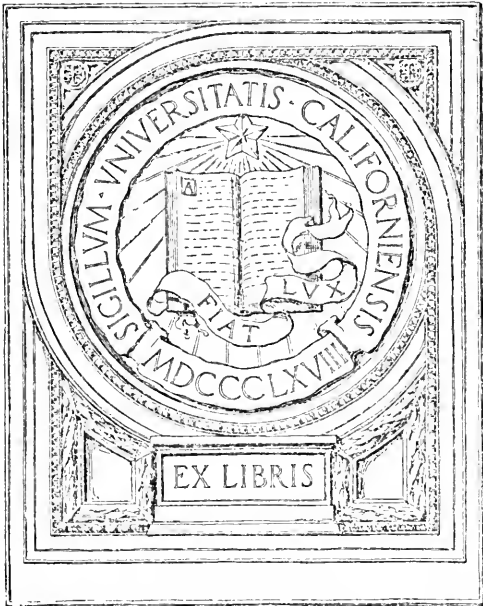


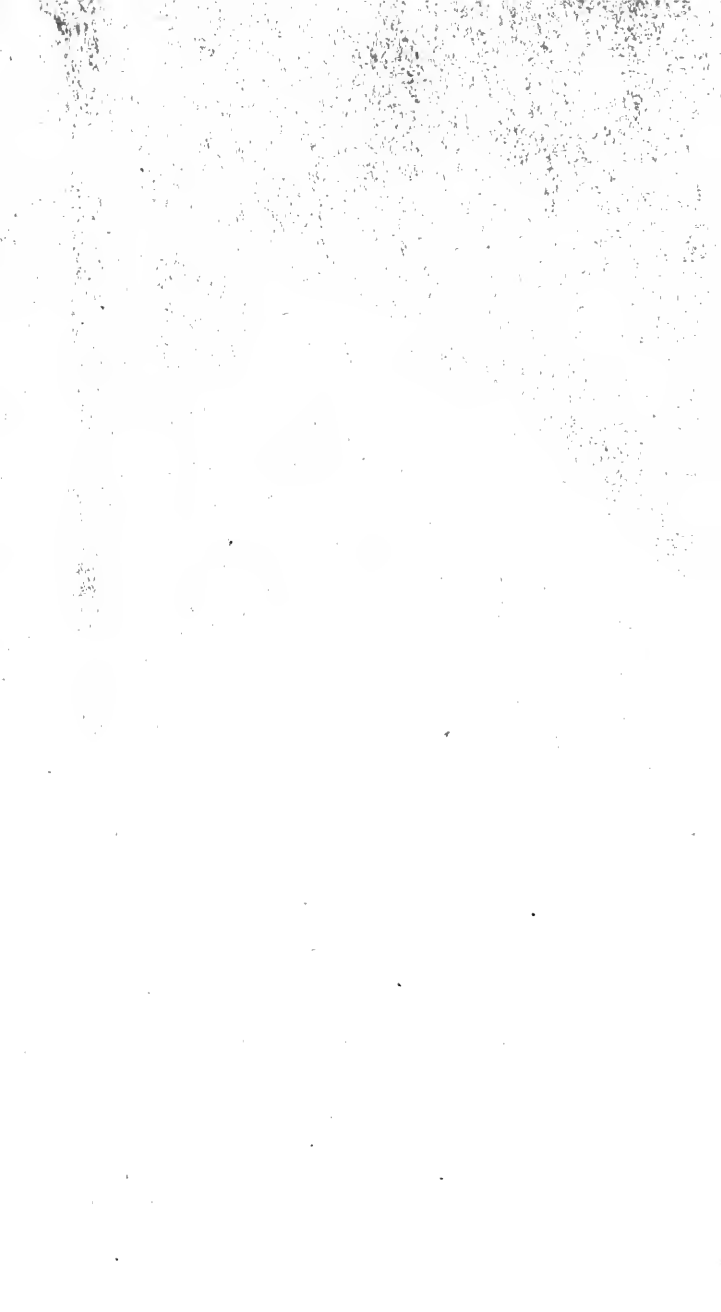
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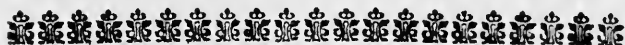
ORIGINAL PAPERS

Relating to the

EXPEDITION

TO THE

Island of *CUBA*.



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Relating to the

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TO THE

Island of *C U B A*.

Magna est Veritas, et prævalebit.



L O N D O N :

Printed for M. COOPER, at the *Globe* in
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ORIGINAL PAPERS

Relating to the

EXPEDITION

TO THE

Island of CUBA.

By James O. Easton, Esq.



LONDON:

1825.

By EDWARD VERNON, *Esq;*
VICE ADMIRAL of the Blue,

A N D

*Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and
 Vessels in the WEST-INDIES.*

To Sir CHALONER OGLE, *Rear-Admiral of the
 Blue Squadron of his Majesty's Fleet.*

S I R,

HIS Majesty's Ships designed for the present Expedition being now in a Readiness to proceed to Sea, agreeable to my general Orders for their being ready as this Day ;

And as the Difficulties of the Channel for our getting to Sea, make it highly imprudent to attempt doing it together ;

You are hereby required and directed, to detach two Ships of your Division to Sea, with the first Detachment of Transports that General *Wentworth* shall send you Advice are ready to proceed to Sea ; and to detach two more Ships of your Division, with such as shall be ready to proceed on the second Day ; and to go out with the Remainder of your Division on the third Day ; ordering those Detachments that have preceeded you to be working to windward under an easy sail, to collect themselves together under *Yellows*, or *Morant Bay*, till you come up with them, for proceeding with them, with an easy sail, to our first Place of general

B neral

ALBINE BOOK CO. NOV 23 72 CURRY JES

neral Rendezvous in *Donna Maria* Bay : Which Rendezvous the Colonel of the Train, and the Agent of the Transports, have both of them my Orders to deliver to the respective Storeships and Transports under their Orders ; and it is to be deliver'd sealed up, for being open'd only in case of Separation. And you will give the said Rendezvous to the commanding Officer of the separate Detachments of your Division : And you know the next Rendezvous that is to be given, in pursuance of our last general Council of War.

As I shall be following you myself the next Day, and leaving Orders with some of my Division to bring up the remaining Ships after us, I shall soon join you ; or you will have a short Retreat to me, in case of meeting any superior Squadron of the Enemy.

All *Spanish* Ships or Vessels that you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost Endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized Attempts of the Subjects of any Nation to cover and protect the Ships, Persons, or Effects of his Majesty's Enemies the *Spaniards* ; you are to take care to prevent the same, and to seize the said *Spaniards* Ships, Persons, or Effects, wherever you shall find the same on the Seas ; as you will the Ships and Vessels of any Nation whatsoever, that you shall meet with attempting to supply his Majesty's Enemies the *Spaniards* with contraband Stores, for their being further proceeded against according to Law : Taking care to give particular Directions, for securing the Papers and Effects of all Ships or Vessels so taken or seized, from all manner of Plunder and Embezzlement.

But on meeting any of the *Guarda Costas* of his most Christian Majesty, you are to preserve with them

them that good Correspondence that ought to subsist between the Subjects of Princes in Amity with each other. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne* in *Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica*, this 25th of *June*, 1741.

E. VERNON.

To Captain RENTONE of the *Rippon*.

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed, with his Majesty's Ship the *Rippon* under your Command, to put to Sea with all possible Expedition, and make the best of your Way to windward; and to get up into a proper Station for cruizing to windward of *St. Jago*, for intercepting the Trade of the Enemy going to or coming from that Port, and observing such other Directions as you have my verbal Orders for. And the *Seaborse* being under my Orders to cruize off there to the 10th of *July*, you are to look out for her in the said Station, as you may expect to meet Intelligence from her, for your better Government in the Execution of my Orders. And on meeting with her, you are to deliver Capt. *Allen* my Orders for putting himself under your Command, and to continue him cruizing under your Orders, as best shall answer the due Execution of the Service you are ordered upon; either by keeping him off *St. Jago* and yourself further to windward of *Walthenam Bay*, or posting him otherwise, as you shall judge most expedient from the Intelligence you may receive.

All *Spanish* Ships and Vessels that you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost Endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized Attempts of the Subjects of any Nation, to cover and protect the Ships, Persons, or Effects of his Majesty's Enemies the *Spaniards*; you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said Ships, Persons, or Effects of his Majesty's Enemies the *Spaniards*, wherever you shall find the same on the Seas; as you will the Ships and Vessels of any Nation, that you shall meet with going to supply his Majesty's Enemies the *Spaniards* with Contraband Stores, for their being further proceeded against here according to Law.

But on meeting with any of the *Guarda Costas* of his most Christian Majesty, you are carefully to preserve with them that good Correspondence that ought to subsist between Officers in the Service of Princes in Amity with each other.

And you are to continue cruising a little to windward of *Waltbenam* Bay, to the 30th Day of *July* next, or your sooner receiving further Orders from me by some of my Cruizers in the said Station. For which this shall be your Warrant.

Given under my Hand, on board his Majesty's Ship the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal* Harbour, *Jamaica*, this 25th of *June*, 1741.

E. V.

To the Hon. General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

HIS Majesty's Ships designed for the present Expedition being now in a Readiness for the Sea, agreeable to my Orders to them to be ready as this Day, I could not omit the first Opportunity of acquainting you with it.

And as the Difficulties of the Channel for our going out, make it necessary to proceed to Sea by
Detach-

Detachments, Sir *Chaloner Ogle* has my Orders for detaching two of his Division to Sea, as Convoy to the first of our Transports, or Storeships, that you shall signify to him your having in a Readiness to proceed with them. And he will detach two more the second Day, and go out himself with those that are ready the third; as I propose to do myself the fourth Day with my Division, leaving only behind us one Ship, as Convoy to whomever you may not have ready to proceed with us then.

And I believe you will agree with me, in thinking we cannot too soon proceed, to avail ourselves of the Alarm that may be given his Majesty's Enemies, by the Appearance of the large Fleet under Convoy of Mr. *Lestock's* Squadron towards the *Hayvanna*: And the sooner we are going, the longer Time we shall have to act in before the Rains come in upon us.

And Capt. *Rentone* has my Orders for proceeding to Sea before us to-morrow, for making all necessary Observations, as I mentioned to you that I intended.

With my best Wishes for Success to our joint-Endeavours for his Majesty's Service, I am,

S I R,

Boyne, June 25, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To the Hon. General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

AFTER congratulating you on our Forces having hitherto got so safely into the Sea, without any ill Accident; I send this Letter by Capt. *Trevor*, to let you know I design, as I formerly acquainted you, to sail my self to-morrow, with
the

the Remainder of my Division that are in present Condition for proceeding. And as it is so necessary for us to be at the Head of our Forces as soon as possible, and to keep together, I am perswaded you are very ready and desirous of sailing at the same Time: And if there should be any of your Transports or Storeships that may require any longer Delay, if you will please to advise me of it, as I have some Ships that will follow me soon, I will leave all the necessary Orders with them, for taking them under their Convoy and bringing them after us.

When I reflect on the prodigious Sum this Expedition has cost our Royal Master, and how high the Nation has carried their Expectations from it, I cannot but be animated with a Zeal to exert the utmost of my Abilities, to answer the Expectation of our Royal Master and the Nation; and am perswaded you are animated with the same Zeal, and will look with a just Resentment on all who shall shew any Want of it. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, June 30, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

AFTER congratulating you on our being got safe out into the Sea without any Accident, with our great Ships, and through that hazardous Channel (which I think a good Providence, and a happy Omen of our future Success;) I send this to desire you would return me, by the Bearer, the Papers I left with you for your Perusal, as I have a View of making a further Use of them, as a Key
to

to my future Enquiries, to avail ourselves all we can of the happy Providence of having in our Hands so many proper Persons to enquire of.

I am giving Orders now to Capt. *Cleland*, to take under his Care, Protection and Convoy, the Leewardmost of our Transports and Storeships, that we may advance a little faster, to get up with the main Body of those sent to Sea before us. I am,

S I R,

Boyne at Sea, July 2,
1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To Captain CLELAND, of the Worcester.

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed, to come with an easy Sail after us, for keeping under your Care, Protection and Convoy, the Leewardmost of our Transports and Storeships, and conducting them safely to the first Place of our general Rendezvous, (which you have had delivered you open, and they have received likewise) off Cape *Donna Maria*. And after getting them there, if you don't find me there, or other Orders from me by some of my Cruizers, you are then to proceed with them to my second Place of general Rendezvous (which you have received seal'd, to be open'd there;) and to give them there Orders conformable to it, for knowing where to come, if by any Accident they should lose Company with you. And this you are strictly injoined to take all possible Care in, as you must expect to answer, at your Peril, for any Disappointment that may arise to the Expedition through any Carelessness or Remissness in you, or your Officers; whom you will give

give the strictest Orders to, for being careful in their respective Watches; and you will carry a Top Light, for their keeping Company with you, and making all the proper Signals to them by Day and by Night; and repeat my Signals while we are in View, that they may observe your being appointed to take Care of them. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, at Sea, this 2d of July, 1741.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

AS I am going to send Capt. *Broderick*, in the *Shoreham*, to *Jamaica*, who is just returned from his Cruize off *Carthagena*, I have sent an Officer to wait on you for any Letters you may have to send to *Jamaica* by him. He found every Thing lying in the Condition we left it in, having had the Opportunity to observe it, by his sending his Lieutenant in at *Boca Grande*, and so by *Castillo Grande*, to the Town, with some Prisoners I had promised the Vice Roy the Remission of to him: But they stopp'd the Boat before it reached the Town, and desired the Officer to go back to *Castillo Grande*, and wait there for the Answer to my Letter. Whilst he was there, he had the Opportunity to observe they were loading Stones from the Ruins of that Castle, to carry to *Carthagena*; and he learnt by a Negroe that spoke *English*, that they were employed in new Works, which they were raising at *Hemini*, expecting another Visit from us. He looked in at *Boca Chica* likewise, and found Things just as we left them, only a Guard placed at the Ruins of *Boca Chica* Castle.

After congratulating you on our happily being got so far in our Way that we may soon hope to
be

be assembled, for proceeding to *Waltbenam*; I send you, inclosed, the Examination, taken in Writing, of *John Drake*, who is so well acquainted with the Road from thence to *St. Jago*. And as that is an open Town, and the Access to it so plain and clear from thence, I cannot but flatter myself we have a very easy and sure Game to play. I am fully perswaded that there is no way to begin it with Success but from thence; and I think it is so sure of Success, that I mention it so, that you may think of giving necessary Orders for preparing your recovered Men to be ready for embarking, to come to us on the first Orders. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, off the Navassa,
July 12, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To Sir CHALONER OGLE.

S I R,

AFTER congratulating you on our having got our Flock up in so fair a Way, I am glad to acquaint you, I have likewise had the Pleasure to have my Cruizers join me, both from *Carthagena* and *Leogane*: And as they bring nothing very material, shall defer acquainting you with Particulars till I have the Pleasure of seeing you next.

But having drawn up the Information from the Person I have had so long on board, in Writing, to send it to the General to-day, and to let him see how very practicable it is to come to *St. Jago* from *Waltbenam*; I send you now inclosed a Copy of it.

And having got some further Informations by means of a Prisoner from thence, I think we have all the Lights we want, and shall be glad to chat over Particulars with you.

C

I intend

I intend now only to gather together what we have of our Flock, and to proceed directly with them to *Walthenam*: But want to see *Wallace*, to know if he has yet delivered out our second Rendezvous for *Walthenam* Bay, which, if not done, will be necessary to be done first; and then I will leave Capt. *Dent* to cruize for a short Time off Cape *Donna Maria*, for picking up all Stragglers, and bringing them after us. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, off the *Navassa*,
July 12, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

P. S. Capt. *Allen* brought me sixty-four Prisoners from St. *Jago* the Evening you failed. Pray order your People to be careful in repeating my Signals.

Declaration of JOHN DRAKE, Mariner.

HE was taken, going from the Bay of *Honduras* to *New England*, by a *Spanish* Schooner, about thirteen Years ago, and carried into *Trinidado*; where he staid about a Week, and then went to *Puerto del Principe*, in order to get a Passage to *Jamaica*: But finding he could get a very comfortable Living there by fishing, he remained and followed that Employment about ten Years, sometimes at *Puerto del Principe*, sometimes at *Bayamo*, and sometimes at St. *Jago*: From whence he went to *Punto d' Enemigo*, a Place about seven Leagues to windward of *Guantinam*, where he lived about two Years by hunting, paying one Don *Joseph Mustilier* (a Priest) the Third of whatever he killed.

He is very well acquainted with all the Coast, and as far as about five Leagues within Land,
from

from St. *Jago* to the said *Punto d' Enemigo*. *Guan-tinam* is a fine large Harbour, about two or three Leagues broad, and has a Fresh-Water River running into it on the Leewardmost Side; up which River for about a League there is four or five Fathom Water, and on the Larboard Side the King's *Salina*. Further up, the Water shoals, but in such a Manner that this Ship's Longboat can very well pass about three or four Leagues; farther than which even a *Dorée* cannot pass, being only Ankle deep. About two Leagues from the King's *Salina*, upwards on the Starboard Side, are two other *Salinas*, from which *Salinas* to a Village called *Santa Catalina*, containing about an hundred Houses and one Church, it is eight Leagues. The Inhabitants are *Indians* and *Mulattoes*, who live by hunting and raising of Stock. This Village of *Santa Catalina* lies in the direct Road from St. *Jago* to *Baraccoa*, it being from St. *Jago* to *Santa Catalina* thirteen Leagues, and from *Santa Catalina* to *Baraccoa* thirty Leagues; and he has himself walked from *Santa Catalina* to St. *Jago* in twelve Hours. The Road from the *Barkadier* to *Santa Catalina* is about two Leagues along the River Side; from thence a good open Road for about two Leagues more, when there is a fine large *Savanna* for about two Leagues more; and the remaining two Leagues, the Road is likewise good and open, you every now and then meeting with a *Crawle* or *Cattle-Pen*. From *Santa Catalina* to St. *Jago*, the Road is for the most part woody, Hills and Dales; but, in the narrowest Part, so broad that ten Men may very well go a-breast; and every here and there you will see a *Crawle* or *Cattle-Pen*, and find three or four Rivulets in the Passage. In the dry Season of the Year, which is from *October* to *June*, all

these Roads are very good, and, even in the rainy Season, passable without much Difficulty.

The foregoing Account I affirm to be true, to the best of my Knowledge. Dated on board his Majesty's Ship the *Boyne*, July 10, 1741.

Witness,

Thomas Watson,

William Rogers.

JOHN DRAKE.

Declaration of HENRY CAVELIER.

HE was Carpenter of an *Affiento* Brigantine, seized in the Port of *St. Jago* about twenty-three Months ago, and, with all the rest of the Crew, made a Prisoner. Whilst there, he was employed at *Morro*, *Estrella*, and *Santa Catalina* Castles, making a Shed for the *English* Prisoners at work to lie under, repairing three Canoas, making one hundred and fifty Hodds, fifty Rammers for ramming and levelling the Batteries, a large Wheel for boring some honeycomb'd Guns, cutting down Timber in the Mountain about a League and a half off, making nine Carriages, Doors and Door Frames for the Bread-Room, two Doors for the intended Powder-Room, and sundry Coopers Tools.

At the Entrance of the Port, on the Starboard Side, is a low Battery called the *Punto*, which has two 12 Pounders and three 6 Pounders, and one Gun (a 4 Pounder) at the Entrance below, pointing to the Road which leads from the Bay where you land. About half way up the Hill, by Steps, is another Battery, called *Plataforma Grande*, fronting the Sea, with eight 42 Pounders and two 18 Pounders; with seven Caves thereon for lodging Soldiers and Provisions, the Westernmost of which is for a Powder-Room, and the Eastermost for a
Cook

Cook-Room. The Powder-Room is partition'd from the rest by the solid Hill, but all the others are flush, without any Partition at all. The Entrance into these Caves is about ten Feet wide, and they are dug into the solid Hill. Higher up, is another Battery, which has two honeycomb'd Guns, 4 Pounders, and a Cistern which will contain about two or three thousand Gallons of Water. Higher up, is another small Platform, with a little Cistern to contain about nine or ten Hogsheds of Water; this Platform has no Guns. Higher up, is another Platform, about twenty Feet from the Top of the Hill, which has ten Guns, 4 Pounders, two of them Brads; three of these Guns point to the Sea, all the rest to the Land. Under this Platform is the Entrance into the *Morro* Castle. Above, thro' a Gate about ten Feet wide, about sixteen Feet from the Gate, is a dry Mote, about sixteen or eighteen Feet wide, and as many deep; and about sixteen Feet from this Mote, is another, about eleven Feet wide and as many deep, with a Draw-bridge over each.

The *Estrella* has a Battery of 18 Pounders, and, about twenty Feet below, a small Battery of three Guns, 18 Pounders, both fronting the Entrance of the Port; and on the same level with the ten-gun Battery, is an Angle fronting cross the Harbour, which has seven Guns, 4 Pounders, none of them mounted, the Carriages not being made when he came away. This *Estrella* is easily surprized, several Paths leading to the Top thereof, from which you will fire down upon all the said Batteries, or even knock the Men on the Head with the Stones from the Top: The Eastermost Side is open, and without any Defence. The *Estrella* once gained will command the *Punto*, the Westermost
End

End of *Plataforma Grande*, and the Top of *Morro Castle*.

A little to the Northward of the *Estrella* is another little Battery, called *Santa Catalina*, which has two 12 Pounders lying almost level with the Water, and fronting the Entrance of the Port; this Battery, with twenty Men only, may be easily surprized and taken at any Time.

About a League and a half to windward of this *Morro Castle*, is a little Battery, called *Juraguacita*, which has four Guns, and a Mote round it; he was not nearer than one hundred and fifty Yards to it, so cannot give a more particular Description thereof.

About four Leagues and a half farther, to the Eastward, is another Battery of eight Guns, called *Juragua Grande*, which he was informed of by the Engineer and fundry *Spaniards*, but never saw it himself.

Between this Battery and the City, about Midway, he has been informed, there is another, built on a rising Ground, which is said to mount sixteen Guns; but cannot tell any thing of it from his own Knowledge.

The foregoing is a true Information, to the best of my Knowledge. Dated on board his Majesty's Ship the Boyne, this 11th Day of July, 1741.

Witness,
Thomas Watson,
W. Rogers.

HENRY CAVELIER.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

AS I see most of our Flock in sight, I purpose soon to be making sail for *Waltbenam*; and have made the Signal for all Masters of Merchant Ships, and for all the Masters of the Transports and

and Storeships coming to receive their second Rendezvous in *Walthenam* Bay; least Mr. *Wallace* and Major *Lewis* should not have had an Opportunity to deliver out those they had in Orders from me. But as none of the Masters seem to take any Notice of the Signal, I should be glad, if you have any Signal they will take more Notice of, that you will be pleased to make it, and give *Walthenam* Bay for the next Place of Rendezvous to them, in Case of Separation.

