; by which means we have acquired an accurate knowledge of the whole district.—We now offer our services to the public, as Locators, with assurances that we will locate every persons warrants intitled to us to the best advantage, agreeably to their rights of location, which is to be determined according to law. For our services we demand the one equal tenth part either in lands or warrants, when we locate a full tract, of four thousand acres or more, for one person or firm; the land to be taken in a square, at a corner of the tract; which corner is to be equitably determined before the time of location.—The one equal tenth part, in cash or warrants, when we connect and locate any amount less than four thousand acres. We will be in Philadelphia from December next, until after the time of location, to transact this business. Any person wishing to satisfy himself farther, will please to call on us, by letter, (postage paid) or otherwise; when due attention will be paid, and such vouchers may be seen as we have to offer, which we hope will be satisfactory.

MARTIN BAUM,

WILLIAM C. SCHENCK,

Philadelph'ia, Oct. 9, 1799.