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Whitehall, May 18.

Yesterday arrived Captain Laws, Commander of the Spence Sloop, with Letters to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle his Majesty's principal Secretary of State, from Vice Admiral Vernon, and Brigadier Wentworth Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Forces in the West-Indies, dated from the Harbour of Cartagena, the 1st of April, which give the following Account.

On the 25th of February Vice Admiral Vernon weighed Anchor from Irish Bay in Hispaniola, with the Squadron and Transports under his Command, being in all one hundred and twenty four Sail; and on the 4th of March in the Evening, they anchored in Playa Grande to Windward of the Town of Cartagena.

On the 9th Sir Chaloner Ogle (who was appointed to command the Attack of the Forts and Batteries on Terra Bomba) moved forward with his Division; and Vice Admiral Vernon weighed and moved after him with his Division and all the Transports, leaving Mr. Lestock with his Division at Anchor behind. The small Fort of Chamba fired a few Guns, but was deserted as soon as the Ship posted there could take her Station and begin to Fire. At the Fascine Battery erected between that and the Forts of St. Jago and St. Philip, the Enemy had not yet had Time for getting any Guns mounted, so there was no Fire from thence; and the Norfolk, Ruffel, and Shrewsbury, being anchored very close under the said Forts of St. Jago and St. Philip, made so warm a Fire, that in less than an Hour they drove the Enemy out of them, and the same Evening our Grenadiers made a Descent under the Walls of those Forts, and took Possession of them.

The 10th the two Regiments of Harrison and Wentworth, and the six Regiments of Marines landed without Opposition.

On the 11th we got our Tents and Tools ashore, cleared the Ground, and encamped.

All the Artillery and Ordnance Stores were brought ashore by the 15th.

The Admiral having Notice from Brigadier Wentworth, that his Men were much galled by the Fire of a Fascine Battery from the opposite Side of the Harbour called the Baradera Side, sent Boats with a Number of Men. The Boats commanded by Captain Watson of the Admiral's own Ship, with the Captains Norris and Colby under him; and the Men, when landed, were to be commanded by Captain Boscawen, having under him the Captains Laws and Cotes. They landed about a Mile to the Leeward of this Fascine Battery, which was of 15 twenty-four Pounders. They happened to land under a small Battery of five Guns, which they knew nothing of; but they leaped resolutely into the Battery, and sur-

prized the Enemy, so as to receive but little Damage, and secured those Cannon. This gave an Alarm to the Enemy at the other, who had Time to point two of their Guns against us, but with little Effect; and our Men rushing on boldly, made themselves Masters of that as well as of the smaller Battery, and kept Possession of them till they had spiked up all their Guns, tore up and burnt their Platforms with the Carriages, and brought off six wounded Prisoners, with an inconsiderable Loss on our Side. Which Success was a great Relief to our Troops on the other Shore.

Brigadier Wentworth had caused a Battery of Mortars to be raised, which much incommoded the Enemy in the Castle of Boccachica, and on the 22d a Battery of 20 Twenty-four Pounders began to play upon that Castle. The Enemy had in the mean time been diligently at Work on the first-mentioned Fascine Battery, had got two Guns mounted to play from thence, and were working to add more; upon which the Admiral order'd a Ship close under the Shore, to rake that Battery.

On the 23d Commodore Lestock in the Boyne, with the Prince Frederick, Hampton Court, Suffolk, and Tilbury, went in to batter the said Castle and the Enemy's Ships; but the Boyne falling to Leeward, and being open to much of the Enemy's Fire, was called off that Evening; the rest continued there; and the Princess Amelia that was fallen further to Leeward than was intended, lay fair to silence the new mounted Guns on the Fascine Battery, and did so accordingly, which was a great Preservative to the Men playing our Battery ashore, and in the Camp, as the Enemy's Shot went over the Hill into the Camp.

On the 24th our Ships renewed their Fire, but the Prince Frederick and Hampton Court being much gall'd by the Shot from the Enemy's Ships, were called off; on which Station his Majesty lost a brave Officer in Lord Aubrey Beauclerc, Commander of the Prince Frederick, who would have been an Honour to his noble Family and his Country, being of a sedate as well as a resolute Temper. About Noon the Admiral sent all his Boats again to the Attack of the Fascine Battery, where the Enemy had mounted six Guns: But our Men who landed from the Boats having Time and Daylight for it, destroyed the Guns, broke up all their Platforms, set every thing on Fire, and drew some of our Boats over a Neck of Land, and boarded and burnt a Sloop that lay there to supply that Battery with Ammunition.

A tolerable Breach being made in Boccachica, Brigadier Wentworth came off on the 25th to give the Admiral an Account of his Intentions to assault the Breach an Hour before Night. Upon which the Admiral made the Signal for the Boats again, and sent them in to make a seasonable Diversion, under the chief Command of his Engineer Captain Knowles, who carried with him some Coehorn Mortars and Patareroes, which it was judged