The Person whose Information I sent you, I have on board; and he will be ready at your Service. I think no Man living could have had greater Opportunities for being acquainted with the Roads in those Parts, than one ranging in them for his Livelihood for so long a Time. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, off the Navassa,
July 13, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To Sir CHALONER OGLE.

S I R,

THOUGH I made the Signal Yesterday for Masters of Merchant Ships, and have repeated it to-day, yet not one Master of Transport or Storeship has come to it, to receive Orders for our second Place of Rendezvous in *Walthenam* Bay, which I design now putting for as soon as we have any Wind.

I have dispatched away the *Tilbury* and the *Ludlow Castle*, of my Division, for *Donna Maria*, for picking up all that may have straggled that Way, and bringing them to us in *Walthenam* Bay; and have given Orders to the *Princess Louisa* and *Experiment*, of your Division, for going to the Ships
to

to Leeward of us, to get them together, and bring them to us there likewise.

And I made the general Signal for all Captains now, that, in Case of Separation, every one may collect together those near him, and bring them to the said general Rendezvous in *Waltbenam*.

And as soon as they are come to the Signal, I will make sail to lead with my Division; and desire you would bring up the Sternmost of them with your Division, that we may all get to our general Rendezvous as soon as may be: And I have ordered the *Kent* to take under her Care and Tow the Transport that made the Signal of Distress, and to bring her to *Waltbenam Bay*.

Captain *Allen* has joined us this Morning; he left *Port Royal* on *Wednesday* last, but no News from *England* since our sailing.

But the *Rose* Man of War lately convoy'd from *Carolina* some Ships with *Rice* for the Fleet, which he saw in sight of *Jamaica*, and then returned to his Station, and they are safe arrived in the Harbour.

I long to see our Flock assembled at our general Rendezvous, that we may be doing; and am,

S I R,

Boyne, off the *Navassa*,
July 13, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To Sir CHALONER OGLE.

S I R,

AFTER congratulating you on our good Landfall yesterday, and fair Prospect of getting our Fleet in to-day;

As I am perswaded you are entirely of Opinion with me, that we should lose no Time in advancing and getting a Footing on Shore; and as I understand

derstand our small Vessels can get above the *Salinas*, I am going to dispatch Capt. *Forrest* in, in the Bomb-Ketch, to take the Command of those first designed to get up as high as they can go; which are, his Bomb-Ketch, my Brig Tender and Sloop, the Bomb Tender from my Division, and Captain *Ormond Tompson* in his Fireship, from your Division. And I shall send my Company of *Americans* on board those of my Division, and desire, as soon as you get in, you would send your Company of *Americans* on board the Fireship of your Division, to go up in her, and follow the Orders they shall receive from Capt. *Forrest* or Capt. *Watson*; but to follow the Bomb-Ketch, and to take Capt. *Forrest's* Orders where to place his Ship.

And as Capt. *Stevens*, in the other Fireship of your Division, has been here as Lieutenant of the *Sbeernefs*, I would have you make his Signal directly; and order him to make all the Sail he can in directly, and to anchor his Fireship, as soon as he gets in, on the Leeward part of the Channel, going in; and to hoist his Jack at his Main-top-mast Head, to shew he is there to buoy the Channel for them; and I will give the same Orders to Capt. *Barnard*, of my Division, to anchor with his Fireship on the windward Part of the Channel, for our Flock's going in between them.

And as soon as we are in, I desire you would make the general Signal for the rest of your Captains, and give all the Ships of the Line Orders immediately to send their Barges mann'd and arm'd, to come under my Stern, and go under the general Command of Capt. *Watson*; (and Captain *Dennis* may Command those of your Division, if you think proper;) and to send, besides, an Eight-Oar'd Boat or Yawl, with a Mate in it, to repair directly on board the Bomb-Ketch, and follow the

Orders of Captain *Forrest*, for towing his Flotilla where he shall direct them.

If the Uncertainty of the Weather had not prevented me, I intended you a Visit, as you are confined; and shall do myself that Pleasure as soon as we are in: And I have issued these general Orders, as you are not perfectly recovered, which I heartily wish you. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, off Waltheenam,

July 18, 1741.

Your most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

E. V.

P. S. I have sent Orders to the *Superbe* for cruizing for ten Days off this Harbour, and sent the *Montague* Orders by him to cruize for ten Days off *St. Jago*; so, if he be near you, order him to go to the *Superbe* for his Orders.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Have received yours this Morning, but cannot send you *John Drake*, as you desired; he being gone early this Morning, with my Captain and the Boats, to reconnoitre, and advance our small Vessels, as far as they can go in their Way to the *Indian Town of Santa Catalina*: But he will return with my Captain this Night, and shall be ready to attend the Council of War we are to hold tomorrow Morning, as you agreed on last Night; and as you have his Information in Writing, I apprehend you will have sufficient Matter for your Council of War's Information this Morning. And I send you inclosed the Copy of the Carpenter's Information, as you desire; and you may have him personally to-day, if you desire it: But I have not sent

sent him now, as he does not pretend to any Knowledge of the Road by Land.

I think the Informations so plain and clear, and the Execution so easy, if it be but set about with Cheerfulness and Good-will, that I cannot entertain the least Doubt of Success. I hope we shall be all equally animated with a Zeal to discharge our Duty to his Majesty and our Country, and to answer their Expectations from so expensive an Expedition; and then I am perswaded it will be successful, and that we shall soon be Masters of the Harbour of *St. Jago*, and all the East End of this Island; which, in my Apprehension, is better situated, and more advantageous, in all Views, for our Royal Master to be possessed of, than the Western Parts of it, with the *Havanna*.

I hope it will please God we shall avoid splitting on the Rock of Discord, the only Difficulty I apprehend, as I think, if this be but heartily set about, it can never fail of Success. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in *Walthenam* Harbour, July 19, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

AFTER the unanimous Resolutions of our last Council of War, for the Forces getting up to the Village of *Catalina* with the utmost Expedition, and for advancing to attempt to surprize and take the Batteries above the *Morro* Castle, if the Approaches to them are found practicable for his Majesty's Forces; that every thing in our Power might be done to comply with the principal

View of his Majesty's Instructions, that of possessing ourselves of the Island of *Cuba*;

What fell from you yesterday on board the *Cumberland*, expressing your Diffidence of being able to proceed further, could not but greatly surprize us, and give us great Concern; to hear from you, how much Unwillingness was expressed by some of your Officers, for proceeding on this Expedition.

And we cannot, on this Occasion, both in regard to our Duty to the Crown and Friendship to you, but seasonably lay before you the fatal Consequences, that may result to all Officers that shall shew a Reluctance to comply with his Majesty's Instructions, and shall by their Behaviour and Example encourage others to do so; as we think, in the military Term, this approaches too near to Mutiny.

And tho' this may take its first Rise in the private Passions of some Officers, who had rather return to *Britain* than continue longer in Service in a Climate not agreeable to them; yet we fear, the not giving an early Check to this Temper among some of your Officers, may draw a Resentment on you, whose Duty, it may be judged, was to have early suppressed it.

We cannot but mention to you, that Reports were spread before the Fleet's sailing from *Jamaica*, that Resolutions were taken against the Army's landing on this Island; which the Discourses of some of your Officers since, have given but too much Grounds to suspect there might be some Foundation for; and what fell from you yesterday gives us the greater Reason to apprehend it.

And as Combinations to defeat the main View of his Majesty's Instructions, are of the most criminal Nature, we cannot but hope there are none
such

such, tho' such Grounds are given to suspect it. But as such might affect the Lives, as well as the Commissions, of all who should fall into them, we cannot but give it you as our Advice, early to exert yourself, in giving all possible Discouragement to what may prove so fatal to them.

We think the Execution of all proposed and agreed to in our last Resolutions, may be very easily effected, if it be but heartily set upon, with the same Chearfulness and Good-will as was expressed in the unanimous Resolution of our said last General Council of War.

And as we cannot, in regard to the Honour of our Royal Master and the Interest of our Country, but think it our Duty to advise you early to suppress this evil Spirit in some of your Officers: So we hope you will accept this Advice, as our unanimous Sentiments of Friendship to you, as well as Regard to our Duty to his Majesty; as we fear the Effects of this Conduct would principally revert on you; which as we should be heartily concerned for, so we thought this seasonable Advice to you, to be on your Guard against it, the best Instance we could give of our friendly Concern for your Honour and Interest.

And hoping you will accept it as such, we are,

S I R,

*Cumberland, in Cumberland
Harbour (formerly call'd
Walthenam) on the South
Side of Cuba, July 23,
1741.*

*Your most Obedient,
Humble Servants,*

E. VERNON,
C. OGLE

To Lieutenant THOMAS STURTON.

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed, to take under your particular Care and Conduct *John Drake,*

Drake, Mariner; and as he is the only Guide we have for shewing the Forces the Road from where you are to *St. Jago*, through the Village of *Catalina*, you are to take particular Care for his Preservation, and not to expose him to the Enemy's Fire, as far as it can possibly be avoided.

And as it is but too apparent, that a shameful Backwardness has appeared in some, to proceed with that Zeal and Chearfulness they ought in the Execution of his Majesty's Orders; it cannot but be apprehended, there are some might even be glad our Guide should be destroyed, to give them the Colour of wanting a Guide to conduct them; though, if they are once shewed the Road they are to proceed in, even that would be but a Pretence.

But that they may not have that, I have put the said *John Drake*, Mariner, under your particular Care and Conduct; and you are to choose out ten Men from the Brigantine under your Command, to serve under you as a Guard for the said Guide; and in your Absence, to leave the Brigantine under the Care and Command of Lieutenant *Lowber*, for guarding that Post, and scouring the Country round with her Guns; directing him to obey the Orders of his superior Officers, Capt. *Forrest* being appointed to command the whole Flotilla, and Captain *Tompson* to command under him at the upper *Barcadier*.

And as I have ordered Capt. *Watson* to acquaint the General to-day with the Orders you have for taking the Guide under your Care and Protection, and you having my Orders to obey General *Wentworth's* Orders, in attending with him, to direct them in the Road they have to march towards the Village of *Catalina*, and afterwards to *St. Jago*, or the Batteries above the *Morro* Castle (for which I will

will send you an additional Guide, after their having advanced beyond the Village of *Catalina*;) You are, accordingly, hereby required and directed, whenever General *Wentworth* shall desire or direct you to shew any Part of their Forces the Way they are to pass to the said Village of *Catalina*, or *St. Jago* and the Batteries, to attend with your Party and the Guide, as aforesaid, to direct them in the Way; and never to let the said Guide be from under your Care and Custody. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne* in *Cumberland Harbour* (formerly called *Walthenam*) on the South Side of *Cuba*, this 24th of *July*, 1741.

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Heartily congratulate you on the Success of your first advanced Party, by the Enemy's flying before them without so much as exchanging a Shot with them; which was what I always expected. And I am sure you will find, that Delay will be the most dangerous Enemy you have to deal with, as that will give the Enemy Time to be preparing against you; whereas their being attacked where they did not expect it, leaves them entirely open and defenceless for the present. I hope you will find the Village to afford ready-built Houses sufficient to shelter the Army, and save them the Trouble of building Hutts; and I apprehend you may easily make that Village your general Magazine for your Provisions; and they will have the Mortification to find, that all their past Labours were lost, in fortifying the fore Door, when they had left the back Door open and defenceless.

I con-

I congratulate you likewise on Captain *Durell's* being arrived, with all your Surgeons and Medicine-Chests, and having brought the News that Mr. *Wallace* is coming up with the *Deptford* and *Ætna*, and all the People and Stores that were saved out of the Ship; Captain *Davers* having, according to my Orders, sent a Vessel to *Morant Keys*, to save what was to be saved of that Wreck.

I have ordered Capt. *Forrest* to get my Brig Tender and Bilander as high up as there is Water for them, and to get my Sloop cleaned for carrying our Dispatches to his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, as it is absolutely necessary his Majesty should be informed as early as possible of the Resolution of our last general Council of War, for giving such further Orders as his Majesty may judge necessary on the Occasion. And as she will soon be ready, and will be the most expeditious of any I can send, I must beg the Favour that you would get your Letters ready to go by her as soon as possible. I intend being up to-morrow, when we may fix the Day for her sailing.

And as soon as Captain *Allen* arrives, whom I expect every Day, I will get him ready for going away with your general Letters to the Governors of the Northern Colonies, pursuant to the Resolution of the last general Council of War.

And heartily wishing you much Honour, and his Majesty suitable Success from this Expedition, I am,

S I R,

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

Boyne, in Cumberland
Harbour, Cuba,
July 26. 1741.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

IT was with great Pleasure I received yours last Night, with the agreeable Account of your advanced Party having proceeded so successfully, and having got good Quarters at Don *John Cavalleros*, in the midst of a fertile Country. I most heartily congratulate you on so successful a Beginning; and think Major *Dunster* has acted very prudently, in advancing no further till your sustaining Party joined him, as his first Party was of but two hundred; and hope, on their joining him, you will soon have Advice of his reaching the Village, where, I apprehend, he cannot be too soon supported with greater Numbers; and hope he will meet there Mules and Horses, to facilitate the getting all necessary Provisions after them with all possible Expedition.

And I believe, Sir, you will think it proper to be dispersing your Manifesto from thence, to try what Effect it may have in drawing some of the Inhabitants in to submit themselves to his Majesty's Government; but I believe the most effectual Argument will be civil Usage.

As they met the Boats Sails in their Way, I think it is very apparent they proceeded in the right Road the Enemy retired by.

Heartily wishing you prosperous Success, and much Honour from this Expedition, I am,

S I R,

*Boyne, in Cumberland
Harbour, July 28,
1741.*

*Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,*

E. V.

P. S. With your next Letters to Major *Dunster*, be pleased to forward mine to Lieutenant *Sturton*, and to direct my Men with him having their Share in all Supplies of Provisions.

E

To

To Lieut. THO. STURTON, of the Boyne.

S I R,

I Have received yours of the 27th, with much Pleasure, and was very glad to hear you had met with such good Quarters and some necessary Refreshments at Don *John Cavalleros*; and think your meeting the Boats Sails in your Way, a good Evidence that you are in the right Road to the Village; and think Major *Dunster* has acted very prudently, in resolving not to advance further till the sustaining Party joined you.

And as the next Supply of Provisions comes from your Command of my Brigantine, you will have a good Title to your Share of it; and hope in the Village you will meet with Mules and Horses, to facilitate sending the Supplies to you there.

You cannot lay a greater Obligation on me, than by a particular Care of your Guide. And pray, on all Occasions, encourage a humane Treatment of the Inhabitants, to engage them to remain quietly in their Houses, and submit to his Majesty's Government; and I hope the Major has the General's Manifestos to disperse on his Arrival at the Village.

With a firm Confidence in your prudent Conduct, I am,

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour, July 28, 1741,
in the Morning.

S I R,

Your humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

AFTER heartily congratulating you on the happy Change I hear of, in an universal Satisfaction expressed by all your Officers and Men,
from

from the pleasing Prospect of Success in this Expedition; I send this to acquaint you, your Army Surgeons and Medicine-Chests will all be to-day on board one of the Transports in the River, as you desire.

And as I would dispatch my Sloop away as soon as possible, I have ordered my Officer, who brings you this Letter, to receive yours that are to go by her, if they are ready.

And as I propose to dispatch a Fireship to *Jamaica*, for a Supply of Provisions and Stores being sent me, as soon as I receive my Letters from thence by the *York*, whom I daily expect here; I desire you would likewise send me your Letters for *Jamaica* as soon as you can, as I hear you soon design to be advancing yourself, which I am pleased to hear.

And if you want any Supply of Provisions from thence, it would be proper to order some of the best sailing Transports to be entirely cleared for their going to *Jamaica* to fetch it; for which they shall have a proper Convoy, whenever you desire it.

I was pleased to hear you had got a further Supply of Horses for accommodating your Officers; and, with my best Wishes for a flowing Series of good Success to his Majesty's Arms under your Conduct, I am,

S I R,

Your most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

E. V.

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour, July 29, 1741.

To his Grace the Duke of N * * * * *

My Lord Duke,

MY last to your Grace was of the 18th of *June*, from *Port Royal* Harbour, by Commodore *Lestock*, whom we had the good Fortune to get safe into the Sea, with all the Remainder of his Squadron (except one of the Bomb-Ketches, that, having been to careen, could not be got ready so soon) on the 20th of *June*; a good Part of them being got out the Day before. And he being to collect his Fleet together at *Blewfields*, to compleat their Watering there, I got the *Terrible* Bomb-Ketch to Sea the 24th, and heard since, that she joined him before his sailing from *Blewfields*, on the 26th of *June*.

Having got all my Ships in readiness for the Sea that I propos'd for the present Expedition, I thought it necessary to advise Mr. *Wentworth* of it by Letter of the 25th of *June*, which I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of, and likewise of my Orders to Sir *Chaloner Ogle* of the same Date. And the General sending me word by Mr. *Wallace*, the Agent of the Transports, that about sixteen of the Transports would be ready to sail on the 28th, I ordered him to go and advise Sir *Chaloner Ogle* of it, who would take Care to detach some Ships of his Division out with them; for our dangerous Channel made it a requisite Disposition, that we should get to Sea by Detachments. On the 26th I detached Capt. *Rentone* to Sea in the *Rippon*, for reconnoitring before us, as I mentioned my Intention of doing in my Letter to Mr. *Wentworth* of the 25th.

The *Superbe* and *Kent* sailed on the 28th with such Transports as were then ready to sail with them, which were but seven Sail.

And

The *Montague* and *Princess Louisa* sailed the next Day (the 29th) and with them sailed about nineteen Sail.

And Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, with the rest of his Division, put to Sea the next Day, and about eight Sail more; and the same Day I advised the General of my Intentions of sailing the next Day; and I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of my Letter to him of the 30th of *June*, with his Answer.

And the same Day came into *Port Royal* Harbour the *Seaborse*, Captain *Allen*, that had been cruizing off *St. Jago*, with a Return to my Letter sent by him to the Governor there, proposing an Exchange of Prisoners, and with sixty-four *English* Prisoners, among which was Mr. *Cock*, the South-Sea Company's Factor there. The good Success of this Attempt, that I made to procure the best Intelligence I could from those Parts, at so seasonable a Time, makes it necessary I should now inclose to your Grace a Copy of the Orders I sent Captain *Allen* out with, and a Copy of my Letter to the Governor of *St. Jago*, with the *Spanish* Governor's Answer; and I send you likewise inclosed a Copy of the *Jew's* Journal, whom I sent as my *Spanish* Interpreter, to carry the Letter to the Governor, and of another Piece of Intelligence Capt. *Allen* brought me, being Advices he had received by Mr. *Cock*. I am in Hopes that the *Spanish* Men of War therein mentioned, may, with their Treasure, either fall in the Way of Captain *Knowles*, or Mr. *Lestock*: And I could rather hope the latter; for as our Ships must expect to be well shattered in such a Rencontre, the others would be far distant from any Relief, and must get thro' the Gulph as well as they could, as they would be in no Condition to ply up to come hither.

On the first Day of this Month of *July*, I thank God, I got safe to Sea myself, and General *Wentworth* with me in the *Grafton*, with the rest of my Division under Orders for sailing with me; except the other Bomb-Ketch, which I have likewise got careened, and by shifting a good deal of Plank in her Bottom, have, I hope, got her in a Condition to serve in this Expedition; and she came out and joined me the 2d of *July*, and also the Ordnance Storeships, that being a Branch in which there has been the most Dilatoriness and Negligence throughout our whole Expedition.

Not having Time or Leisure for examining our released *English* Prisoners, that were brought into the Harbour but the Evening before I sailed, I take them all to Sea with us, for expressing their Gratitude to his Majesty, to whom they owe their present Release, by doing what may be in their Power to favour the Success of this Expedition. But Mr. *Cock* I examined myself, with the General, before our sailing; and not finding he could be materially serviceable to us, I left him behind.

By the *Few's* Narrative of what the Governor told him, if it be true, our first Place of general Rendezvous in *Donna Maria* Bay is luckily very well chosen, both for our having the earliest Advice at it, and being at hand to make the best Use of it; which was one View I had in it, as well as being assured of being well to windward of our Port before we stretch'd over for it; as falling to Leeward of our Port, might, by a Lee Current, have defeated our whole Expedition, as well as given the Enemy an unnecessary Alarm to prepare for us.

Some Ships I have been oblig'd to leave behind through Craziness, that must take up Time to repair; some through Sickness; and others, to borrow their
their

their Men, to compleat for Service the Ships I carry out with me : And I have left Capt. *Davers* in the *Suffolk*, a good Officer, to command in my Absence, under the Orders I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of.

And for being ready to avail myself of any chance Opportunity for writing to your Grace, I begin my Letter upon my first coming to Sea, where I have most Leisure for it; for though that be not the most stable Element, I may say at present, it is there that I have most Rest.

On the 11th of *July* I was joined by Capt. *Broderick* in the *Shoreham*; and I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of his Letter to me, informing me of his Proceedings and Remarks at *Carthage*; and I send you likewise inclosed Copies of the two several Letters he brought me from his Excellency *Don Sebastian de Eslava*, the *Spanish* Viceroy, and of one from my Brother Admiral, *Don Blas de Lezo*.

On the 12th I was joined by the *Tilbury*, Capt. *Dent*, from *Leogane*, off the *Navassa*: And I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of the Letter he brought me from his Excellency *M. Larnage*, by which I was sorry to learn that Captain *Draper*, in the *Wolf* Sloop, was certainly Shipwreck'd on the *Caicos* Bank; but I cannot yet learn what became of the Captain and the rest of the Men, and so am yet in some Hopes he found Means to get home safe to your Grace; with my Letters of the 24th of *February* last. And having a verbal Message, by Captain *Dent*, from *M. Larnage*, (of his having an Inclination to send us some Deserters; but that his Humanity would not allow his delivering them up without Assurance of their Pardon) giving a Handle for it, I have dispatched Capt. *Allen* thither again, with the Letter I send you a Copy of inclosed, to try to get those Deserters, and to keep an Eye on
what

what may be passing in those Parts; where, your Grace will observe, they talk in a pacifick Stile, tho' the Governor of *St. Jago* told the *Jew*, he had Advice from thence that they had declared War with us.

Captain *Allen* joined me from *Port Royal* the 13th, which Place he left the 8th of *July*; but there were then no Advices from *England* since our sailing, tho' my last from your Grace was of the 28th of *February* last.

I send you likewise inclosed a Copy of the Information of *John Drake*, Mariner, relating to the Roads between *Walthenam* and *St. Jago*; and I have other material Informations, that fully persuade me of the easy Practicability of succeeding in an Attempt for being Masters of *St. Jago*; and of the East End of this Island, if it be but entered on with Chearfulness and Good-will, which I will take Care shall not be wanting on my Part. And in *Walthenam* I shall have his Majesty's Ships and Transports in a safer Harbour, in case of a Hurricane, than if we were caught in one in *Port Royal* Harbour, as we are now coming to the Hurricane Season of the Year; and I shall even be more in the Way of securing our Trade from the Enemy's Privateers. And, I thank God, I have not yet heard of their having taken so much as one *British* Ship in my Districts, or any of the Coasting Trade of the Island, since my being in Command here.

My Informations in regard to all the new Works they have been making at the *Morro* Castle, and to guard the Entrance of the Harbour, I have from a Carpenter, who has been kept at work amongst them; so that I think all my Intelligence very well founded. And I believe the Court of *Spain* will find their Remittances to come vastly short of their Expectations, from the Ap-
plications

plications of their Treasure to support the Expence of the numerous Works they have been erecting in different Parts, and will have to erect, and to subsist the Numbers of Militia drawn together in many Parts; besides the Scarcity of Provisions, from their thus draining the Country of those that should carry on the Culture of their Land, for raising Provisions for their Subsistence.

I send your Grace likewise inclosed a Letter I receiv'd in the Vice Roy's Packet from *Cartbagena*, from a *Spanish* Gentleman who was formerly Prisoner with us (as he mentions) and coming Passenger in a *Dutch* Ship from *Curaçao*, was, as he says, taken, by two Privateers, with your Grace's Passport; which those lawless Libertines would pay no Regard to, but obliged him and his Comrade to ransom themselves for a Thousand Pieces of Eight. And as they are out of my reach to call them to an Account, I thought it proper to send this Letter to your Grace, and one of their *Dutch* Passports; and in the Duplicate of it shall come the Captains of the Privateers Receipt to the *Dutch* Captain for the thousand Dollars; to which they have signed their Names, *William Richardson*, and *James Love*; and this Letter calls their Sloops the *Anne*, and the *Royal Anne*.

I am glad I can acquaint your Grace that I happily got into this Harbour of *Walthenam* on the 18th of *July*, with forty-one Sail of Transports and Storeships, and with his Majesty's Ships and Tenders, sixty-one Sail in all; and was pleased to find we were possess'd of the finest Harbour in the *West-Indies*, where there is Room for all the Shipping in the *Thames*, and where we are very secure even against a Hurricane; and as it deserves some Distinction, I have honoured it with the Name of **CUMBERLAND HARBOUR**, from one of his Royal
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Highness

Highness the Duke's Titles, who has given us the pleasing Hopes of serving at Sea under the Command of a Prince of the Blood Royal.

As I was possess'd of a good Pilot for the Harbour, I lost no Time in making the best Use of him, having detach'd before me Captain *Forrest* in the Bomb-Ketch, one of my Fireships, my Brigantine and Sloop Tenders, and the Bomb Tender, putting this Flotilla under Captain *Forrest*'s Orders, who enter'd the *Lagoon* going up to the *Salinas*, with Part of them, that Evening. And by Day-break the next Morning, I dispatch'd all the Barges, mann'd and arm'd, under the Command of Capt. *Watson* (my Captain) and order'd all the Yawls to follow, to help to tow the Flotilla as high up as it was navigable for them; and he return'd the 19th at Night, after having posted the Sloop as high up as the upper *Salinas*, and the Bomb-Ketch and my Brig Tender as high as the lower *Salinas*, just above which was a Bar, on entering the Fresh-Water River, on which was not more than nine Feet Water.

And Capt. *Watson* having advanced some Miles higher up the Fresh-Water River with his Boats, above the upper *Barcadier*, he landed and march'd up a Hill, where he had a Prospect of a fine open Country for seven Leagues (as he judg'd;) and saw a House that the Guide said was very near the Village of *Catalina*, mention'd in his Information, which he said lay in a little Valley; and he having found all he view'd exactly to agree with the said Information; I summon'd a General Council of War next Morning (*July* the 20th;) and I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of the unanimous Resolution of said General Council of War. And there being mention'd in it (besides the Information of *John Drake*, Mariner, in regard to the Practicableness

cableness of the Road) the Information of *Henry Cavelier*, Carpenter, in regard to the Facility of being Masters of the upper Batteries guarding the Harbour of *St. Jago*; I have likewise sent your Grace inclosed Copies of that, and of Capt. *Rentone's* Report, mention'd also in our said general Resolution; and the Copy of a Letter that I wrote to General *Wentworth* on the 19th of *July*, in Answer to one desiring I would send *John Drake* to him.

By taking every Thing out of my Brig Tender and Bomb Tender, they have hove them both over the Bar, and then taken all in again, and got them up to the upper *Salinas*, to the Sloop: So there is a great Command of Fire from their Guns, to scour the Country round them, and secure a safe landing to the Army, without so much as the Apprehension of any Molestation.

We had one Boy wounded by a Shot from some skulking *Spaniards* the first Day, on their marching to the Top of the Hill; and one Man kill'd, and one wounded by them the next Day; but we have neither seen nor heard any thing of them since.

On the 21st the *Worcester* came in here with one of our missing Transports. On the 22d the *Tilbury* came in here, and brought with her five Transports and one Storeship, which she pick'd up off *Cape Dona Maria*, where I sent her in quest of them, and we have now forty-nine Transports and Storeships; and all but one of them, that drew too much Water, are got up within the *Lagoon*; and those that drew least Water were dispatch'd in first, and many of them are got as high up as just below Captain *Forrest* in the Bomb-Ketch, who lies at the lower *Barcadier*; for they had nothing that could be lighten'd to get over the Bar of the Fresh-Water River, but one Schooner, which is
 F 2 got

got to my Brig Tender, Bomb Tender and Sloop, that are posted at the upper *Barcadier*.

On the 24th arriv'd here the Strombolo Fireship, Captain *Durell*, whom I had dispatch'd away from the *Navassa* for *Jamaica*, for fetching up to us the Director of the Army Hospital, the Army Surgeons, and their Medicine-Chests. On having an Account brought me that the *Lynn* Hospital-Ship was still there, and knowing she was such a leewardly Ship that there could be no Reliance on her getting to windward at all, I offer'd the General a Ship to fetch them, which he accepted of; and she has brought up twelve of the Army Surgeons and Assistants, and all the remainder of their Medicine Chests, that were not brought up by their Surgeon General, who came up to us by the *Seaborse*, Captain *Allen*; and Mr. *Catcart*, the Director of their Hospital, told Captain *Durell* he staid behind to purchase Necessaries for the Hospital, which he soon would be following him with. He brought me an Account of what, as far as I can learn, is the only missing Transport, which is the *Vere Pink*; on board of which was Mr. *Wallace*, the Agent of the Transports, to whom I deliver'd Orders at Sea on the 7th in the Evening, for his issuing out our second Place of Rendezvous to the Transports, being then four Leagues to windward of the East End of the Island of *Jamaica*: But by what I can judge, they contriv'd to get Shipwreck'd that very Night on *Port Morant* Keys; which must have been through the Carelessness of the Master, in not observing to tack when I made my Signal for it, at two in the Morning on the 8th. And considering how little Regard they all paid to Signals, every one ranging after his own obstinate Will, I can attribute it to nothing but God's good Providence, that we have not lost more of them; for
the

the greatest Care of a Commanding Officer will be of little Avail to those who will pay so little Regard to Signals. The Loss is the more felt for the Absence of Mr. *Wallace*, who is a very experienced diligent Officer in his Post: But we shall now soon have him with us by the *Deptford*, or *Ætna* Fireship, which he has sent Word he would come by, with all the Men and Stores that were saved; which were fetch'd from thence by a Vessel I had sent Orders to Capt. *Davers* to send out to them, having heard by my Brig Tender that she had seen some Shipwreck'd Men on those Keys; and I do not hear there were above five Men drowned on this Occasion.

The Troops have been landing since their getting in. The General pitched on his first Place for Hutting his Troops, right against where my Brig Tender was posted; which, finding we had Water for her, I have got two Leagues higher up the River; and the Bilander drawing less Water, we have got her a Mile higher: But the General finding the first Place pitch'd upon low, and that it would have been damp with the Rains, soon resolv'd to move higher, and has got a little above the Schooner, that was the Vessel of the least Draught of Water we had.

We having on the 25th sent out a Detachment of a hundred of the *American* Troops and a hundred Blacks, I order'd Lieutenant *Sturton* from my Ship, with ten Men from my Brig Tender, to take the Guide under his Care, and to accompany them.

And on the 26th at Night, I receiv'd from General *Wentworth* an Account of their Success; the Enemy's first advanced Guard flying before them without so much as exchanging a Shot with them, and leaving them eleven Horses, some of their Ammunition, and a good deal of jerk'd Beef.

These

These Horses were a seasonable Supply to mount our Officers. They took likewise three *Spanish* Letters, from the Governor of *St. Yago* to the Commanding Officer of the Militia of these Parts; which being so exceedingly weak and ridiculous, I cannot omit sending your Grace Copies of them, for your Amusement.

On the 27th I set out from the Ship by Day-break, to view all my advanced Guards myself, and give all the necessary Orders on the Spot, for the more regular landing the rest of the Troops; and sending their Supplies of Provisions and Stores after them. And I thought it the most beautiful Prospect I ever saw, to row five Leagues up a navigable River, of about a hundred Yards wide all the Way, with green Trees on both Sides appearing like a green Fence, bordering both Sides of the River for the most part; for from the Mouth of the River to where my Brig Tender lies, I take to be good five Leagues; the Bilander lies about a Mile higher, and the Schooner half a Mile higher than her. From thence I rowed in my Boat about half a Mile higher than the upper Encampment, to come at the Foot of some Hills, which, I saw, I could have a full View of the Country from; and then landed, with my Boat's Crew for my Guard, and reconnoitred the Country from the Tops of those Hills, on one of which the General's advanced Guard was placed that Morning; and it gave me great Pleasure to have so extensive a View, over what appear'd to me the finest Plains I had ever seen in the *Indies*, and watered, I think, with a River the farthest navigable for Ships that I ever heard of. I then visited the General in his present Encampment, which is an open rising Ground, by the Fresh-Water River Side, and as beautiful a Situation for a Town as this Country can

can afford, with a fertile Soil behind it. I walked through a Pen for catching their Cattle, between the Hills and their Camp, and saw several Parcels of Horses ranging round me, which I hope their Blacks will soon find Means to catch. I made it dark before I could return, it being two Leagues from where I ride in the Line of Battle with my Capital Ships, for Security of this beautiful and secure Harbour, to the Mouth of the River, which is just on the Leeward Entrance into this Harbour. And the General having entitled his Camp **GEORGE-STADT**, I have honour'd this beautiful River with the Name of her Royal Highness the Princess of *Wales*, calling it the River **AUGUSTA**.

After so agreeable Prospects of the Day, I was pleasingly awak'd at one in the Morning on the 28th, with a Letter from the General, and one from my Lieutenant, of the 27th, from the advanced Party, with an Account of their uninterrupted Progress till their Arrival in such fertile Plains; and I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of my Letter from Lieutenant *Sturton*.

I think myself posted here, not only in a happy Security against all Apprehensions of Hurricanes, but in the best Situation that could be chosen for Security of the Trade of his Majesty's Subjects; and the annoying that of his Majesty's Enemies: Which I shall endeavour to post my Cruizers to the best Advantage for, and for having early Intelligence of any Motions of the Enemy; who, by our Situation here, will be cut off from any Communication with their Neighbours the *French*, from whence they receive their Intelligence and Supplies.

And thinking it now high Time our Royal Master should have the earliest Information of our present Situation, I have got my Sloop careen'd
and

and clean'd in the River *Augusta*, and Capt. *Forrest* will soon dispatch her down to me, for sending my Dispatches to your Grace by her (that I think will bring them soonest to your Hands) by a Nephew of my Wife's, whom I send to ride Express with them. This Sloop was a small Privateer, commanded by one *Hall*, that I hired into the Crown's Service so long ago as *December* last, having a View in it to get into my Hands the marooning Part of his Crew, that I knew were well acquainted with these Parts; and this *John Drake*, the Guide, was one of them. For this Affair has been long in my Thoughts, though it has but so lately broke out into Execution, and, I thank God, a successful one; and I think this Spot the best chosen one for a *British* Settlement of any in this Island, and am glad to find the *Americans* begin to look on it as the *Land of Promise* already.

I send your Grace likewise inclosed a Copy of my Letter to the General of the 26th, to advise him to have his Letters ready to go by her, and that the *Seaborse* should soon be got ready for carrying his Letters to the Governors of the Northern Colonies.

The Boats Sails, mention'd to be retaken by our advanced Party in those inland Houses, were the Sails of two of our Longboats, who, on the first of our advancing up the River, had, without any Officer with them, or Orders, sail'd some Miles above my advanced Guards, till they were fired upon thro' the Bushes from a high Bank, where they had one Man kill'd and one wounded; upon which, they put ashore upon the opposite Side of the River, and ran down to my Sloop to inform them of it, and Captain *Dennis* march'd up with a Party of Men as soon as he had Advice of it; but being some Miles above him, they had
burnt

burnt the Boats, and carried off the Sails, long before he could get up thither; but all that Plunder of theirs is now retaken, even to the Longboat's Ensign, mention'd in the Governor of *St. Jago's* Letters.

I can bring a twenty-gun Ship for careening, with Ease, close to the Banks of the River; and I think I have found a convenient Part of the Harbour, that, with a little Wharfing, I shall be able to bring a sixty or a seventy-gun Ship to careen at it; and we have large Timber for Piles growing close to the Water Side, at the River I water my Ships at, lying two or three Leagues above where I lie in Line of Battle with our six Capital Ships, on the Weather Side of the Harbour; where we cannot be surpriz'd, being the two eighty-gun Ships that *Sir Chaloner* and I have our Flags on board of, and the four seventy-gun Ships, our seconds; for all the rest will be kept out a cruising, or preparing to relieve those that are so, and on any Enemy's coming, may place themselves in the Van and Rear of our Line; and I am raising a little Redoubt to keep a Guard at, to cover our Men in the Watering at the River I water the Fleet at, which is four or five Leagues distant from the Mouth of that the Army is landed in, tho' both running into the same Harbour.

As to the Sloop Tender my Nephew comes in, the Owners of her living in *Rhode Island*, and the Hiring and Account of what has been advanced being kept by the Storekeeper at *Jamaica*, make it necessary she should be order'd back thither; and her Crew are all borne as part of the Complement of this Ship, as I judg'd that the most frugal Management for his Majesty's Service.

I live in hopes it cannot be long now before I shall have the honour of hearing from you, my

last from your Grace being of the 28th of *February*, now above five Months ago.

I shall always carefully study to govern myself, to the best of my Judgement, for our Royal Master's Service : But it cannot but be an anxious thing to a Commanding Officer, to be long without knowing whether he has judg'd rightly of the Tenour of his Instructions, which is my greatest Ambition, and shall be my studious Care. I am,

My Lord Duke,

*Boyne, in Cumberland
Harbour (formerly
call'd Walthenam)
on the South Side
of Cuba, July 29,
1741.*

Your Grace's most

Devoted, and most

Obedient, Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S. I. R,

I Receiv'd yours last Night by Mr. *Littleton*, with the agreeable News of your advanced Party having got the Village without meeting any Resistance, finding it entirely abandon'd by its Inhabitants. And I heartily congratulate you on the uninterrupted Flow of Success in their Proceedings, by all flying before them, and not daring so much as to make the least Resistance, tho', you observe, the Narrowness of the Path gave them the best Opportunity for it. But here is neither a *Hannibal* to Command, nor Troops of any Service or Experience to obey ; and you see by Experience, they fly like a Flock of Sheep before you. And, I take it, you are now got past the most dangerous Part for their having any Opportunities of Ambushing you ; a Danger, in my Apprehension, easily avoided, by small advanced Parties of your Blacks, used to brushing the Woods, advancing before you to the Right
and

and Left. And, I remember, my Prisoner, the *Spanish Boy, Izquerda*, whose Intelligence Colonel *Cockran* puts his Faith in, told me, before I sent him to you, that from the Village to the Town of *St. Jago*, it was all *Camino Real*; which it stands to Reason it should, as that was the Road from thence to *Barracao*, as well as to this Place.

And though the Guide has not carried them in the direct Path from your Camp, it is very plain he had a very good general Notion of it, by carrying them first to the Houses where the Longboats Sails were lodged, which was, to be sure, the direct Road they retired: By the *Spanish Boy Izquerda* I understood, the second House was that of the Governor of *St. Jago's* Don *Quixote*, Captain *Pedro Guerra*: And by my Officer's Letter I find, they are gone in a straight Line from us, as he has seen our Flag on the same Point of the Compass that both your Camp and the Village are from us; which makes it manifest they are in the right Way. And the three Letters you sent me, from the Governor of *St. Jago* to Capt. *Pedro Guerra* (one dated the 19th of *July*, our Stile, another the 20th, and the third the 22d) make it clearly manifest, that his Messengers were much less than twenty-four Hours in bringing his Letters from *St. Jago* to your Camp; for we came in but the 18th in the Evening, and the 19th he answers the Letter he had from Capt. *Pedro Guerra*, giving him an Account of our Arrival; and the next Day answers his second Letter: Which are incontestible Proofs that *John Drake* has not represented the Distance nearer than it is. And if a Person was even to walk in Woods near his own House, that he had not frequented for some time, he would be liable to ramble out of his Way, and that once done in a Wood, it is not easy to recover. But that Dan-

ger is over now, since even *Izquierda* agrees it is *Camino Real* from that Village.

The flying of their Women and Children to St. *Jago*, can bring nothing there but Terror and Confusion, and increase their Straitness of Provisions; and to follow this Terror, once begun, close at the Heels, gives, in my Apprehension, the best Prospect of Success: And I think the greatest Danger you have to run the Risque of, is what may arise from Delay, and giving them Time to recover from their first Fright, and even for preparing (what you find hitherto there have been only visionary Apprehensions of) Ambuscades.

I remember the Guide's Account was, that the Way from the Village to St. *Jago* was through a Notch of the Hill we see here, which lies directly in a Line over the Village, according to the Account I have of the Bearing of the Village from us; and, I apprehend, cannot be far from the Village. And I imagine that from that Hill, as it is high, they cannot fail of seeing St. *Jago*: And as there are higher Grounds on each Side the Road, over that Notch of the Hill, I apprehend Parties of Blacks, sent first to the higher Grounds on each Side of that Road, would be an Ambuscade upon any that should be attempting to lie in Ambuscade against you there, as they could fall down upon the Back of them. And as I think Delay the most fatal Thing that can happen to you, I cannot but think it my Duty, both in regard to the Crown and yourself, to caution you against it.

I was pleased to hear by Mr. *Littleton*, they had got about a hundred Horses in a Pen; and would not stop him for my Letter, from carrying you Halters for them as soon as he could: But as you have forty-eight Ships under your Orders in the River, they can much sooner supply you with any Thing
of

of that kind you may want. I sent you my Advice, by Mr. *Littleton*, to order every one of them to be preparing two large Canvafs spreading Pokes, such as the Pedlars travel with, with their Goods in Boxes, which hang on each Side the Horfe, the Canvafs being fingle over the Horfe's Back. And that they may carry the more, I think the Blacks fhould be ordered to lead them on foot, and no one be permitted to ride them; and each Ship might furnifh a Tarpawling, for a Sumpter-Cloth over them, to cover them from the Rain, for fecuring the dry Provisions. And for the Meat, the empty Cafks might be carried by the Negroes after them, for putting the Meat up again into them; with a Cooper from fome of the Transports, to head them, whenever you come where you would have them lodged for Stores.

And when you are advanced fo far, as to be fure of the Time when you can appear, to attempt the furprizing of the Batteries above the *Morro* Caftle, the *Eftrella*, and *St. Catalina*, (mentioned to be eafily practicable in the Information you have of *Henry Cavelier*, Carpenter;) I will take Care to be, either myfelf or *Sir Chalonier Ogle*, off the Mouth of the Harbour, to do all that fhall be found to be practicable to be attempted.

And I believe you will agree with me, that a few chofen Men are better to make the Attempt with, than very large Bodies, that require fuch large Supplies of Provisions going with them.

As to fecuring your Camp you are now in, a fmall Number may be fufficient for that, and you may with eafe land all your Field Pieces there for its Security; which Captain *Forreft*, I will answer for him, will foon render eafily practicable for you, if you defire it.

And

And I find the Village, for a Post of Communication, is likewise very easily secured, as Mr. *Sturton* writes me that the River runs in an Elbow half round it, and likewise agrees with *Drake's* Information, that the Village lies near the same River, though not navigable to it: But this is a fine Supply of Fresh Water for those posted there.

I have reconnoitred all the Coasts of this Harbour, from the Mouth of the River you are up, to that my Ships are watering at, which is five Leagues; and can plainly perceive, no one can come to attack your Camp that Way; and believe there are no Inhabitants to do it Eastward of this Harbour. And I am raising a Redoubt, to secure our watering at that River, and shall afterwards be trying to find some Communication with your Camp from thence, which will serve to put it in the greater Security from all Surprize.

You cannot but be sensible, that the Security of your Army and all your Transports, depends on our being in a Condition to defend this Harbour from any Enemy coming by Surprize on us: And you know the Force they have under *Don Rodrigo de Torres*, which may easily come here, by going through the Gulph, and coming to the *French* Island of *Hispaniola*. And if Mr. *Gray's* Advices, which I sent you, should be true, and a Squadron should come to join them from *France*, the Fate of this Expedition must be tried by a Sea Combat, and our Defeat would be your certain Ruin.

And besides, as I propose being off the Harbour to second your Attempt all I can, the remaining *Americans* on board of us would, in my Apprehension, be most in the Way on board of our Ships, even for throwing them ashore on the Batteries to windward of the *Morro*, if practicable, on your appearing off there. So that, in all Lights, I cannot
but

but think them, for the present, best posted here; both for the Security of your Army, and seconding all Attempts on the *Morro* Castle: And I am persuaded, on Reflection, you will think so too, and approve of their remaining here. For some of our Ships are near a hundred Men short of Complement already, and we have but our six Capital Ships to be depended on for being in Harbour, as the rest must be kept in constant Employment in Cruizing, some to Block up the Harbour, and the others for watching the Motions of the Enemy's Squadrons from all Parts, which I have them at present conveniently posted for.

Your Letters were dispatch'd for *Jamaica* yesterday by Captain *Barnard*, and just before he sail'd (tho' after my Letters were seal'd up) I had a Line from Capt. *Forrest*, of the advanced Party being arriv'd at the Village; so I had the Pleasure of sending by Capt. *Barnard* a verbal Account of it to Governor *Trelawney*.

I have dispatch'd the *York*, Captain *Cotes*, away for *Leogane*, with the Vice Roy of *Mexico's* Retinue (being twenty-seven) and sixteen more *Spanish* Prisoners, that desir'd to be set at Liberty there; and eight more I sent by Captain *Broderick* to *Cartagena*, and the *Spanish* Lawyer by Captain *Allen* to *Leogane*; in all, fifty-two. And considering that of these many were Officers and Gentlemen, I think, according to the Usage of War, these are more than an Exchange for the sixty-four releas'd from *St. Jago*: So that I shall think of releasing no more at present; and shall be glad of your Opinion, if you do not think it a full Exchange, according to the Rules of War.

I believe you will now think it proper, to try if you cannot engage any of your Prisoners to dis-

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perfe your Manifestos, to try what Effects they may have.

I am glad I can acquaint you, that Captain *Allen* is come into the Harbour, who shall be ready to proceed with your Letters for the Governors of the Northern Colonies, whenever you desire it.

I have sent Capt. *Chambers* up with Capt. *Watson*, who is come in from his Cruize off *St. Jago*, in case you might have any Questions to ask him.

And with my best Wishes for the Prosperity of his Majesty's Arms under your Conduct, I am,

S I R,
Boyne, Cumberland Har- Your most Obedient,
bour, Aug. 2, 1741. Humble Servant,

E. V.
 P. S. Be pleas'd to forward my Letter to Lieut. *Sturton*, when you write yourself.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Have sent you by Lieut. *Littleton* a Sample of the Canvass Pockets, that I think may be serviceable to you for conveying the Provisions for your Troops; and on your approving it, I have order'd him to leave it with Mr. *Wallace*, for his having as many more immediately made as you judge you may want. You will perceive by what happen'd yesterday, in their attempting an Ambush where my small Guard of Sailors were, that it is all a meer Jest, and that they had more kill'd than they kill'd of our Men; tho' they catch'd one of your Men easing himself, whom they treated with such Barbarity, that, if the Rules of War admit of it, I think such lurking Parties should have no Quarter. I did not expect my Lieutenant nor my Guide in; but my Lieutenant says it was Col.

Cockran's

Cockran's Order : But I shall send him back to his Duty to-day under his former Orders, to attend the Forces you order to advance to *St. Jago*, with the Guide, and to shew them the Way, whenever you desire; and I am glad to hear they have so good a Road before them.

The Prize brought in yesterday came from *Port Passage* the Middle of *June*, is a prime-sailing Ship, bought from the Privateers, to be sent to the Vice Roy of *Mexico* and *Don Rodrigo de Torres* with Dispatches; which, he says, he has thrown into the Sea. She has twenty-four Guns, and two hundred and twenty Men; and God's good Providence deliver'd her into our Hands, our Ship having a Gale of Wind to run up with her when she was becalm'd.

I send you by Mr. *Littleton* the Translation of a Letter, that gives some Account of *European* News, and I send you the *French* News-Papers from *Leogane*; and cannot forbear, on all Occasions, repeating, that Delay, in my Apprehension, is the only Enemy we have to fear.

With my best Wishes for Prosperity to his Majesty's Arms under your Conduct, I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in *Cumberland* Harbour, Aug. 5, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

THIS will be brought you by Lieut. *Sturton*, who returns to his Command under my former Orders, of attending with ten Men, and the Guide, *John Drake*, to shew your advanced Parties the Road from the Village to *St. Jago*, and the

H

Batteries

Batteries above *Morro* Castle, whenever they have your Orders to proceed, and you let him know your desire he should.

He has likewise, on board my Brig Tender, Lieutenant *Lowther* under his Orders, who speaks *Spanish* very well, and may be otherwise of Service; and I cannot omit mentioning one of his Remarks for discovering Parties in the Woods, which is, where-ever Carrion Crows, or other Birds, may be seen hovering.

So that if you choose Lieut. *Lowther* to command the Party instead of Lieut. *Sturton*, he has my Orders to send him, and to stay to command the Brigantine himself.

And this Detachment going with the Guide may be of further Service to you, if you think of having the two *Pettereroes* carried with the advanced Party; and our Men probably may be best practiced in making a proper Use of them.

With my best Wishes of Success to his Majesty's Arms under your Conduct, I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in *Cumberland* Harbour, *Island of Cuba*,
Aug. 5, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

WE have taken into mature Consideration, together, your Letter to Mr. *Vernon* of the 5th of this Month, which put us under an equal Surprise with what fell from you on the 22d of *July*, when we thought our Duty to his Majesty requir'd our laying our Thoughts before you on that Subject, by our joint Letter of the 23d of *July*.

And

And as in your Letter now, you mention your speedily calling a Council of War, in which you shall come to a final Resolution;

Mr. *Vernon*, who had communicated to me before all his Letters to you, thought it adviseable to consult with me, what answer was proper to be sent you to it; that tho' we have not a deliberative Voice in your Councils of War, we might desire you to communicate to them our Sentiments, before they come to forming any final Resolutions.

And having maturely consider'd the Letter you mention to have receiv'd from Mr. *Vernon*, of the 2d of *August*, and the subsequent Letters he sent you of the 5th of *August*, I cannot but join with him in Opinion, that they contain very reasonable and friendly Advices to you, and such as, in our joint Apprehensions, ought to be laid before your Council of War, together with our former Letters to you of the 23d of *July*, for their Consideration, before they come to a final Resolution (as you say is intended,) for preventing precipitate Resolutions being form'd.

In this Letter you say, it is not possible for any Number of Men to subsist many Days in the Part of which they are at present possess'd; which we cannot conceive your meaning by, when you can supply them with whatever Provisions they want; and the further you advance, you know, you command open *Savannas* full of Cattle for further Supplies; as we are inform'd by Lieut. *Sturton*, who advanced with the Guide and your Parties as far as they had Orders from you for going.

These Defilés you mention, have been march'd thro', and none of those Difficulties met with that you are so full of Apprehensions from; and forward on from the Village, there is less Reason to apprehend them, it being allow'd to be *Camino Real*.

And as to your Apprehensions from the Militia of this Island, we cannot better lay before you how groundless they are, than by sending you the inclosed Information from Mr. *Toller*, one of the late releas'd Prisoners, whom your Council of War may have to examine, if they desire it; by which you will see, if you do but proceed vigorously, as determin'd to succeed, there is the most promising Hopes of their revolting, and becoming willing Subjects to our Royal Master.

And as in Mr. *Vernon's* Letter he has already assur'd you, that he will either himself be off the Port to meet you, or send me with such a Detachment of Ships as shall be necessary, for doing every Thing that can be practicable by Sea, at the Time you give him Notice you shall be ready to make the Attack by Land upon the Batteries of the *Estrilla* and *Santa Catalina* (which are represented to be so easily surpriz'd, in the Information you have of *Henry Cavelier*, Carpenter, who has been lately employ'd at work in them;) and as we shall carry with us the *Americans* remaining on board, to land them at the Batteries to windward (if practicable) to join you there, we cannot conceive how it is possible they can be better employ'd for your Service, and the Success of this Expedition.

We cannot likewise but be surpriz'd at your saying, that your being landed in the Harbour of *St. Jago*, or at the Batteries to windward of it, were the principal Motives for your consenting to this Undertaking; when you know it was always our declared Opinions, from the best Advices we had received, that such an Attempt was impracticable. But if we find it otherwise, you may rely on our doing our Duty to the Crown.

Every thing appears to us most providentially to favour the Success of this Expedition, as, by Lieu-
tenant

tenant *Sturton's* Report it appears, with very little Trouble even our Cannon may be advanced to the Posts that your advanced Guards are now at.

And we apprehend, that, with proper Care about it, you may be possessed of what Horses you please, to carry your Provisions with you : But we think the principal Attack, to be tried on those upper Batteries, should be attempted speedily with a chosen Number of Men, not to give the Enemy Time to be preparing against you.

We thought it our Duty to lay our Thoughts thus seasonably before you, for your Council of War's knowing our Sentiments in time, before their forming their final Resolutions, as you say is speedily intended.

With our best Wishes for the Prosperity of his Majesty's Arms under your Conduct, we are,

S I R,

*Cumberland, in Cumberland
Harbour, South Side of
Cuba, Aug. 6, 1741.*

*Your most Obedient,
Humble Servants,*

E. VERNON,
C. OGLE.

To Captain RENTONE, of the Rippon.

By, &c.

WHEREAS I think it of Importance to his Majesty's Service in the present Conjunction, to have a Communication immediately open'd between the Bluff to the Westward of the River where our Ships are watering, and the Incampment on the Side of the River *Augusta* ;

You are hereby requir'd and directed, to take with you a Detachment of thirty Men of Capt. *Pepper's* Company, now on board of you, with the said Captain (who has my Orders to obey your Command on the said Service ;) and a further Detachment of

twenty

twenty *American* Forces, under one of their Officers, from the *Montagu* and *Ludlow Castle* (whose Captains you will shew my Orders to, for their making the said Detachments of twenty Men each accordingly) to be landed, for marching under your Orders, by Day-break to-morrow Morning, at the Bluff to the Westward of the River : From whence, together with 20 Seamen, (with Hand-Bills, for clearing the Underwood where necessary, and armed with Sword and Pistols only, as you will have a sufficient Number of Musqueteers from the Detachments of *American* Troops) you are to march very leisurely, for opening your Communication with the said Encampment on the River *Augusta*.

And you will order it, if you can, to march in three open Files, for better discovering any Attempts to Ambuscade you, having a Lieutenant to command the Party that advances before your Seamen for cutting the Underwood, and he having a Serjeant with a Detachment of his Men before him. And as the Way is not judged to be above four or five Miles distance, and they need only clear the Underwood for making an open Way to be seen through, I apprehend it can easily be done in a Morning ; and Orders shall be sent for the Detachment being victualled on board my Brigantine, and, if the Way is found tiresome, to rest there for returning next Day.

And as Troops in a Wood cannot be formed in a regular Order, you will dispose your Officers in the best Manner, for commanding the respective Detachments ; and let them not march with their Musquets shouldered, but rested on their Arms, to prevent Surprizes, and be the readier to receive an Enemy. And give this general Order to all commanding the several Detachments, to stand their Ground, and face their Enemy wherever they appear,

pear, and to defend themselves as becomes bold *Britons*, and give Time to your other Parties to come up to support them; inculcating this general Maxim to them, that facing one's Enemy is the best Security, and turning one's Back to them is abandoning one's self to sure Destruction; an Order I judge not improper for new-raised Troops. And for all other Orders found necessary, I rely on your approv'd Judgment and Resolution. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Harbour*, &c. this 6th of *August*, 1741.

To Captain FORREST, of the *Alderney Bomb*.
By, &c.

WHEREAS I have ordered Captain *Rentone*, with a Detachment of Marines and Seamen, to open a Way of Communication to-morrow Morning, between the Bluff to the Westward of the River our Ships Water at, and the general Encampment;

For his better Guidance in so doing, you are hereby required and directed, to take with you a Detachment of thirty Men, from the Bomb-Ketch under your Command, and my Brig Tender, and to take Post with them early to-morrow Morning upon the Hill just above the Camp, where Lieutenant *Taylor* made his Bonfire yesterday Evening: Which you are accordingly to renew to-morrow Morning, to serve for a Guidance to Capt. *Rentone* in his moving towards you. And you will from thence keep a good Look-out towards the said Bluff (where a Fire is likewise ordered to be kept, they being reckon'd to bear nearest E. N. E. and W. S. W. of each other;) to observe that no Parties of the Enemy be moving that Way to annoy them; in which Case, you are to move to sustain them,
taking

taking Care to send the General immediate Notice, and desire he would detach out Forces to sustain you; and you will acquaint the General, if stirring, or the Commanding Officer, with the Orders you have.

And desire of them from me, that they would send out Orders to their advanced Guards and Centries, to acquaint them of it, and give out the same Words to the Centries (for preventing Mistakes) as I have ordered for our Party.

Which are, for those challenged to answer to the Centries, or Party challenging, in these Words, GREAT MARLBOROUGH'S GLORY; and the Centry, or Party challenging, to answer, VICTORY. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne* in *Cumberland* Harbour (formerly called *Walthenam*) on the South Side of *Cuba*, this 6th of *August*, 1741.

To Mr. WALLACE.

S I R,

I Have this Evening receiv'd your Letter; and was glad to hear Provisions were sent on board the *Dorsetshire* for the one hundred and forty-one *Spanish* Prisoners you desire for the Transports, which I shall make the Disposition for sending on board of her on *Tuesday* Morning.

I was glad to hear you were clearing Transports to send for Provisions for the Army; and as you supply Provisions to the Army, pray order it to clear some for the Fleet too, as I must desire the General to spare me some of them (I believe) to fetch Supplies for us. Pray contrive that those design'd for both Services may be good Sailors, that they may the more speedily ply up to windward to us; and I have design'd a Ship for
Convoy,

Convoy, that shall be ready to sail whenever she is desired.

I am sure thole Bags will do for carrying Provisions, and the Weight be nothing to a Horse, provided no one be suffer'd to ride them; and a little long Grass laid upon the Horses Backs under them, will make them lie easier and cooler to them than a Pack-Saddle. I am,

*Boyne, in Cumberland
Harbour, Cuba,
Aug. 9, 1741.*

S I R,

Your humble Servant,

E. V.

To Capt. FORREST, of the Alderney Bomb.

S I R,

Lieutenant *Porter* brought me last Night a large Packet from the General, which I have not yet had time to read over this Morning; but having cast my Eye on the Resolution, I see plainly it is against advancing any further.

And if that be the Case, I apprehend there can be no occasion for Lieut. *Lowther* and his Party, with my Guide, continuing any longer absent on board the Brig Tender.

I would, therefore, desire you immediately to wait on the General, to know whether he is desirous he should continue with his advanced Party any longer: And if he does not, as it was only for his Service and at his Desire that he was sent, pray do you send him Orders to return, with the next Orders the General sends that way; and send a Messenger of your own with your Orders to him, by the next Party that goes that way. And pray transact these Orders yourself, as I rely on your Prudence for the careful Execution of them.

I

I was

I was pleas'd to hear you found so short and good a Road back to the Camp. I am,

S I R,

Cumberland Harbour,

Aug. 10, 1741.

Your very humble Servant,

E. V.

P. S. Deliver the inclosed to Lieut. *Sturton* in your Way.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

IT being last Night that your Letter of the 9th was brought, with the inclosed Resolutions of your Council of War, and the Reports of several of your principal Officers, and the Examination of a *Spanish* Prisoner, there was no Opportunity for their being sooner taken into Consideration than to-day.

We have read them over together attentively, and having observ'd in your Letter, that you had communicated to your Council of War all the several Advices given by us to you, as (in our Opinions) most for his Majesty's Honour and Service, and your own; and having consider'd that, notwithstanding, your Council of War have, in their said Resolutions, declar'd,

“That they cannot march any Body of their Troops
 “ further into the Country, without exposing them
 “ to certain Ruin; and that they are firmly of
 “ Opinion, that their advancing with their Army
 “ to *St. Jago*, in their present Circumstances, is
 “ impracticable.”

As the Operations of the Army are, by his Majesty's Instructions, left under the particular Directions of a Council of War of your own Officers; after their having in such a manner deliver'd their Opinions, it would ill become us to be giving our
 Opinions

Opinions in such Matters, that his Majesty's Instructions had left to the particular Deliberations of your Council of War.

But we may observe to you, Sir, that a good Part of these Objections are founded on the Difficulty of an Army's marching from hence to *St. Jago* with Cannon; which is what we never conceiv'd to be necessary.

But had it been found practicable, on your first landing, for a chosen Detachment of a thousand Men, with a thousand Negroes to have gone with them for carrying a Week's Provisions, to have tried if those upper Batteries, of the *Estrella* and *Santa Catalina*, could not have been surpriz'd and taken with Facility, as was represented in *Henry Cavelier's* Information; (which would have been but the Experiment of a Day;) we apprehend the Fate of *St. Jago* might have been tried and determin'd before now: And if the Forces had not found that Facility in surprizing them as was represented, they would have had sufficient Provisions for their Retreat to the Camp. And as, on their succeeding, we should have been one of us at hand to have endeavour'd to have push'd into the Harbour, the Town of *St. Jago*, and all the rest, would have fallen of Course; the Town being an open Town, that would have been under the Command of our Guns. And if this Method had been thought proper to have been pursued, we apprehend they would not have had Time for amending their former Oversights, by taking some Care to secure the back Door; whereas, from all former Informations, they had only been providing to secure the fore Door, the Entrance into the Harbour.

We flatter ourselves, that in our former Advices, we have acted with a sincere Regard for his Majesty's Honour and Service, and a friendly Good-will to

yours. And we are determin'd, with our best Care, to cultivate a good Understanding with you, and such as are in Chief Command, agreeably to his Majesty's Instructions; which we desire you will assure the other General Officers of; as they have done us, in the general Resolution you sent the Copy of inclosed.

With our best Wishes for the Prosperity of his Majesty's Arms under your Conduct, we are,

S I R,

*Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour
(formerly call'd Walthenam)
on the South Side of Cuba,
Aug. 10, 1741.*

*Your most Obedient,
Humble Servants,*

E. VERNON,
C. OGLE.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

YOURS of the 11th, mentioning your having communicated to the Members of your Council of War ours of the 10th, was brought by Lieut. *Pearse* this Morning, and we soon after met to take it into Consideration.

And it was with Pleasure we observ'd your mentioning the Members of your Council of War joining with you, in assuring us that nothing, on your Parts, will be wanting to cultivate the good Correspondence so strongly recommended by his Majesty; and which we gave you, as was our Duty, the like Assurance of on ours.

And we flatter ourselves, all our Advices to you will appear to all impartial Men, to have had no other Motive than his Majesty's Honour and Service (to the best of our Judgements) and a friendly Concern for yours.

And as you are desir'd by the Gentlemen of your Council of War, to have a General Council of
War

War held, to consider of what is most proper to be done in the present Circumstances, we very readily consent to what you desire; and that you and the principal Officers of your Army may not be call'd far from your Camp, we have agreed to be on board the *Vesuvius* Fireship, Capt. *Tomson*, to-morrow Morning before eight o'Clock, and to bring our two Senior Captains with us; and the Signal shall be made for the said General Council of War, on board the said Fireship, by eight o'Clock at farthest. We are,

S I R,

Cumberland, in Cumberland Harbour, Cuba,
Aug. 12, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servants,

E. VERNON,
C. OGLE.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

Captain *Hopkins* brought me your Letter of the 12th yesterday in the Evening, on board the *Vesuvius* Fireship, in the River *Augusta*; and I desir'd he would be on board the *Seaborse* this Morning, and Capt. *Allen* should have his Orders to sail with him this Afternoon. Capt. *Allen* has had his Orders, as you desir'd, with the Assurances of Protection for all Ships or Vessels coming with Recruits or Provisions for the Army; but we have heard nothing further of Captain *Hopkins*, which I thought proper to advise you of.

And an Information in relation to Col. *C——* coming to my Hands, that will, I am perswaded, surprize you as much as it did me, I thought it for his Majesty's Service, early to transmit a Copy of it to you, as thinking it, in our present Circumstances, of a criminal Nature: And I doubt
not

not but you will take early Measures to prevent shipping off Mules or Horses, when they are so much wanted for his Majesty's Service. I am,

S I R,
Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour, &c. Your most Obedient,
 Aug. 14, 1741. Humble Servant,
 E. V.

To Captain FORREST, of the Alderney Bomb.

S I R,

I Have sent you inclosed a Copy of Lieutenant *Lawther's* Journal, and Captain *Chambers's* Report and Observations, for the General, according to my Promise to him; and an Order to Lieutenant *Innes* to return to his Duty: And I desire you will go up to the Camp, and deliver them both yourself into their respective Hands, with my Service to the General. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour, Cuba, August 15, 1741. Your humble Servant,
 E. V.

To Mr. THOMAS INNES, First Lieutenant of the Grafton.

By, &c.

WHEREAS the Security of the Army will in great measure depend on the Fleet's being able to maintain its Post in this Harbour, against any Force the Enemy can bring; who, we know, carried with them from *Cartagena* twelve Ships of the Line, under Don *Rodrigo de Torres*, for the *Havanna*, and had three Ships of the Line there before:

As I judge it necessary, for our supporting ourselves against any superior Power, to throw up some Batteries, both on the East Point of the Harbour, and

and the little Island above us ; and as you think yourself to have some Judgment as an Engineer :

You are hereby required and directed, immediately to repair to your Duty, as First Lieutenant of his Majesty's Ship the *Grafton*, I designing to try what Judgment you have in that Way, by your preparing me a Plan for such Batteries as I shall give you Directions in, and drawing a Scheme how your said Plan is to be executed ; by which I shall soon be enabled to judge of your Capacity that way.

But if General *Wentworth* should have so little Confidence in the Engineer he has, as to think your Service as an Engineer of Consequence to him, and should have an Inclination to appoint you such ; if you chuse serving the Crown under him rather than in the Post you are in, I shall be ready to oblige the General with your Discharge, if he and you request it, as you know our Service admits no *Sine-Cures* ; and I shall then commit such Works to the Care of others. And upon sight of this Order, you are immediately to repair to your Duty.

Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Harbour*, (formerly called *Walthenam*) on the South Side of *Cuba*, the 15th of *August*, 1741.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

BEING desirous to transmit your Letters to your Hands as soon as I can, I dispatch them to you before I have read all my Letters.

But finding two Paragraphs in Captain *Davers's* Letter, relating to the *Norway-Merchant* Transport, and *Lynn* Hospital-Ship, I have drawn out Extracts of them for you, that you may give the Orders in the Affair that you think proper ; and I cannot but agree with Captain *Davers*, that it would be proper to discharge them from the Service.

For

For were the *Lynn* Hospital-Ship here, she could be of no Service to you, as she draws too much Water for getting her into the River *Augusta*; so that she must lie in the Harbour within us, which I take to be at least seven Leagues from your Camp, which would render her of no Service to you as an Hospital-Ship. And I take Mr. C——t's Sollicitousness about her, to be in regard to other Merchandize on board, that might not be so serviceable to the Army; well knowing he has made use of his Majesty's Transports for his private Service, by my having signed Bills of Exchange for near seven thousand Pounds, for *French* Brandies by him sold to the Agent Victuallers for the Fleet, and delivered from the Transports; and all the Medicine-Chests and the Surgeons are already arrived.

I send you likewise inclosed a Copy of the Report from the Masters of the two Transports, in regard to Colonel C——n's Negotiations for shipping off Mules and Horses for *Jamaica*; which I thought the more proper, as you will observe that they were to go now with the Transports going for Provisions.

The Convoy to go with these Transports, whenever you have them cleared for sending them, has been for some Days past ready, being Capt. *Hore* in the *Ludlow-Castle*. I should be glad to have two of them for bringing up the Provisions for the Fleet, and to know the Time you think you shall have those Transports ready for sailing for *Jamaica*, that I may have all my Letters and Orders ready to go by the Convoy.

I am glad I can acquaint you, that Part of the Cargo of Captain *Trevor's* Prize, taken off *Rio La Isabela*, is Cloathing for three thousand Sailors and five hundred Soldiers, on board *Don Rodrigo de Torres's* Squadron at the *Havanna*.

I hear

I hear of no *English* News later than the News-Papers of the 8th of *May*; but am dispatching Captain *Hervey* to *Leogane* to-day, for trying what News we can pick up among them.

I sent one of my Lieutenants to reconnoitre how far the River is navigable for Boats above your Camp, which I find to be about three Miles higher; which is half a Mile higher up the River than your advanced Party first cross'd it: So that Provisions can easily be conveyed by Boats to the other Side of the River, at that first Crossing the River; which I thought it material to inform you of.

The *Augusta* with her Transports was seen off here at Sea last Night, and I hear they bring you seventy-five Men in the missing Transport, and one hundred and sixty-two of your recover'd Men in the other two Transports. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour, Your most Obedient,
Cuba, August 17, 1741. Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

YOURS of the 17th was brought me last Night; and I have been this Morning to reconnoitre the Eastern Entrance into this Harbour, where I intend erecting a Battery, if you can assist us from your Ordnance Stores, for laying the Platforms. I then saw two of your Transports, and have given the necessary Orders for their being piloted up the River to you, as you desire; and whenever you will please to send your two white Prisoners down, they shall be receiv'd on board my Ships, as you desire.

K

I was

I was glad to hear you had taken effectual Measures, to prevent the Shipping off for *Jamaica* such Horses and Mules as have already been secured for the Service of the Army.

In all the Advice given by me and Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, I can assure you, we had nothing in View but the Honour and Prosperity of his Majesty's Arms, and, of consequence, yours, who had the Chief Command of his Army.

I hope the Gentlemen of your Council have had no other Views in the Advice they have given you; and where one of them appear'd to me to have selfish Views, I thought it my Duty early to advise you of it.

And you will find in me an Inclination, at all Times, to maintain an amicable Correspondence with you. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour, Aug. 18, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH:

S I R,

I Received yours of the 18th last Night, by which I find Mr. C——t does not represent Things truly to you. You know, Sir, when I found the Army's Medicines and Surgeons were left behind, I offer'd you a Ship to fetch them with Expedition to you, which was done accordingly, well knowing the *Lynn* Hospital-Ship to be a heavy Ship, that could not be depended upon to be got here in time; and I was not, therefore, for having their coming depend on such a Contingency as getting a heavy Leewardly Ship up to windward. But I believe, as we are stationed
and

and my Cruizers posted, Mr. C——t, and his *Lynn* too, might have come, as to any Danger from an Enemy, with as much safety as any Man can walk from the *Royal Exchange* to *Westminster*; and no Officer of mine would have given him any Impediment, if he could have found Men to sail her, as they are charter'd to do.

Since there seems so much Time wanting to erect this Magazine, I must beg the Favour of you to order Mr. *Wallace* to clear the Provisions out of the Transports you design to send to *Jamaica*, for your Provisions and ours, into other Transports, that they may sail as soon as possible; as I stopp'd the Convoy for going with them, and want her to be going with such necessary Orders as are wanting to be sent to *Jamaica*. And I should be glad to know, as soon as I can, of the certain Day they can be ready.

If you have any Soldiers you suspect of designing to desert, and you send them, as we are short of Complement, they shall be received: But I can't think their only being *Irishmen* a sufficient Inducement for it. Your first advanced Party was made up, to a very few Men, of the *Americans*; I sent up in my Flotilla a hundred Blacks; and as to the Company from this Ship, I know they were mostly composed of *Irishmen*, and some of them Convicts: Yet, by the Report of Capt. *Washington*, their Captain, they all went on the Service with great Chearfulness, and are all return'd according to your Orders, without a Man deserting; and they were concern'd to be recall'd, and express'd themselves desirous of going again. And for the small Party of my Men that their Ambush endeavour'd to surprize, the Man of mine that was so much wounded, and behaved himself so gallantly (as did all of that small Party) was one *Hugh Machara*, an

Irishman : And as he is disabled from getting his Bread, I have made him Cook of this Ship for it. I think any thing of a general national Reflection should be studiously avoided; which you will be so good as to excuse me in a friendly mention of. I am,

S I R,

*Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour, Your most Obedient,
Cuba, Aug. 19, 1741. Humble Servant,
E. V.*

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Have receiv'd yours of the 19th; and since you say the Storehouse will be ready to receive Provisions the latter End of this Week, as that will make so small a Difference, I willingly acquiesce in what Mr. *Wallace* gives his Reasons for, for the Service of the Crown : But hope he will contrive to have them all in a readiness for sailing before the Middle of next Week, and should be glad to know the certain Day they can be ready.

The best Intelligence I have sent me being contained in two Letters, one from Capt. *Boscarwen* and the other from Mr. *Gray*, I send them to you to peruse, by Captain *Hore*, who is to convoy the Transports to *Jamaica*; and I send you likewise inclosed the Letter I had from Governor *Trelawney*, by Mr. *Hodgson*; and should have sent you by him my Letter, but that I imagined he had writ to you to the same purport. These Letters you will please to return me when you have perused them.

And I have directed Mr. *Hodgson* to assure you, that if you approved of sending a Detachment of a hundred Men with him, as the Governor desired,
I would

I would readily send a Man of War to convoy them, and protect them there for some time.

You will see by Mr. *Trelawney's* Letter, he proposes making Mr. *Hodgson* Governor of *Ratan* Island, and giving Land, as an Encouragement, to such as will go there.

And I doubt not but, with your Leave, there would be Voluntier Officers and Men ready to go with Mr. *Hodgson*, with a View of settling there, that Island being reputed very fertile; and it is certainly well situated for protecting our Logwood Trade; and the securing it, would not only be serviceable in that respect, but keep it from being a future Receptacle for Pirates, as it was twenty Years ago: So that I can't but give it as my Opinion, that such a Settlement would be of National Service. And if you approve of detaching a hundred *Americans* thither, I will send a twenty-gun Ship to convoy them, and to cruize off there for some Time for their Protection, before she returns to bring us some certain Accounts of their Success, and how those settled on the *Mosquito* Shore, and the Logwood-Cutters in the Bay, approve of it, and are inclin'd to come in and support it. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour,
Cuba, Aug. 21, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Have just now receiv'd yours; and was sorry to find the Stores of your Train so short, that we can expect no Assistance from it; so must turn our Thoughts to do as well as we can without.

I was

I was glad to hear you found the Enemy's Party such as I always represented them to you, that they would not stand the Test with those that push'd them heartily.

As to what you mention of a Robbery on board the Transports; as they are under your Jurisdiction, I look on them as most properly under your Cognizance, I never having had any particular Orders in regard to them. And were I to hold a Court Martial on it, it must be from the Party robb'd lodging his Complaint, and swearing to it before the Judge Advocate, and appearing personally as an Evidence on the Trial. And considering they have not been directed by Authority to be under my Jurisdiction, I am in some Doubt as to proceeding criminally against them; and as they are under your Orders in all other Respects, I think this should not be turn'd over to me.

The *Augusta* being a clean Ship, sail'd yesterday to cruize on the *Spanish* Privateers cruizing on our Trade from the Northern Colonies, and is out of the Reach of any Orders from me. I am,

S I R,

*Boyne, in Cumberland
Harbour, Cuba,
Aug. 21, 1741.
in the Evening.*

*Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,*

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Receiv'd yours of the 22d late in the Evening, when I was with Sir *Chaloner Ogle* on board his Ship, and communicated to him then Governor *Trelawney's* Letter (which you had return'd me) and the foul Draught of my Letter to you; and found him entirely in the Opinion of Governor *Trelawney* and me, that what his Excellency propos'd

pos'd was much for his Majesty's Honour and Service, for securing so valuable a Trade to his Subjects as that of the Logwood Trade; besides the Prospect of opening fresh Branches of Trade into the Province of *Guatemala*, that may prove very beneficial to the Nation.

Governor *Trelawney*, we think, has sufficiently given his Opinion, by being the Proposer of the Undertaking; and as we both agree in thinking it right, you have the Opinion of the major Part of the Council, that (as you mention) his Majesty has nam'd in his Instructions.

Finding there are like to be further Delays in getting the Transports ready, I hope you will be pleased to order it so, that they may be ready to sail by *Monday* the last of this Month; and I will delay the Convoy till that Time: When we shall have the Satisfaction of seeing the *August* Moon over, which has at different Times been fatal to *Jamaica*, three Hurricanes having happen'd on the 28th of this Month.

I sent you early on *Sunday* Morning the *May Magazine*, as you desir'd; but had not Time for answering your Letter sooner.

I fear, as you do, that our Affairs are not in the best Situation at home; and by what I can perceive from the publick Papers sent us, it appears to me, that their Expectations at home are, that vigorous Proceedings on our Parts should put them in a better, by distressing the *Spaniards* all we can here, to make them cry out for a Peace at home.

Our not having any Publick Letters since the 28th of *February*, can't but give me some Uneasiness, as well as you; and I am taking all the Care I can to fish out for the earliest Intelligence from the *French*, as we are much better posted here to watch all their Motions than at *Jamaica*.

And

And as I design sending another Express, for having his Majesty inform'd of the Situation of Affairs here, about the same Time (*Tuesday* the 1st of *September*) whether we hear from home or not; I give you this early Intelligence of it, desiring you will have your Letters ready against that Time. I am,

*Boyne, in Cumberland
Harbour, Cuba,
Aug. 23, 1741.
in the Evening.*

S I R,

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Have receiv'd yours of the 28th; and am glad to hear that the Transports will soon be ready for sailing, as the Convoy has long been. And having sent previous Orders to Captain *Davers* to be preparing every thing for their dispatch back on our Parts, I can venture to answer for it, no Delay will arise on our Side; and if Mr. *Campbell* does but give a like-dispatch to your Orders, I doubt not but we shall soon have them here again.

My Sloop has been to reconnoitre the Coast between this and the *Aquadores*, within these few Days, close under the Shore, and much nearer than any Ship can be ventured; and found it all an Iron Shore, and no Anchor Ground in it in any part; so your Informers in regard to any Bay between this Place and that, have entirely misinformed you.

I have waited for the Dispatch of this Convoy, for executing personally my Intention of viewing the Mouth of the Harbour: Not that I have the least Doubt of the concurrent Testimonies of so many experienced Officers, whose Reports you have likewise had; but that I may be the better enabled

to

to give our Royal Master Satisfaction, in case his Majesty should think it proper to ask me any Questions about it. But I intend going as a Passenger, without any Flag flying; and should be very glad if you would send any Officer of your Army to accompany me, except Colonel C——n, whose Representations made to you already, are not held by me *en Odeur de Sainteté*. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour, *Your most Obedient,*
Cuba, Aug. 29, 1741. *Humble Servant,*

E. V.

P. S. I desire you will be pleased to send your Letters for *England* by *Tuesday Morning* next, the Time appointed, for dispatching an Express with them, in my Letter of the 23d Instant.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

Captain *Forrest* having brought me the annexed Account, I judge it for his Majesty's Service immediately to communicate the same to you by him, not doubting but you will take such Measures in it, as you think will be most conducive to his Majesty's Service.

And the Convoy being just now come in from *England*, I have likewise transmitted you by him such Letters as are already come to my Hands for you, and will do the same by any more that may be brought me for you. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour, *Your most Obedient,*
Cuba, Aug. 30, 1741. *Humble Servant,*

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

THE Ships from *England* coming in late last Night, gave only time for searching for what Letters there might be for you : And finding only two, that seem'd from private Hands only, I sent you, by Captain *Forrest*, by Letter from his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, as he mention'd in it his not having Time to write to you, and desired I would make you his Compliments ; with which Captain *Forrest* was dispatch'd to you, together with a Letter accompanying the Copy of a Report he brought me, of material Discoveries made by his Men, that I judg'd of Importance to be as early as possible communicated to you.

After his being gone I opened my other Letters, and find those of most Importance to be two, (one of the 23d of *May*, and the other of the 21st of *June*) from the Right Hon. Sir *Charles Wager*. And though they are writ to me in a friendly Style, as he has the Honour of being of the Regency, and is judg'd to be in the Secret of Affairs, I believe you will think his Judgment in these Things of no small Consequence. And as I have long held his Judgment in high Esteem, and think no one has taken more Pains to be inform'd of the Situation of Affairs in this Country ; I could not but think it of Consequence to communicate them to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, and take his Opinion, both upon them and the Reports sent you by Captain *Forrest*, and also upon my own Observations on personally reconnoitring most Parts of this extensive Harbour and the Country round it, and the Reports that have been made by judicious Officers, employed for opening Communications between the two Rivers, and frequently passing and repassing them.

By

By these it appears plainly manifest, that a few Miles, by the Borders of open *Salinas*, there is an even open Road for marching Troops, without the least Apprehensions from *Defilés*, or *Ambuscades*; and by the Report sent you, it is but three Miles, by a very good Path through Woods pretty clear of Underwood, where you can see every Way about you, to come into the open *Savanna*, where they saw such Numbers of Horses grazing; and which, from the best Judgment we can form, is the Eastern Part of the *Savannas* where Colonel *Cockran* advanced to, called *Guantanamo* and *Santa Catalina*, lying between the two Rivers, the Western Part being where he was, near the River you are encamped by.

And as it manifestly appears to us, that it is the Expectation of our Royal Master, the Legislature, and the Body of the Nation, that the utmost Efforts should be exerted in these Parts, to distress the *Spaniards* wherever we can; and as so judicious a Person as *Sir Charles Wager*, has so plainly pointed out these Parts as very proper for it in his Apprehension;

We think it our Duty, in regard to the Honour and Interest of our Royal Master, to represent to you on this Occasion (though out of our Province) that it appears easily practicable to us, to have a Body of your best Troops to undertake the Entrance into the *Savanna* at the Western End of it, as above described; and to march quite through the said *Savanna* (the Grass of which is no where said to be above five or six Inches high) up to the former Post, at the Houses by the River Side, in which you would have an open Field, in our Apprehension, for surprising and cutting off any Parties of the Enemy that may be lurking there, and may make yourselves again Masters of such rich

Savannas full of Cattle; and taking Post again at those Houses, soon open yourself a secure Communication with your present Camp: Which would be a good Advance towards distressing the Enemy, and be a seasonable Relief to your own Army, besides the Honour done to his Majesty's Arms, that would principally redound to your Credit.

As all this appears clearly to us in the Light we have represented it to you, we flatter ourselves, you will receive this our friendly Advice to you, as the Result of our Zeal for our Royal Master's Honour and Service, and a good will to yours. We are,

S I R,

*Boyne, in Cumberland
Harbour, Caba,
Aug. 31, 1741.*

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servants,

E. VERNON,
C. OGLE.

*To his Grace the Duke of N * * * * **
My Lord Duke,

MY last to your Grace was of the 29th of July, from this Harbour. On the 30th the *York* join'd me, with the Vice Roy of *Mexico's* Retinue from *Jamaica*, whom I had order'd up hither, to exchange against the Prisoners releas'd from *St. Jago*; but finding they chose rather to be landed at *Leogane* and to hire a Sloop and take a Passage from thence to *La Vera Cruz*, I immediately clos'd with their Request, and sent them, and such others as desir'd it, up thither in the *York*, judging the releasing them there most for his Majesty's Service; and the more especially, as it gave me so fair a Pretence for continuing a watchful Eye on their Motions. She sail'd with them for *Leogane* the 1st of *August*; and the same Day I sent my Orders for *Jamaica* by the *Firebrand* Fireship.

The

The 2d. of *August* the *Seaborse* came in here from *Leogane*; and I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of the Letter he brought me from the Marquis de *Larnage*.

On the 4th of *August* the *Worcester*, one of my Cruizers, came in here with a *Spanish* Man of War, of twenty-four Guns and two hundred and twenty Men, that sailed the 29th of *June* from *Port Passage*, with Dispatches for the Vice Roy of *Mexica*, as he says, which, according to his Orders, he threw over-board before he was taken; and he believes he was to have return'd with Money. And as, probably, he had likewise Orders for the *Spanish* Admiral Don *Rodrigo de Torres* at the *Havanna*, this intercepting him, I hope, may prove of great Advantage to his Majesty's Service; not only in disappointing the Return of the Money by him, but likewise depriving them of Orders how to conduct themselves. All the private Letters mention her as a prime Sailor, and advise all their Friends to come Passengers in her, for their greater Security; some mentioning that she has sailed five Leagues in an Hour. And I find by others, she was the Privateer that took our two *Turkey* Ships in the Channel, and that the Crown of *Spain* bought her for this Service, on her being reported so good a Sailor. But God's good Providence made us a Present of her, our Ship having a Gale of Wind to run up with her, when she lay becalmed under *Cape Nicoloa*. On the 5th I dispatch'd the *Worcester* to Sea to her former Station.

On the 9th arrived here the *Deptford* and *Aetna* Fireship, with a Victualler, with Wine and Oil for the Fleet, from *Gibraltar*; but the Wine is very indifferent, and I shall order the immediate issuing of it, to prevent more of it from decaying, some being quite decayed already.

By the *Deptford* I had a Letter from Captain *John Trevor*, of the *Defiance*, of his having taken, off *Rio la Hacha*, a Ship under *French* Colours, of three hundred and fifty Tons, twelve Guns, and fifty Men, called the *Providence*, laden with Beef, Pork, Flour, Brandy, Wine, Bar Iron, and some dry Goods, bound for *Carthagena*; which he supposes to be one of their Register Ships from *Cadix*.

On the 12th the *Snow* came in that had the Blacks on board, which were cast away in the *Vere Pink*.

And I am concerned, that I am now obliged, from the different Sentiments of the Officers in his Majesty's Sea and Land Service, to transmit your Grace Copies of all that has passed since my last, that the whole may clearly appear, for his Majesty to form his Judgment on; as I think this is the fairest way of laying these different Sentiments before your Grace, for our Royal Master's Information.

I shall only mention here, that I must begin with a Copy of what I willingly omitted sending in my last, but which is now become necessary, being a Copy of a joint Letter from me and Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to General *Wentworth*, of the 23d of *July*, 1741.

A Letter from General *Wentworth* to me of the 24th of *July*, 1741.

Another, of *July* 31, 1741.

Another, of *August* 1, 1741.

A long Letter from me to General *Wentworth*, of *August* 2, 1741.

Two other Letters from me, of *August* 5, 1741.

A Letter from General *Wentworth* to me, of *August* 5, 1741.

A joint

A joint Letter from me and Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to General *Wentworth*, (with a Copy of a Letter from Mr. *Toler* to me) of *August 6*, 1741.

A Letter from General *Wentworth* to me, (inclofing a Copy of the Resolution of their Council of War of the 8th) of *August 9*, 1741.

A joint Letter from me and Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to General *Wentworth*, of *August 10*, 1741.

A Letter from General *Wentworth* to me, of *August 11*, 1741.

A joint Letter from me and Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to the General, of *August 12*, 1741.

On the 13th of *August* I summoned a General Council of War on board the *Vesuvius* Fireship, in the River *Augusta*, as the General had desired; where I had first read by the Secretary, as Intelligence received since our last General Council of War,

A Declaration of *Miguel Perez*, Captain of a Sloop from *St. Jago*, and a Resident there, of *August 11*, 1741.

A Declaration of *Manuel de la Cruz*, a free Negroe, and Resident of *St. Jago*, of *August 12*, 1741.

Captain *Allen's* Account of what passed at *Marques de Larnage's* Table at *Leogane*, of *August 12*, 1741.

Captain *Chamber's* Report and Observations on his Cruize off *St. Jago*, of *August 11*, 1741.

Mr. *Toler's* Letter to me, of *August 7*, 1741.

Mr. *Macneill's* Remarks on the Roads between the General's Camp and *Guantanamo*, of *August 13*, 1741.

Lieutenant *Sturton's* Account of his March from the Camp, between the 25th of *July* and the 4th of *August*, 1741.

Lieutenant *Lowther's* Journal between the 6th and 12th of *August*, 1741.

Copies of all which, but Captain *Chambers's* Report and Lieutenant *Lowther's* Journal, I delivered the General.

After which, I observed to the Council of War, that Capt. *Perez's* and *Manuel de la Cruz's* Accounts, were a full Proof of what *Drake*, the Guide, had asserted, of the Conveniencies to be found in the Road from the Village to *St. Jago*; and that the Governor of *St. Jago's* Letters were likewise a full Proof he had not erred in his Account of the Distance; and Experience shewed, he had been right in his Accounts to the Village: And that, though the Resolutions charged him with an Error in the Road between the Village and *St. Jago*, it had appeared that Colonel *C——n* (on whose Report they were said to be principally founded) had never advanced himself even so far as the Village; so that his could only be Reports at second hand, from *Spanish* Prisoners. And I observed, that their said Resolutions went no farther than declaring, “they thought it impracticable to advance further into the Country:” Which, I thought, left the latter part of our unanimous general Resolution still in its first Force, *viz.* “to get up to the Village of *Santa Catalina* with the utmost Expedition, and at all Events to secure that, and a Communication with this Harbour, as a probable Foundation for securing a Footing in this Island, for waiting for further Succours to enable them to compleat the Reduction of it;” which, as they had yet resolved nothing against it, we could not but hope they would still pursue. And I added, that, for my part, though I found their Council of War had been in another Sentiment, I should die in the Opinion, that a thousand chosen Men, with a thousand Blacks to have carried Provisions for them, might in three Days have advanced, to try
if

if surprizing the *Estrella* and *Santa Catalina* Batteries were practicable; and had sufficient Time and Provisions for their Retreat, if they had found it otherwise: By which the Fate of *St. Jago* might, in my Apprehension, have been determin'd long before now. But I did not pretend to advance my Opinion for a Rule to theirs, which I hoped, for their Sakes, they might be right in, though it appear'd quite otherwise to us of the Sea.

And as his Majesty's Instructions gave us no Authority to deliberate in what Manner they were to act by Land, after suggesting our Thoughts, and leaving with them Copies of the new Evidence we had produced, we could only exhort them to what they had declared an equal Inclination for; to do the utmost in their Power for his Majesty's Honour and Service; which they assured us, was their Intention; and we then civilly separated, without thinking any new Resolutions necessary to be formed.

Capt. *Chambers's* Report and Observations, and Lieutenant *Lowther's* Journal, that were read at the Council of War, I sent Copies of to the General on the 15th of *August*, not having had Time for having them copied sooner.

The 14th at Night anchor'd in the Harbour's Mouth the *York* from *Leogane*: And I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of the Letter I received by her from the Marquess *de Larnage*; and finding they are expecting Advices of a general War, I shall embrace the Opportunity I have, of sending a *French* Sailor he has demanded, by Capt. *Hervey* of the *Superbe*, to continue keeping an Eye on their Motions, and endeavour at obtaining the earliest Advices from thence.

I send your Grace likewise inclosed, Copies of a Letter from the General of the 12th, acquainting

me Captain *Hopkins* had his Dispatches ready to proceed to *North America*; and of one from me to the General, of the 14th, with the Information inclosed relating to Colonel *C——n*. And Captain *Allen* advising me on the 15th in the Morning, that the Officers were come on board with the General's Letters, I ordered him to put to Sea (pursuant to my former Orders) for *New York*, as soon as the Sea Breeze came in; and he put to Sea the 15th of *August* in the Morning accordingly.

The 16th I detached Captain *Cotes* in the *York*, to supply the Station off *Rio la Hacha*, left by Capt. *Trevor* on taking the Register Ship from *St. Sebastian's*: This Ship proves to have Cloathing and Provisions for Don *Rodrigo de Torres's* Squadron, and Iron Work for Ships which they are building at the *Havanna*, and will turn out a rich Prize; and all the *Spanish* Papers were found concealed in a Beam of the Ship, hollowed for that purpose.

On the 17th I detached the *Superbe*, Capt. *Hervey*, to Sea for *Leogane*, (as I mention'd my Intentions) principally to keep a watchful Eye on our Neighbours at this critical Juncture. And I send your Grace inclosed Copies of a Letter from me to the General, of the same Date, informing him how far I had found the River navigable for Boats above his Camp; as likewise of one I received from him, of the same Date, and my Answer to it of the 18th; with one from him of the same Date, which I thought proper to add, to shew we have preserved a civil Correspondence, agreeable to his Majesty's Instructions, though we have happen'd so widely to differ in our Sentiments on the Execution of them. And not to tire your Grace, I shall choose to stop from giving you any further Copies of our Letters, as judging these will be sufficient for explaining our different Sentiments, for the present.

The

The *Augusta* came in with three Transports from *Port Royal* the 18th, and in them a Recruit of two hundred and fifty-six Men for the Army; and as she is a clean Ship, I dispatch her to Sea, to try if we cannot destroy the *Spanish* Privateers that cruize on our Trade from the Northern Colonies, from *Port Francois*, where they fit out to cruize on us; —no very friendly act of our Neighbours to permit them to do so!

And Lieutenant *Hodgson* having been dispatch'd hither in the *Augusta*, with Letters for the General and me, from his Excellency Governor *Trelawney*; I thought it necessary to send your Grace inclosed (as I have done) a Copy of Governor *Trelawney's* Letter to me, of the 27th of *July*; together with a Copy of my Letter to General *Wentworth* (on sending him inclosed my Letter from Governor *Trelawney*;) General *Wentworth's* Answer to that Letter, of the 22d of *August*; and my Reply to him of the 23d of *August*, after having advis'd with Sir *Chaloner Ogle* upon it.

I have thrown up a little Fort, with a wet Ditch about it, and fix'd some of our Patereroes in it, for covering our Boats in their watering, at the River I water my Ships from; and have open'd Views thro' all the Woods about it. And I am now going to cut Timber for Platforms for a Fascine Battery, that I have projected for defending the Entrance of the Harbour, finding we can have no Supply of Stores from the Army Ordnance Stores; and by the Help of Lieut. *Innes*, one of our Sea Engineers, all is projected for it. But I shall delay Execution (further than preparing Materials;) as judging, if Advices should arrive of a *French* War, I should be of Opinion for moving that Way without a Moment's Loss of Time; which we are admirably well posted for.

By a Tempest of Thunder and Lightning, since our being here, the *Prince of Orange* (one of my seventy-gun Ships) had her Fore-top-mast cut in two, and her Fore-mast so shiver'd as to be unserviceable : But we have patch'd her up, for the present, with Jury Masts, and, I thank God, have met with no other Accident here ; and this *August* Moon being ended, I think we are past the most dangerous Part of the Season for Hurricanes.

I make no Doubt but even our remaining here puts the Enemy to great Expences, as probably they are drawing Troops from the *Havanna* to *St. Yago*, which we are not much above the Tythe of the Distance from that they are ; and it may even prove an Obstruction to *Don Rodrigo de Torres's* leaving the *Havanna* for *Europe*, if he should have had any such Orders : And if he thinks proper to come here, he shall be heartily Welcome, as I think myself well posted to receive him.

General *Wentworth*, I doubt not, has acquainted your Grace with the Purport of his Letters to the Governors of the Northern Colonies, which he has not communicated to me : But as I gave him early Notice to be preparing his Dispatches, I am perswaded you will have all Particulars from him.

As I judg'd it for his Majesty's Service to send your Grace frequent Accounts of our Situation, in the present Conjunction, I determin'd, on closing my Letter with this Month of *August*, to forward them to your Grace by one of my Fireships, Capt. *Boyce*, and to send, with this, the Duplicate of my last Letter to your Grace of the 29th of *July* from this Harbour.

The Convoy is to sail from hence with the clear'd Transports, for our Supplies of Provisions
from

from *Jamaica*, on the 1st or 2d of *September*, as they shall be ready.

And wishing these Accounts a speedy Arrival to your Grace's Hands, and that I may soon have the Pleasure of hearing from you, as the best Guidance for our future Conduct; I am,

My Lord Duke,

*Boyne, in Cumberland
Harbour (formerly
call'd Walthenam)
on the South Side of
Cuba, Aug. 30, 1741.*

Your Grace's most

Devoted, and most

Obedient, Humble Servant,

E. V.

*To his Grace the Duke of N * * * * **

My Lord Duke,

SINCE closing my Letter to your Grace of the 30th of *August*, the *Tilbury*, one of my Cruizers on the South Side of *Hispaniola*, having met the Convoy coming with our Storeship and Victuallers, has brought a Part of them in here, pursuant to my Orders. By which Occasion I have the Favour of your Grace's Letter of the 24th of *May*, from *Claremont*; and am extremely oblig'd to your Grace, and all my Lords Justices, for the obliging Notice they have taken of my Endeavours faithfully and diligently to discharge my Duty to his Majesty, to the best of my Ability. And I beg you to assure their Excellencies, I shall, on all Occasions, study to deserve the very favourable Opinion they have conceiv'd of me; tho', I am very sensible, I am more indebted for that to their Excellencies favourable Acceptance of my Service, than to my own Abilities.

I am greatly a Debtor to your Grace's favourable Opinion, of my being best enabled to serve his Majesty in these Seas. But were my Abilities as great as your Grace's Friendship for me inclines
you

you to imagine them, vain must be all my Attempts, if unequally yoked to such as are to contribute to the Execution of them.

The many Letters I have formerly, and now think myself oblig'd to transmit to your Grace, will fully explain this to you : And I assure your Grace, no Man in *Britain*, tho' not acquainted with Lord *Catcart* but in his general Character, more sincerely mourns the Loss his Majesty's Service had in him. For tho' I believe my Colleague may be an honest, well-meaning Gentleman, nothing has appear'd to me, to set him in the Light of an experienc'd General. And all his Counsellors have appear'd to me to be actuated by such general Principles, as serve to manifest to me their Disposition to returning home, and fearing to furnish Occasions for their longer Residence here, to be a governing Principle with them.

Sir *Charles Wager* having honour'd me with two private Letters, in which I found myself happily in the same Sentiments with him, I consulted Sir *Chaloner Ogle* upon them, whose Sentiments and mine have happily concurr'd in every Thing : And for a last Effort, I send your Grace a Copy of the joint Letter, which we thought it for his Majesty's Service to write to Mr. *Wentworth*, the 31st of *August*, when I sent him Sir *Charles Wager*'s Letters to peruse, by Capt. *Watson* (my Captain;) who brought his Thanks in return for that Civility. And I flatter myself Sir *Charles* will be so good as to excuse it, from a Perswasion that his Majesty's Service was my only Motive in it.

Now I have open'd to your Grace what lies heaviest on my Mind, I must add, I am under a Promise to the best of Wives, to return to her as soon as I could ; and the Hurry I left *England* in, your Grace may easily imagine, makes my
Return

Return necessary for my private Affairs; besides the reasonable Hopes I might entertain, of having a Relief from the labouring Oar, as we say at Sea. But when I have laid this before your Grace, to justify my Request for being reliev'd, I beg Leave to add, that the Service of his Majesty and my Country, will, I hope (as they always ought) be the reigning Principles in my Breast: And referring the above Considerations to my Lords Justices Prudence, they will always find in me a willing Mind, to conform to whatever they judge most for his Majesty's Honour and Service.

To manifest how frivolous their Pretences of Defilés and Ambuscades have been, I am glad I can acquaint your Grace, before I close this Letter, that Capt. *Burward* of *Wolfe's* Grenadiers, that was sent out with a Party only of one hundred Soldiers and fifty Blacks, advanced again to the Houses they deserted at *Guantanamo*; when the *Spanish* Guard there all fled before them, left their Papers upon the Table, and forty Cattle penn'd; and he brought in with him seven Horses accoutred, and some of the Calves, as they could not drive the rest. So I hope they will be encourag'd to hearty Grace, and return to secure that Post at least, in an open Country, where they cannot be surpriz'd, their Numbers, with the Blacks, being above four thousand and three hundred Men.

I have dispatch'd the Convoy to *Jamaica* to bring a Supply of Provisions to the Army, and have secur'd a Part of the Victuallers from *England* here, to prevent the Danger of wanting any from a Delay in their Return. And as soon as I have dispatch'd my Letters away for your Grace, by Capt. *Boyce*, in the *Ætna* Fireship (Capt. *Barnard* not returning in Time) I will slip out to reconnoitre the Entrance into the Harbour of *St. Jago* myself,

myself, in the *Orford*, Capt. *Mayne*; but shall leave my Flag flying here, and the Squadron under Sir *Chaloner Ogle's* Command, in my Absence. I am,

Boyne, in *Cumberland* My Lord Duke,

Harbour (formerly
call'd *Walthenam*)
on the South Side of
Cuba, Sept. 2, 1741.

Your Grace's most
Devoted, and most.

Obedient, Humble Servant,

E. V.

P. S. Lieut. *Rich* is gone home in the *Princess Amelia*, at his own Request.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

YOURS of the 1st Instant (owning the Receipt of mine of the 30th of *August*, and of a joint Letter from Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and me, of the 31st of *August*) was brought to my Hands last Night; and having communicated it to Sir *Chaloner* this Morning, and advis'd with him upon it;

We heartily congratulate you on the Success of Capt. *Burward*, with his Party sent to *Guantanamo*. And as you see, tho' so long after that Post being deserted, he met neither Ambuscades nor Enemies, to take Advantage from any Defilés, we hope you will not think them well founded Objections; and that you will think that Post ought to be regain'd and maintain'd, and the Village too, with such due Care and Precaution as your Experience leads you to judge necessary; for this very good Reason, in our Apprehension, that your maintaining yourselves at the Village, is cutting off all the Communication, at once, between *St. Jago* and *Baraccoa*, and, in our Apprehensions, securing us the Possession of the whole East End of the Island. And this seems to us to be the more necessary, as you say their Letters

ters mention the Reinforcement they are sending from the *Havanna*, being intended to be sent first by *Periagoes* to *Barraccoa*. We are,

S I R,

Camberland Harbour,
Sept. 3, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servants,

E. VERNON,
C. OGLE.

To Sir CHALONER OGLE.

By, &c.

TH^{O'} the Reports made to us by several experienced Officers, fully convinced us both, of the Impracticability of forcing a Passage into a Harbour of so narrow an Entrance as *St. Jago*, unless the Batteries lying above the *Morro* Castle had been first surpriz'd and taken ;

Which, I apprehend, would have been an easy Matter, if the Attempt had by *Mr. Wentworth* and his Council been thought proper to be undertaken on our first Arrival here, as I shall always think it ought to have been :

Yet, under a Concern for having so little done where nothing has appear'd to oppose the Progress of so large a Force as has been landed here, I have determin'd, on this my first Leisure for it, to go myself to view the Entrance into the said Harbour ; that, from my own Observations, I may be the better enabled to inform our Royal Master in all Particulars.

And you are hereby required and directed, to take upon you the Charge and Command of all his Majesty's Ships in this Harbour, during my Absence, and until my Return, which shall be with all possible Expedition.

N

And

And as by our last Advices it seems most probable, our Orders may be for Establishing ourselves on this Island, and pushing on the Success of his Majesty's Arms with the utmost Vigour;

You will give all the necessary Orders, for supplying Capt. *Rentone* with the Sawyers and Carpenters he may stand in Need of, for preparing the Timber for the Batteries on the projected Works on the Point, for defending the Entrance of the Harbour: And also for supplying Lieut. *Innes* with such a Number of proper Workmen as can be found in our Ships, for the cutting and preparing Picquets and Fascines for the said Work: Giving the strictest Orders for the Preservation of the Men's Healths, that no Work be carried on of any Kind when there is no Breeze, and that only such a moderate Number of Hands be employ'd at a Time, as can be lodg'd and shelter'd in the two Houses erected for that Purpose; that Sickness may not be introduced amongst our Men through Want of a due Care of them.

And for the Encouragement of those employ'd, let them know, a moderate Allowance will be paid them for their Labour; which, when exercis'd with Prudence, is found rather contributing to their Health than otherwise.

In all other Events that may happen, you will govern yourself by your approv'd Experience, to the best of your Judgement, for his Majesty's Service. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland* Harbour (formerly call'd *Walthenam*) on the South Side of *Cuba*, this 3d of *September*, 1741.

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S. I. R,

I Receiv'd yours of the 21st of *September*, this Morning; in which you acknowledge the Receipt of the joint Letter from me and Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, of the 3d of *September*.

I find, Sir, you take some Exception to an Expression there, of *deserting a Post*, as having a different Sense from *leaving a Post*: But I believe you will agree they both mean the same Thing, that the Post is *left*, or *abandon'd*, which I shall always think might have been maintain'd. And had the Post at the Village been so too, as that is, by all Accounts, the only Village there is in the Road between *St. Jago* and *Barraccoa*, it is reasonable to think you would thereby have cut off the Communication between *St. Jago* and *Barraccoa*, and, of Course, been Masters of this Eastern End of the Island, and had, at least, the plentiful Plains of *Guantanamo*, to have furnish'd Cattle for supplying your Army with fresh Provisions. And beyond the said Village, there are said to lie the much more extensive *Savannas* of *Santa Catalina*, full of Black Cattle, and where they milk their Cows and make Cheese.

I confess the abandoning *Guantanamo* gave me great Uneasiness; but it was only from a just Concern for the Honour of our Royal Master's Service. And I do think, if Col. *C——n* had no Orders for abandoning that Post, that he will be hardly able to justify that Conduct to have been for his Majesty's Honour and Service.

I have put your *Spanish* Letters into the Hands of my Translator, to see what can be learnt from them Material.

I cannot think of appointing any Convoy, for any Part of the Negroes being sent back to *Jamaica*, till, previously, a Council of War may have

judg'd it for his Majesty's Service that it should be so.

But whenever you and Brigadier *Blakeney* desire a Council of War to be held, for considering of Governor *Trelawney's* Proposal, for detaching an hundred *Americans* to *Ratan* Island, it shall be held when and where you may desire; as I know Sir *Chaloner Ogle* will be willing to oblige you, in meeting on board the Fireship in the River, which he thinks he can venture to do.

I beg the Favour of you, Sir, there may be no Communication between us for the future by Message, but by Letter; which will be the best Record of what passes between us: But if, by any Hurry, an Aid de Camp should come with a Message, I am determin'd, for the future, he shall put that Message in Writing, and sign his Name to it: And I will return my Answer, in like Manner, in Writing. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour, Your most Obedient,
September 22, 1741.

Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Received a Letter from you without Date last Night, acquainting me, that you and Brigadier *Blakeney* would be on board the Fireship by Eight o'Clock to-morrow Morning, for taking into Consideration the Proposal made by his Excellency Governor *Trelawney*, for sending an hundred *Americans* to *Ratan* Island.

Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I will not fail of being there to meet you, to take the same into mature Consideration in a regular Consultation; though you are very well informed of our Opinions con-

curring

curring with Governor *Trelawney's* already: And we shall be ready to take into Consideration any other Matter that you judge it for his Majesty's Service to have our Opinions on.

As to your inclosed Memorial from Captain *Pepper*, I have to acquaint you, that in the Redoubt I had raised for securing our Boats in the Watering our Ships at the River, I ordered Capt. *Rentone*, who commanded in the upper Part of the Harbour, to put a small Garrison in it of a Serjeant and twelve Men, and four Seamen capable of playing and managing the four Patereroes I had mounted on it; who have a very good House in the Middle of this little Redoubt, that is surrounded with a wet Ditch. And I had ordered Capt. *Rentone* to have the Serjeant and twelve Men relieved every twenty-four Hours: But on his acquainting me that they rather chose to continue there, as liking better to be there than aboard a Ship, I told him, when that was the Case, he might oblige them in it. And Capt. *Pepper*, whom I have accidentally met with at different Times, never mention'd to me any Ground of Complaint that he thought he had; which, I believe, Sir, you will allow, he ought first to have done. In the Day Time there is no Duty expected from them, and one Centry is sufficient at a Time on Duty in the Night, to keep a Look-out that they be not surprized; and having long been cutting Timber for the Platforms of the Fascine Batteries that I am erecting for the Defence of this Harbour, the Redoubt has now a fine, open, clear Air all round it. And now I have stated these Facts to you, Sir, I cannot doubt but you will think Captain *Pepper's* Memorial as irregular, idle, and trifling, as I do. I am,

S I R,

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

Boyne, Cumberland Harbour,
(formerly called *Waltbenam*) on the South Side
of Cuba, Sept. 24, 1741.

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

AS there is now a Month past since our sending our last Letters for *England*, and as I am persuaded of the Impatience they will be under of hearing frequently from us in our present Situation; I am preparing, at all Events, for sending one of my unsheath'd Fireships home, with our Letters to them, the Beginning of next Week; and desire you will be pleased to get your Letters in a readiness to go by her.

I likewise send you inclosed a Copy of the Resolution of our last Council of War, held on board the *Vesuvius* Fireship: And am,

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour,
(formerly called *Walibenam*)
on the South Side of *Cuba*,
October 1, 1741.

S I R,

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

P. S. Two of the Six-pounder Carriages, with the long Shafts belonging to them, that had drove quite out of your River, and afterwards on Shore on the Western Side of the Harbour, having been discover'd by an Officer of the *Tilbury*, Boats were sent for them, and they are now on board the *Tilbury*, ready to be delivered to whom you shall be pleased to direct.

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Have receiv'd yours of yesterday; and in regard to the *Irish* deserting from the *American* Regiment, I believe, Sir, you may remember, I long since assured you, all that you suspected should be receiv'd on board of his Majesty's Ships whenever you sent them to me; which may serve to re-place the Men on board the *Augusta*, that you mention'd

to

to me after she was failed; and which I intend sending to you on her Return from her Cruize, which will be out the 10th Instant.

And I must mention to you one Circumstance; that one of the Men sent on board Captain *Rentone* on suspicion of designing to desert, said it was that he might not appear as an Evidence against an Officer for defrauding his Men of their Money; for if any such Discontents are given, that may occasion Desertion too.

I will send to Captain *Forrest* to be careful in what you desire, of permitting none of the Sailing Sloops to pass him without your Permission; though I am perswaded he would carefully have observed it, from the general Orders he has from me already.

I was at the Redoubt at the other River yesterday in the Afternoon, to see how our Workmen go on there, in preparing Timber for the Batteries I am erecting, for defending the Entrance into the Harbour; which, I can now personally assure you, is very open and airy all round it. And judging that Side of the River where the Fort is, to be an Island formed by two Branches of the River, I have for a long Time had some of my Officers and Men at work in clearing from both Mouths of the River upwards, to come at the main Branch, where they separate to make it an Island; which we have not yet been able to effect. In which they have passed Orange Groves, that make me judge those Parts to have been settled formerly, though now deserted, and left to run into a State of Nature again.

And I was informed by Captain *Rentone*, that one of the rambling *Americans* met a few Plantane Trees in his Ramble, and had three Branches of them with him; but never heard of any Appearance

ance of a Plantation, which he would not have failed mentioning to me, if he had thought there had been one. And the Master of this Ship, who is at work in clearing up the Rivers, has my Orders, to give me an Account, whenever he meets with any Thing like a Path leading to the Rivers.

The *Boyne* and *Grafton* lie very near each other, and the *Spanish Boy Izquerda*, my Prisoner, will be equally at your Call, and ready for your Service, in either of them: But if you are more particularly desirous he should be on board the *Grafton* than the *Boyne*, I have no Objection to it. I am,

S I R,
Boyne, in *Cumberland Harbour*, Your most Obedient,
Cuba, October 2, 1741. Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Have receiv'd yours of the 3d; and the *Princess Louisa* is come down this Morning, and shall sail for *Jamaica* on *Tuesday*, with the Transport under her Convoy, with the Invalid Blacks for *Jamaica*. And I have wrote to Captain *Davers* to dispatch the said Transport back to you with all possible Expedition, under Convoy of the *Bristol*, as soon as Mr. *Trelawney* shall have got the one hundred Independents ready to come hither by her; and I presume you have wrote to him to hasten it all he can.

And as I intend dispatching Captain *Barnard* to *England*, with our Dispatches, on *Wednesday*, I desire you will send your Letters to go by her, down to him on *Wednesday* Morning, at farthest.

I have no Objection to your exchanging three *Americans* for the three Marines on board Captain *Cottrell*,

Cotterell, who shall have my Orders to comply with it, as you desire.

The Men order'd on board the *Augusta* were order'd there by Capt. *Davers*, to enable him to get his Ship, being a clean Cruizer, in Condition for keeping the Sea; and was put to Sea from hence before your making any Application for them; but when she comes in, you will have them. I know of no Offence committed by the Captain of the *Augusta* in it; and his Majesty's Service has not yet suffer'd thro' your Want of them, as no Enemy have yet ever made their Appearance to molest you.

And I have sent the *Spanish Boy*, *Izquerda*, on board the *Grafton*, where there are no other *Spanish* Prisoners, as you desire. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, Cumberland Harbour,
(formerly called *Walthe-
nam*) on the South Side
of *Cuba*, Oct. 4, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

JUST at Sun setting I receiv'd yours of the 3d; and shall send the inclosed to Captain *Cotterell*, who can best give an Account what Truth there may be in it; and he has my Orders already for receiving three able *Americans*, for the three *Marines*. And if there be but a like Number of able Men sent, with a proper Officer to command them, I shall have no Objection to the Exchange, whether the Complaint be real or imaginary.

I have got the Convoy with the return'd Blacks to Sea to-day, for *Jamaica*.

My Dispatches will be made up to-night for *England*, and the Fireship is to sail to-morrow; so

O

pray

pray don't fail to let your Letters be down here to-morrow Morning.

I hear the Men that want to come to you are *Irish*;—do not they want to come in order to desert? I am,

S I R,

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

Boyne, Cuba,
Oct. 5, 1741.

To his Grace the Duke of N * * * * *

My Lord Duke,

MY last to your Grace were of the 30th of *August* and 2d of *September*, from this Harbour; Duplicates of which will accompany this.

On having dispatched the Convoy to *Jamaica*, as well as my Letters to your Grace, I put to Sea in the *Orford*, to reconnoitre the Entrance into the Harbour of *St. Jago* (as I mention'd my Intention of doing) on that first Leisure for it. I had with me there the *Deptford*, that was cruising off there; the *Montague* I carried out with me, and my Sloop Tender, which, on my coming off there, I sent nearer in, with a Letter from me to the Governor of *St. Jago* of the 3d of *September*, for the Sloop to send ashore to the *Morro* Castle by his Boat with a Flag of Truce; a Copy of which Letter I send your Grace inclosed. And you will observe by it, that one View, besides a nearer Inspection, was to have procured the Release of Capt. *Wyllis*, by whom I hoped to have learnt some further Intelligence of their present Situation. I had Capt. *Durell* in the Sloop, besides one of my Lieutenants, for making the best Observations they could, and for Captain *Durell's* sketching out a Draught of it. So that We had a fair Opportunity of making our
Observations;

Observations ; and we had carefully done the same on the Coast down thither, the two Harbours Mouths being but twelve Leagues asunder, upon a W. S. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. Course ; upon the unanimous Reports of all my Officers, that the attacking St. *Jago* by Sea is impracticable.

The Harbour's Mouth of St. *Jago* lies in a deep Bite, the Land to the Westward of the *Morro* Castle trending far out to the Southward, I judge about S. W. b S. which occasions much more Sea in that Bite, than in the open Channel without it. And I found, as it had been reported by others, that tho' you have a fresh Sea Breeze in the Offing, yet when you come within four or five Miles of the Land, the Wind begins to die away, and the Swell throws you wholly on upon the Lee Shore, to the Westward of the Harbour. And as it is all an Iron Shore, and no Anchorage off it, no Ship dares approach too near, without being secure of a leading Gale to lay it off again. And my Sloop, who had brought the *Morro* Castle N. b E. found herself under that Apprehension ; and they were obliged to get to their Oars, and found it a hard Task, in three Hours rowing against the Swell, to gain one Half-Mile, for getting into the Sea Breeze again. So that it is not a safe Harbour for even a friendly Ship to frequent, and Experience shews they have never frequented it much. And, as I apprehend, they must run in close to the Shore to windward of the Harbour's Mouth, and so drive down close under the *Morro* Castle, and drop an Anchor there, and then warp in.

I had the same Bearings of the *Morro* Castle as the Sloop, about five Miles off ; but the Wind failing, I did not dare to venture nearer, for fear of not clearing the Lee Shore : And that was not far enough to Leeward to open the *Estrella* Battery,

that lies on the Eastern Side, just above the *Morro* Castle; so that I could not, in that Bearing, even see the Entrance of the Harbour open; which must, by the high Lands on each Side appearing so near each other, be exceeding narrow. And, to be sure, you must make good a N.N.E. Course, or more Easterly, to steer in with the Channel; and as a constant Swell sets strong to Leeward, must lie up much more Easterly, for making that Course good. Had it appeared to me a practicable Scheme in any light, vexed with a Conduct that appeared to me unaccountable in the General, I believe I should have been as fool-hardy as any one could have wished me: But I could not resolve to throw his Majesty's Ships away against the Rocks, without the least Appearance of Success.

The bad Weather coming on soon after, drove me, in the *Orford*, up as high as *Point a Bacoe*, on the South Side of *Hispaniola*. And there I fell in with a *Bristol* Ship and Schooner, bound home from *Jamaica*, that told me a Piece of very agreeable News, of the *Weymouth* and *Fersey* being safely arriv'd in *Port Royal* Harbour, as also the *Ludlow-Castle*, that I had detach'd from hence with her Convoy of Transports, sent for our Supplies of Provisions and Stores. And he inform'd me likewise, that the former had chased a Sloop ashore to Leeward of the *Havanna*, that was bound from the *Havanna* to *Porto Bello*; and by the Letters they found on board of her, had learnt, that *Don Rodrigo de Torres's* Ship, (the *Spanish* Admiral) was set on Fire by Lightning, and had blown up afterwards in that Harbour. And I have had since the same Advices brought me from *Leogane* by Capt. *Hervey*, whom I found here on my getting back into this Harbour (on the 17th at Night) after great Variety of bad Weather, but, I thank God, without any
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ill Accident to the Ship I was in. But the *Deptford*, whom I had met at Sea the Day before, came in the Day after me, by my Orders, he having acquainted me his Ship was become very leaky; and, on a Survey, I have been oblig'd to send her to *Jamaica*, for careening to repair her Damages; and, for want of better Conveniencies, am oblig'd to direct two sixty-gun Ships to careen by one another; a bad Shift being better than none at all, in Cases of Necessity.

And as many of our Ships are become so crazy, I must beg Leave to remind your Grace, there is an absolute Necessity that the crazy Ships and unsheath'd ones should be order'd home, before they are quite ruin'd by a too long Delay, and by our being in an Incapacity here to give them the necessary Repairs.

I send your Grace inclosed, Copies of the Governor of *St. Jago's* Answer to my Letter of the 19th of *September, N. S.* and of my Reply to it of the 21st of *September*, sent him by the *Chester*, gone to cruize off his Port. By which you will see, I have gratified him in his earnest Request of sending him *Capt. Perez*; who being one that has been used to trade with the *English*, I hope to see him here again soon, as a Volunteer for that Purpose. And I have directed him to assure the Hunters, that whatever Cattle they bring in to sell us, they shall be sure of honourable Treatment, and being well paid for them; it being what we stand much in Need of, to check the Scurvy, that makes great Ravages amongst our Men at present. But we have hutted our sick Men, and take all possible Care of them, and do furnish them with fresh Fish and Mountain Cabbage, which is some Relief to them.

I send your Grace likewise inclosed, a Copy of the Letter I had by *Captain Hervey*, on my Return,

turn, from the Marquis de Larnage, of the 12th of September, N. S.

And the next Letters I must trouble your Grace with Copies of, are, two from General *Wentworth* to me, of the 21st and 23d of September, and my Answers to them, of the 22d and 24th of the same Month.

On the 25th we met at a Council of War, on board the *Vesuvius* Fireship, in the River *Augusta*; and after mature Deliberation, came to an unanimous Resolution to comply with Governor *Trelawney's* Request, of sending one hundred *Americans* to *Ratan* Island, with six Months Provisions. But Mr. *Wentworth* desiring to have other Things taken into Consideration before we drew up our Resolutions in form, which I thought ought to be previously consider'd of in a Council of War of Land Officers, he acquiesced in it, and we adjourn'd our final Determinations to a future Meeting on *Tuesday* the 29th of September.

I am in some Pain for the *Sbeerness*, a clean Ship, that should have join'd me long before now, from *Port Antonio*; and am not without Fears of what may have happen'd at *Jamaica*, the Weather having a very bad Aspect towards *Jamaica*, when I was off *Cape Tiberon*, about the 14th of September; which makes me impatiently long to hear from them.

Having got the *Spanish* Papers translated, which Mr. *Wentworth* sent me, that were taken by Capt. *Burrard* in his late Excursion to *Guantanamo*, I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of them. And by the Return of a Party commanded by Captain *Webb*, that came from *Guantanamo* the 25th of September in the Morning, it appears they arrived there without meeting any Ambushes in their Way thither; but saw a *Spanish* Guard a little beyond it, who ran
away

away upon their first Appearance. These Letters, in my Apprehension, manifest, that if Matters had been vigorously pushed on at our first Arrival, we should not have failed of all the Success we could have desired; and that even our very Continuance here, has very much harrassed them, and put them to very considerable Expences.

On the 29th we met according to our Adjournment, and Mr. *Wentworth* delivered me a Copy of the Resolution of their Council of War of the 26th of *September*, which I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of. And it having been read to us, we had our former Resolutions, and what was judged proper to be added, drawn up in form; and I send your Grace inclosed, a Copy of the Resolution of our said Council of War of the 29th of *September*.

At our first meeting on the 25th, Mr. *Wentworth* suggesting, that the Sickness was daily increasing amongst his Forces, and that, if they should be much more diminished by Sickness, they should not even be able to maintain themselves in their present Encampment; I hinted to him, that as Sir *Charles Wager's* Letter had mention'd there were Thoughts of sending a Reinforcement of two thousand Men, and as we might daily expect to hear from *England*, I was perswaded he would not think it proper to entertain any such Thoughts till we received our next Advices from *England*. And I suggested to him, that, whenever either the Advice of a *French* War, or any other Reason, might make it necessary to embark the Forces, it would be adviseable to have a good Communication cut on the Camp Side of the River, from the Camp to where the Bomb-Ketch lies, for covering the Boats, whenever it should be judged necessary to re-embark the Cannon and Baggage; and that being done, the Forces must march from the Camp to
the

the Bomb-Ketch, for their being safely re-embark'd there under the Command of the Cannon from the Flotilla and Transports. He said Mr. *Blakeney* had already advised that : And I answered, that I was very glad to find, what I had recommended to him, had the Approbation of so experienced an Officer as Mr. *Blakeney*. And at our meeting on the 29th he assur'd me, they had determin'd on opening the said Communication.

I took notice likewise at our first Meeting, that the Copy of his Letter to the Governors of the Northern Colonies (that he had first sent to me the 22d of *September*) was not conformable to the Advice given him by the Council of War of the 20th of *July*; to which he answered, as he looked on that as Advice only, he had not judg'd that the Situation of our Affairs allow'd him to conform to it in all particulars.

I set out before Day on the 29th of *September*, for making Mr. *Wentworth* a Visit, and viewing his Camp with him, before our meeting at the Council of War. And the Ground being clear'd about it, I thought it both a very beautiful and healthful Encampment; and an easy Ascent to the Hills surrounding it, made it, in my Apprehension, very strong by Nature. And I viewed with him all the Entrenchments made on those Hills, for covering his Camp to the Land Side, from whence his Cannon could scour the Country round; and he has the River for his Barrier on the other Side. And as no Enemy can approach him, without being subject to all the Inconveniencies that he apprehended to be a just Reason against their advancing into the Country, there is the same Reason to think it should be equally imprudent for the Enemy to attempt to approach him; and it is certain, not

not so much as any of their Parties have thought proper to attempt it yet.

And that your Grace may see I have not been wanting in looking out for the freshest Advices from you, I send you inclosed a Copy of the Orders I have sent Captain *Cleland* to Sea with, which are conformable to the former Orders given to my Cruizers in that Station.

Your Grace's last Letter of the 24th of *May* mentioning, that you hoped soon to have an Opportunity of writing to me more fully; and Sir *Charles Wager's* Letter mentioning, there were some Thoughts of sending a Reinforcement of two thousand Land Forces to these Parts; and other Letters, to private Hands, even mentioning that the Transports were taken up for those Forces; are to me very reasonable Inducements to think that we ought not to part with the good Footing we have here, till we hear from your Grace, or have some certain Intelligence that such an Intention is entirely laid aside. For were they to come soon, as the dry Season will be setting in with the Norths in the latter End of this Month (which would be a healthful Season for *European* Constitutions) I cannot think we can be better posted for beginning the Reduction of this Island, than we are at present, nor have a better Season of the Year for it. But I think it easily discernible from what has passed, that if no Reinforcements speedily arrive, or certain Accounts of their being coming, I shall not be able to prevail with my Colleague to continue here much longer.

Most of his Majesty's Ships, I have already informed your Grace, are in a very shattered Condition, by being kept pretty constantly busking in the Sea, without convenient Opportunities of giving them the necessary Repairs; so that the crazy
P Ships

Ships, and the unsheath'd Ships, there will be an absolute Necessity of sending home, so as to have a Summer Passage; for the craziest are too bad to bear a Winter Passage, and the unsheath'd ones will be ruined if they are kept much longer here, and some of them are now too leaky to be trusted in a Winter Passage; and all are so reduced by Sickness, as not to have Men enough to carry them home, without the Assistance of the Land Forces. And should the *American* Regiment be settled at *Jamaica*, or elsewhere, which I judge would be most for his Majesty's Service, the other Troops would be but barely sufficient to man his Majesty's Ships for carrying them safe home, and there would be no further need of Transports, but such as might be judged necessary for accommodating the Officers. And I desire your Grace would have Orders sent, that the Forces to return may be ordered into the Men of War, to enable them to go home in a Condition of Defence.

And as the greater Number of the Ships must absolutely go home in the Spring of the Year, I hope it will be judged no unreasonable Request, that I should command them home, especially as his Majesty has here so experienc'd an Officer as *Sir Chaloner Ogle*, who is well acquainted with these Seas, to take the Command of what are to remain.

On the 3d of *October* I had Advice, by a Suttling Sloop from *Jamaica*, that sailed from thence the 23d of *September*, that the *Ludlow-Castle*, with the Convoy of Transports from hence, was arriv'd safe at *Jamaica*, and was to sail in a Week after him.

And he brought an Account of the *Shoreham* having taken a *Spanish* Vessel with twenty thousand Pieces of Eight, off *Cartagena*; and that the *Spanish* Admiral, *Don Blafs de Lezo*, was said to have

have died there. And he confirm'd the *Weymouth's* and *Jersey's* safe Return to *Port Royal*; and said they had a hard South at *Jamaica* on the 14th of *September*, but had not suffer'd much by it in their Shipping; but that they had suffer'd at the *Leeward Islands*, several Ships having been blown from thence in a shatter'd Condition, to take Refuge at *Jamaica*: But having no Letters myself from any one in *Jamaica* by him, I cannot send your Grace any further Particulars. But he having met the *Chester* at Sea, cruizing off *St. Jago*, I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of the Letter Capt. *Long* sent me in by him, from the Governor of *St. Jago*, in Answer to mine sent him with the Flag of Truce, with the five *Spanish* Prisoners.

Judging your Grace would be impatient to hear from us frequently, so as to be able to judge what was to be expected, I thought it for his Majesty's Service to send one of my unsheath'd Fireships, commanded by Capt. *Barnard*, to carry your Grace the certaintest State of Affairs I could send you. And having given Mr. *Wentworth* previous Notice of my Intentions the Beginning of last Week, your Grace will have his Letters by the same Occasion. I am,

Boyne, in *Cumberland*
Harbour (formerly
call'd *Walthenam*)
on the South Side of
Cuba, O. S. 5, 1741.

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's most

Devoted, and most

Obedient, Humble Servant,

E. V.

P. S. Capt. *Davers* dispatching up one of my Fireships, which came in yesterday in the Afternoon, I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of the Intelligence sent me by Capt. *Knowles*, extracted out of Letters in the *Spanish* Sloop he took; and I am sorry my Cruizers under his Orders had the Misfortune to miss the Register Ships, mention'd

to be arriv'd at *La Vera Cruz*; but apprehend from this Account, they got there before the former got to their Stations.

By Letters to Capt. *Davers* from the Captain of the *Augusta*, I find, he has been very busy in ferretting about the *Spanish* Privateers from *Port François*; but as they have that Refuge so near, they have escap'd in there, and probably are most of them *French* on board: And I will, in my next to the Marquis *de Larnage*, complain of this Partiality in their Favour.

And I have the Pleasure to hear, the *Sheerness*, which I was in Pain for, got safe to *Port Royal* Harbour, tho' much shatter'd, and with Jury-Masts; and to hear we might soon expect the Return of our Convoy here from *Jamaica*.

I have sent likewise two *Catalan* Soldiers, that deserted at *Carthagena*, one of which Mr. *Wentworth* made Use of as a Guide at his Attack on *St. Lazarus*. I have order'd them Tickets for their Service while on board here, for subsisting them when releas'd; but Captain *Barnard* has my Orders, not to set them on Shore till he knows your Grace's Pleasure, whether you would have them sent up first, to have their Examinations.

October 6, 1741.

E. W.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Have sent you by Capt. *Broderick* the Letter you sent me, from Serjeant *Elder* to Captain *H—l*, with Captain *Cotterell's* Answer to it, annex'd; by which you will see, the Man himself owns all he has said to be a Lye, by the Attestation of his own Officer, as well as of Capt. *Cotterell* and his Officers; and you will see they think, as I do, that the Man's
principal

principal Inducement was, to have an Opportunity to desert.

And I am perswaded, Sir, when you have read it, you will think Capt. *H—l* deserves some Mark of your Displeasure, for presuming to put into your Hands such a Complaint before he had taken Care to inform himself of the Truth of it; and that you will take the Notice you think proper, of their Complaint against him for want of Payment and Necessaries.

Capt. *Washington*, who was here from Col. *Cope*, to have an Account of the particular Disposal of the *Americans* on board our Ships, had from me a particular Account of them, as he desir'd; and you know, Sir, their making a Confusion, by sending them on board by Detachments from each Company, was their own handy-work.

I send this Letter by Captain *Broderick*, as he comes latest from *Jamaica*; from whence I cannot learn, that there are any Letters from *England* later than *June* last; but there are Reports even of six or eight thousand Men being to be sent here.

The *Dutch* Ship, with Wine from *Malaga*, says, that three of Mr. *Haddock's* Cruizers had, in the Streights Mouth, in the Night, the like Encounter with three *French* Men of War as Sir *Chaloner Ogle's* Cruizers had here; in which the *French* had one of their Captains kill'd, a young Marquis; and that he saw them put ashore seventy wounded Men at *Malaga*.

He heard likewise, that Sir *John Norris* had detach'd five Men of War to Port St. *Andero*, that had burnt there five *Spanish* Privateers and five Merchant Ships.

And it is said, ten thousand of our Forces were transported, and had join'd his Majesty, who was

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at the Head of thirty thousand Men, of his own Forces and Auxiliaries.

And I send you a Letter I have receiv'd from the Marquis *de Larnage* (that you will please to return me by Capt. *Broderick*) which will, I am perswaded, convince you, as it does me, that this was not the principal Motive of the Messenger's coming here. But I have invited him to dine with me again to-day, when I shall put into his Hands my Answer to his Excellency's Letter, that waiting for that may not be a Pretence for his longer Continuance here. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, Oct. 9, 1741.

Your most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

E. V.

To Captain LONG, of the Chester.

By, &c.

WHEREAS his Excellency the Marquis *de Larnage*, Governor and Lieutenant General of the *French* Leeward Islands, has sent me, by one of his *Guarda Costa* Sloops (the *Tempête*) a civil Letter, with the Return of two *English* Seamen and a Boy, Deserters from the *York*; which he mentions to have been the only Intent of sending her. But, as you will find by the annex'd Information of the said two *English* Seamen, there is just Ground, at least, to suspect, that Capt. *Olivier*, the Captain of Infantry that commands her, has other Views; from the Contraband Cargo of Iron and Arms mention'd in the said Information to be brought on board by *Spaniards*, and in a *Spanish* Boat; and further, from the Conduct of the said Capt. *Olivier*, whose Enquiries privately amongst some of our Men, and avoiding

avoiding our Officers, have had too much the Air of transacting the Part of a Spy upon us here.

This, in regard to doing all in our Power to preserve an exact Neutrality with them, has been thought proper to be overlooked, if they proceed no further toward the Execution of what may justly be suspected to be the said Captain's Intent, *viz.* to throw the said Succour of Iron and Arms into *St. Jago* :

And I have myself told the said Captain, that as we looked upon *St. Jago* to be invested by us, I hoped he had no Thoughts of moving that way; which he assured me he had not, but should stretch over directly to *Cape Dona Maria*.

On taking the whole maturely into Consideration with Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, it was judged adviseable by us, that I should send you the particular Orders following, for your Government in it.

And you are accordingly hereby required and directed, in case you meet the said *Guarda Costa* Sloop, called the *Tempête*, going into *St. Jago* (which appears by the *Marquess de Larnage's* Letter, and his own Confession, to be contrary to his Order;) you are, in such Case, to stop the said *Guarda* Sloop from going in, and to take out of her the said Contraband Stores put on board her at *Leogane* by *Spaniards*; and acquainting the said Capt. *Olivier*, that by the Rules of War he can't be permitted to go into the said Port, you are to leave him at free Liberty to go where he pleases else. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Harbour* (formerly call'd *Walthenam*) on the South Side of *Cuba*, this 10th of *October*, 1741.

E. V.

P. S. I would have you continue your Cruize to the 30th Instant, if you are not relieved sooner.

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Have receiv'd your two Letters, of the 9th and 10th of *October*; the former by the Officer that brought the Detachment of Men you suspected of intending to desert, which are on board the *Lyon*, as you desired. But having such full Proof, from the Return made by Captain *Cotterell* and all the Commission Officers on board the Ship (which I sent to you) of the lying Representation made by Serjeant *Elder*, I could not have conceived that you would have judged it proper, to give the least Countenance to such who had the Insolence to attempt so grossly imposing on you; or to those who presumed to hand it to you without the least Enquiry into it. And as Part of these Men, by the said Report, are represented under the same Circumstances as those you sent down, of designing to desert; I could not judge it for his Majesty's Service they should be sent. But I have given Captain *Cotterell* Orders, to distinguish, in the List of those Men, those he suspects may design to desert, and those he does not; and the three Marines, and such as are not suspected to design to desert, and the Officer, shall be sent with them: And if you think it of Consequence, the Number shall be completed out of others that may not have given Occasion to suspect their Design of deserting.

As to the Care of our sick Men, I believe I may venture to assure you, as we have erected Hutts for them, where they cannot desert, that your Care of them at Camp cannot possibly exceed ours here.

I was concerned to hear, so small a Party as twenty Negroes had been sent out, with an Officer of their own only, without any other to direct those who cannot be expected to understand much
Discipline

Discipline of themselves ; but was glad to hear the Officer's Folly, in being a Pigeon-Shooting instead of minding his Orders; had no worse Consequences than falling on himself only.

And as you seem fixed in your Resolutions, of advancing no further till you receive Succours from *England*; I hope you will not take it amiss that I should suggest my Thoughts in such Case, that it would be best, not to harrass your Troops by any long Excursions of Parties, but to confine your Views to strengthening your Camp, and opening a Communication a-long-side of the River, from the Camp to the Bomb-Ketch (as you was pleased to say was Mr. *Blakeney's* Advice to you before I had suggested my Thoughts to you about it;) for covering the Embarkation of your Cannon and Baggage, if a *French* War should make your sudden Re-embarkation necessary. For, to be sure, the only sure way of re-embarking the Troops, will be by their marching afterwards in a Body down to where the Bomb-Ketch and Transports lie, where it can be done with great Ease and Safety.

I am glad I can acquaint you, the *French* Officers, that I think, as you do, were principally sent as Spies upon us, are decamp'd, and put to Sea yesterday in the Afternoon. The Evening before, they entered the River in the Dusk of the Evening : But the first of my Officers they came to pass by, stopping them, to know whether they had any Leave from me for their so doing, at first they said they had ; but on his desiring them to produce it, they giving him an insolent Answer (saying it was in their Codpiece, or Words to that effect) he did not permit their advancing : And finding I would receive no Presents from them, and, I believe, suspecting I had better Intelligence of their Designs and Proceedings than they wished for ; they dined

Q

with

with Sir *Chaloner Ogle* yesterday, and came afterwards to take their Leave of me, under some visible Marks of Confusion. I was very glad to see them going, and had sent Orders before them, to watch their Motions when they were out.

I only wait for the Convoy coming in, to receive my Letters, for preparing all necessary Orders to be sent to *Jamaica*; and desire you will, therefore, get your Letters for *Jamaica* ready as soon as you can. And if you will please to send them to me, or on board the *Vulcan* Fireship, I will give all necessary Orders for their safe and speedy delivery, as you desire. Hoping the Pacquet from *Jamaica*, that I sent you Yesterday, came safe to your Hands; I am,

Boyne, in *Cumberland Harbour*
(formerly call'd *Walkthenam*)
on the South Side of *Cuba*,
Oct. 11, 1741.

S I R,

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

THIS waits on you to acquaint you, that tomorrow, or next Day at farthest, I shall send the *Defiance* to Sea upon a Cruize, and order her to touch at *Jamaica* in her way; therefore if you have any Letters you want to have speedily conveyed thither, be pleased to let me have them by to-morrow Noon. But if they cannot be ready by that Time, it will not be long before there will be another Opportunity of writing thither. I am,

S I R,

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

Boyne, in *Cumberland Harbour, Cuba*,
Oct. 13, 1741.

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

Finding by your Letter of the 13th, that your Advices are the same that we have, that, in all Probability, the first News we have may be that of a *French War*;

It was thought necessary to take into mature Deliberation with Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, what was proper to be done on such an Event.

And we are clear in our Opinions, that we ought not to lose any Time in putting to Sea with the six Capital Ships, to take all the Advantage we could for destroying the Enemy's Ships at * * * * *; and to leave behind us a sufficient Convoy, for assisting and protecting the Embarkation of your Army, and bringing them up after us with all possible Expedition. And we observe, with Pleasure, it is your Opinion as well as ours, to make them, in such Case, as early a Visit as possible.

And as it would much facilitate the speedy and safe Re-imbarkation of the Cannon and Baggage, to have the Path cut along the River Side from the Camp to the Bomb-Ketch (which, it is judg'd, a hundred Blacks might do in three Days;) we beg Leave to suggest to you our Opinion, that it cannot be too soon set upon, as such Advices would require all Things being dispatch'd with the utmost Expedition.

And as many of our Ships, for being in a Condition for Service, will require being assisted with a Number of your Forces, that came hither embark'd in Transports; we agree with you, that it would be right to ease the great Expence to the Crown on that Head, on all Occasions where you find you have more Transports than you have Occasion for.

As we have no Views in the Advice we send you, but what appears to us most for his Majesty's Service, we are perswaded you will receive it in good part from us. We are,

S I R,

Boyne, in Cumberland
Harbour, Cuba,
Oct. 16, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servants,
E. VERNON,
C. OGLE.

To Capt. FORREST, of the Alderney Bomb.

By, &c.

MY former verbal Orders to you in regard to the Transports, having been too carelessly regarded by them, I have thought proper to renew them to you in Writing.

And you are hereby directed, to require Mr. *Wallace*, the Agent of the Transports, to send suitable Orders to each of them, for their careful Government for the future; giving him a Copy of my Orders to you, for his Government therein, in enjoining them duly to observe them.

You are hereby required and directed, to give strict Orders to those of the Flotilla put under your Command, every Evening to haul on board the Planks; or other Communication they may have from their Ships to the Shore in the Day-time; and that they have Anchors laid out in the River, to haul off to, upon any Enemy coming suddenly on them; and that they keep their Guns loaded with Ball for their Defence; and give their respective Seamen a strict Injunction, not to ramble far from their Ships, under Pretence of Shooting, or otherwise (that they may not carelessly play themselves into the Enemy's Hands, as some have appear'd very near the Camp, well mounted on Horseback;)

Horseback ;) and to assure the respective Masters, that the Crown will answer for no Damages that shall accrue thro' Carelessness. And you will order a careful Guard to be kept on board the Flotilla, and establish proper Signals, for giving due Notice of the Appearance of any Enemy.

And in Case of any Alarm being made in the Night, that might require my sending Boats mann'd and arm'd in the Night, you are to take the Command of them upon you, and post them, for Service, on board such Ships as you shall judge most proper for the Service of covering and protecting the rest. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Harbour* (formerly call'd *Walthenam*) on the South Side of *Cuba*, this 18th of *October*, 1741.

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

UPON the Receipt of your Letter of the 17th Instant, I communicated it to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*; and we were glad to find you was determin'd to lose no Time in clearing the Road along the River Side, to the Bomb-Ketch.

But tho' we both agree with you in the Appearances there are of a *French War*; yet, as we have no publick Advices of it, we cannot think our Surmises, that a War may happen to break out between the two Nations, a sufficient Motive for assembling a Publick Council of War.

To be sure, Sir, it will be right in you, to have such an Event in your Thoughts, for making a proper Disposition whenever it should happen; and we make no Difficulty, Sir, in freely sending you our Opinion upon it.

That

That the first Step should be, clearing a Road by the River Side, for securing a safe Passage to the Boats, in the Re-embarkation of your Cannon and Baggage.

And that for the convenienter doing of that, the commanding Officer of the Train shou'd have your Orders to be preparing a little Wharf, that their Longboats can lay their Sides to, for the convenient shipping off the Cannon and Baggage; in which Capt. *Forrest* will assist him with his Advice if he desires it.

And they being all shipp'd off, that then the whole Army should march in a Body from the Camp, through the open *Salinas*, to where the Bomb-Ketch and Transports lie, where they may go on board their respective Transports with great Ease and Safety.

We did not in our last propose any Draught from the Army, for the first Ships we might deem for his Majesty's Service to put to Sea with; but rather to make a Draught from them for the remaining Ships.

And upon your re-embarking, a sufficient Number should then go on board of them, to fit them for Service; for which we apprehend there may be wanted near five hundred; and that will be a good Reason for lessening the Number of Transports. We are,

S I R,

*Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour,
Cuba, October 19; 1741.*

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servants,

E. VERNON,
C. OGLE.

P. S. Upon the first Advice you gave me of the Orders you had sent to General *Guise*, I sent Orders to Captain *Davers*, by the *Defiance*, to write to General *Guise*, to desire he would let him know at what Time he should have his Transports and Forces

Forces ready to come, and that he would take Care a Convoy should be ready for him against the Time he should desire it.

E. V.

At a Council of War held in the Camp in the Isle of CUBA, the 21st of October, 1741.

WE the under-written Members of the Council of War, having taken into Consideration the Representation of Vice-Admiral *Vernon* and Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, that five hundred Men may be wanting to be put on board the Fleet; do declare, that in Cases of Necessity, such as the Approach of the Enemy's Fleet, or the Complement of his Majesty's Ships of War being so much weaken'd, as not to be able to proceed to Sea without the Assistance of the Land Forces, We are of Opinion that the said five hundred Men, or more, should be lent to supply his Majesty's Ships. At the same Time, we must recommend it to Mr. *Vernon's* Consideration, that any considerable Draught from our present Force will reduce them so low, that they will be disabled from undertaking any Thing of Moment against the Enemy; and do think it necessary to signify to him, that they are to be return'd whenever our Commander in Chief shall require it. And we conceive, that the detaining any Part of the Land Forces on board the Fleet, without his Consent, is contrary to the King's Instructions, and may be of great Prejudice to his Majesty's Service.

We have further taken into Consideration our present Circumstances, and should, we think, be wanting in our Duty to his Majesty, if we did not represent to Vice-Admiral *Vernon*, that we are
every

every Day more and more convinced of the Impracticableness (even were we to receive a strong Reinforcement) of advancing from our Camp by Land to St. Jago; and that, the rainy Season being over, our Continuance in our present Situation, cannot (as far as we judge) answer the End propos'd by his Majesty in sending this Body of Troops to the *West-Indies*.

We are therefore of Opinion, that if the Forces were to be landed in some inhabited Part of this Island, or elsewhere in the King of Spain's Dominions (such as may be agreed upon in the Principal Council of War;) the King's Service would in all Respects be more effectually carried on, than by our Continuance here in a State of Inactivity, which we think neither to be consistent with the *English* Name, nor with his Majesty's Service.

THO. WENTWORTH,
WILL. BLAKENEY,
A. LOWTHER,
JAMES COCKRAN,
JOHN COTTRELL,
ROBERT FRASER.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

HAVING this Morning receiv'd your Letter of the 21st Instant, with the inclosed Resolutions of your Council of War of the same Date, I immediately communicated them to a Council; and I send you inclosed the unanimous Opinion of our Council of War of this Day, upon having taken the same maturely into Consideration. I am,

S I R,

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour
(formerly call'd *Walthenam*)
on the South Side of Cuba,

Oct. 22, 1741.

*At a Council of War, held on board his Majesty's Ship
the Boyne, the 22d of October, 1741.*

WE the under-written Members of the Council of War, having had laid before us the Resolutions of a Council of War held in the Camp in the Island of *Cuba* the 21st Instant (and sent to Vice-Admiral *Vernon*, in a Letter from General *Wentworth* of the same Date, likewise communicated to us ;)

As also the two Letters jointly sign'd by him and Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, as their Opinion what might be most for his Majesty's Service, in case of any sudden Advice of a War breaking out between us and *France* :

We entirely agree in the Opinion given by the Admirals, as most conducive, in our Opinion, to his Majesty's Service in such an Event.

And upon taking the said Resolutions, and General *Wentworth's* Letter, into mature Deliberation, as likewise his Majesty's Instructions, and the unanimous Resolution of our General Council of War of the 20th of *July*, 1741. (which Resolution being sent from hence by Express on the 30th of *July*, now twelve Weeks past, we may reasonably expect every Day to know his Majesty's Royal Pleasure upon it :)

We are unanimously of Opinion now, as we were then, that had this Attempt on *St. Jago* been set upon in the first Week after our Arrival here, by a thousand chosen Men, and a thousand Blacks having advanced with a Week's Provisions (as was then propos'd by Admiral *Vernon*) they would have succeeded in the Attempt ; nothing having occur'd to us since to incline us to alter our Opinions, which we think supported by the Intelli-

gence procur'd from all the intercepted *Spanish Papers*.

We have all of us served the Crown often in these *American Seas*, and his Majesty having judg'd us of Experience to serve in this Expedition, we have always been forward to give our Advice in every Instance where we judg'd it for his Majesty's Service : Tho' by his Majesty's Instructions it appears, the Admirals Orders were, to be aiding and assisting to my Lord *Catcart*, in what should be judg'd proper to be undertaken; so that the pointing that out was more properly to have arisen from the General of the Army. But as our Experience in these Seas might be deemed to have given us some more particular Knowledge, we are very willing, on this and all other Occasions, to give our Opinion of the Practicability, of what *Spanish Places* lie most open to be attack'd.

Porto Bello we know to be an open Harbour, and as yet a defenceless Town; and the Troops can be landed there for marching to *Panama*, if the Generals approve of that, after our having receiv'd Advices that there is not an immediate Probability of a *French War* : For till such Advices arrive, it is our unanimous Opinion, we cannot be better posted for his Majesty's Service than we are at present.

And we know the Troops can be landed at *Leogane*, as we think they can at *Petit Gueve*, so as to enter upon immediate Service without marching thro' a Wood. But we very well know, that to get to *Panama*, they have much longer Marches, and thro' much less practicable Paths, than to get to *St. Jago*, an open Town, that they might (in our Apprehension) with great Ease have been Masters of; which, we conceive, would have been most

most conducive to his Majesty's Service, and the Honour of the *English* Name.

The Fleet, in case there be no *French* War, can likewise from hence carry the Forces to *Carthagena*, if the Generals think themselves strong enough to attempt it again. But we know of no Place else, but the inconsiderable *Barcadier* (rather of Intelligence than Trade) of *Santa Martha*, that the Troops can be landed at, to attack any *Spanish* Place of Consequence, without the Troops having more Woods to march thro', and more Difficulty of Access, than to *St. Yago*.

But if the Council of General Officers have such Intelligence, that they can point out to us any such Place as they are desirous to be carried to, they will always find in us a Readiness to concur in every Thing they can offer for his Majesty's Service.

Given under our Hands on board his Majesty's Ship the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland* Harbour (formerly call'd *Waltbenam*) on the South Side of *Cuba*, the 22d of *October*, 1741.

E. VERNON,

C. OGLE,

P. MAYNE,

CHARLES COTTERELL,

WE the under-written, the principal Officers of his Majesty's Land Forces in the *West-Indies*, cannot without great Surprize read the Resolution of a Council of War held on board his Majesty's Ship the *Boyne* the 22d of *October*, 1741, compos'd of Sea Officers only; who have (as we conceive, quite contrary to his Majesty's Instructions) taken upon them to judge of, and to pass Censure upon the Proceedings of his Majesty's Land Forces;

and likewise have assumed the Authority of the principal Council, nam'd expressly by his Majesty in his Instructions, for considering and determining what Enterprize should be undertaken.

We therefore declare, that as the Resolution of the said Council of War relates to Things not properly coming under their Cognizance, we do not think it necessary (tho' we have all possible Regard to the particular Members in their respective Stations) to return any other Answer to the said Resolution.

Dated at the Camp, the 25th of *October*, 1741.

THO. WENTWORTH,
WILL. BLAKENEY,
A. LOWTHER,
JAMES COCKRAN,
JOHN COTTRELL,
ROBERT FRASER.

To General WENTWORTH,

S I R,

I Have no News, to send you, by the *Prince Frederick's* Arrival, who comes to me in a bad Condition. I would have dispatch'd her directly for *England*, but Captain *Boscawen* reports her not even fit for that: But as she must go as soon as she can be made fit, from hence or *Jamaica*, you will be pleas'd to prepare your Letters for going by her.

And as I am sending a Fireship for *Jamaica* on *Monday* next, I desire you would have any Letters you intend sending by that Occasion, ready to go by Captain *Tomson*, in the *Vesuvius* Fireship, by *Monday* Noon at farthest; for the Ravages of the Worms give me more Uneasiness than the rest of our Enemies.

Your

Your Army-Money that came by the *Defiance*, I am told, has been sent for; but if I had not thought on it more than your Paymaster, it had gone to Sea again in the *Defiance*.

And as the *Superbe* is now in Harbour, I hope he will take Care to get that Money out, before his Majesty's Service may require that Ship's going to Sea again.

And if it is judg'd that any Application may be wanting to be made to me upon it, that must be made to me in writing, for I cannot found Orders upon verbal Messages.

I have got my Ships all near compleated to a four Month's Victualling, for proceeding to Sea upon the first Advices we may receive of a *French* War, to make it necessary; and I make no doubt, but on the Return of your Convoy, you have procured a sufficient Recruit for the Service of your Forces. Which I thought proper to mention, that you might, otherwise, think in Time, of sending Orders for having more Provisions shipp'd to be sent to you, or sending Transports for them from hence; as with what have died, and what may be wanted to supply his Majesty's Ships, to be sure, there may be many spare Transports. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour,
Cuba, Oct. 24, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

IT being Night before Captain *Lee* brought me my Letters, who came in late in the Evening, I could not dispatch him to you sooner than this Morning.

I have.

I have just read over my Letter from his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, with the Advice of a Reinforcement of three thousand Men being said to be to sail from *Cork* some time in last Month, which are probably in their Way hither. When you have had Time to read over your Letters, I doubt not but you will agree with me, that a General Council of War, agreeable to his Majesty's Instructions of the 10th of *July*, 1740, should be held; which shall be summoned accordingly on any Day you shall desire; or if you approve of coming, with Mr. *Blakeney* with you, it can be held whenever you come.

I have had a slight Fit of the Gout lately, and you know Sir *Chaloner Ogle* is a little lame: But if you and Mr. *Blakeney* apprehend any ill Consequences from your coming so far, we will, if you desire it, make the best Shift we can to meet you on board the *Fireship*, just below Captain *Forrest's* Bomb-Ketch, on the Morning you shall desire. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in *Cumberland Harbour*,
Cuba, Oct. 26, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To Captain DENNISON, of the *Augusta*.

By, &c.

WHEREAS I have Intelligence, of no less than seven Register Ships lying ready to sail from *Cadiz*, as soon as they can slip Mr. *Haddock's* Squadron, some of which would be attempting to pass under *French* Colours, and some under *Dutch* Colours;

And whereas it is found by Experience, that calling on the Coast of *Rio La Hacha*, to windward of
Santa

Santa Martha, for getting Intelligence, is the common Course of the Enemy's Ships bound for *Carthagena* or *Porto Bello* :

You are hereby required and directed, to put to Sea to-morrow, and stretch over directly for the *Spanish Main*; as your sailing to Leeward of your said Station there, will still put you in the Way of intercepting any Thing going to, or coming from *Carthagena*. And after making the Land, and knowing whereabouts you are, you will make the best of your way for getting into your Station to windward of *Rio La Hacha*; where you are to continue your Cruizing till the 10th Day of *December* next. At the Expiration of which Term, or sooner taking any considerable Prize, that may require your seeing her safe into *Port Royal*, you are to return to the said Harbour of *Port Royal* in *Jamaica*, in order to refit your Ship, and get ready for sailing for *England*, pursuant to such Orders as you shall receive from me after your Arrival at *Port Royal*.

But on any considerable Squadron of the Enemy discovering itself while you are on that Station, or any very material Intelligence, you are to endeavour at bringing me the earliest Advices of it here.

All *Spanish* Ships or Vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost Endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized Attempts of the Subjects of any Nation, to cover and protect the Ships, Persons, or Effects of his Majesty's Enemies the *Spaniards*; you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said Ships, Persons, or Effects of his Majesty's Enemies the *Spaniards*, wherever you shall find the same on the Seas; as you will all Ships and Vessels of any Nation, that you shall

shall meet with going to supply his Majesty's Enemies the *Spaniards* with Contraband Stores, for their being further proceeded against here according to Law. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Harbour*, &c. this 26th of *October*, 1741.

E. V,

At a Council of War held on board his Majesty's Ship the Boyne, on Wednesday Oct. 28, 1741.

THE Council of War being assembled, his Majesty's Instructions of the 10th of *July*, 1740, his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle's* Letters to Mr. *Vernon* and Mr. *Wentworth* of the 28th of *August*, 1741, one from Mr. *Couraud* of the same Date, and two from Sir *Charles Wager* of the 18th and 22d of the same Month, and such other Intelligence as was come to Mr. *Vernon's* Hands, were read.

And Mr. *Vernon* observing, that his Majesty's Instructions directed him to be aiding and assisting to my Lord *Catcart* in whatever Enterprize was to be undertaken, desir'd Mr. *Wentworth* would be pleas'd to name which of the Places mention'd in the said Instructions he thought most proper to be attempted, for our mature Deliberation upon it.

But Mr. *Wentworth* desiring further Time to consider of the Contents thereof, and of the present Situation of Affairs, before we came to any Resolution; the Council of War adjourn'd their final Determination till *Saturday* the 31st Instant, as Mr. *Wentworth* desir'd.

Saturday Morning, the 31st of October, 1741.

The Council of War being assembled according to Adjournment, we began, agreeable to his Grace the

the Duke of *Newcastle's* Directions in his Letter above-mention'd, to take into mature Deliberation, whether we were in any Condition to undertake an Attempt upon the *Havanna*.

And we were unanimously of Opinion, we have not a Force sufficient for such an Attempt, if the North Season did not render all Approaches to it Impracticable.

And we are unanimously of Opinion, that the same Reasons are subsisting both in regard to *La Vera Cruz* and *Mexico*.

In regard to *Carthagena*, tho' the Harbour be open, we are unanimously of Opinion, that our present Force is in no Sort proportion'd to such an Enterprize. And even with the Addition of the Succours said to be coming (in regard to the increasing Sickness amongst the Troops now, and what it may be naturally apprehended, from the Fatigues of a Siege in form, may happen to fresh Troops in that unhealthy Situation, destitute of sufficient Supplies of good Water, as we have found by Experience) we cannot think such an Undertaking adviseable.

And in regard to *Panama*, we unanimously agree, from the best Advices we have been able to collect, that it is impracticable to advance with Cannon to *Panama*; and it being a fortified Town, with above forty Pieces of Cannon mounted on the Ramparts, and a sufficient Garrison, we cannot think it practicable to attempt it without Cannon.

And the Council of War finding themselves in no Condition to attempt any of the Places above-mention'd, and duly weighing the material Advices that are mention'd in Sir *Charles Wager's* Letters, in regard to the Apprehensions of a *French* War; (in which Case, the Attempt on any Places to Leeward of *Jamaica*, might expose the said Island,

and all our Trade, to become a Prey to them; whose Settlements lying to Windward of us, they could make sudden Attempts on that Island, that we could not return to prevent:)

We unanimously agree, that in our present Circumstances, we can do nothing better for his Majesty's Service at present, than to take the best Methods we can for supporting ourselves in our present Situation, till the promis'd Succours arrive, or we may sooner receive any other Orders from his Majesty: As in this Situation, on Advice of any superior Force of Enemies coming into these Seas, we shall have a Retreat to *Jamaica* open to us, for preserving that valuable Island to the Crown; and we cannot be better posted for protecting the Trade of his Majesty's Subjects, and intercepting that of his Majesty's Enemies.

And we do, accordingly, unanimously agree, to proceed, in our respective Provinces, to do all we judge most prudent for maintaining our Post here, and preserving a Communication between the Fleet and Army, till our receiving further Orders, or the Arrival of the Succours: When vigorous Resolutions may be taken, for advancing to make ourselves Masters of *St. Jago*, and securing all the Island of *Cuba* to the Eastward of it; which we apprehend to be the most that can be done with the promis'd Succours, when they arrive.

Given under our Hands, on board his Majesty's Ship the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Harbour* (formerly call'd *Walthenam*) on the South Side of *Cuba*, the 31st of *October*, 1741.

E. VERNON,
THO. WENTWORTH,
C. OGLE,
W. BLAKENEY.

To Capt. WILLIAM LEA, of the Bonetta Sloop.
By, &c.

WHEREAS it is of the utmost Importance to his Majesty's Service, to keep a watchful Eye on all the Motions of his Majesty's Enemies, for the preventing of Surprizals from them; as Capt. Cleland's Term of his Cruize is expir'd, and I have no one but you ready for the present to supply his Station; (tho' you are speedily intended for another Service, as soon as we can have another Ship in readines for supplying the Station you are going to:)

You are hereby required and directed, to make the best of your way to take your cruizing Station between five and eight Leagues to the South-East of *Point a Bacoe*, lying to windward of *Cape Tiberoon*; which, I judge, may be a very good Station for intercepting any of the Enemy's Trade coming that Way, or getting Advices of the Motions of any of their Squadrons, and for bringing me the earliest Accounts of them; which you are immediately to do, upon discovering any considerable Force of his Majesty's Enemies.

And as I am expecting a considerable Reinforcement, that must pass by in Sight of your said Station; and as it is of the utmost Importance to his Majesty's Service, they should not pass by you unseen; you will carefully look out for them, for delivering both to the Commander in Chief of those Forces; and the Commanding Officer of their Convoy, my Letters; that to the said General, advising his coming to join us here directly, and my Letters and Orders to the Commanding Officer of the said Convoy, directing his coming here directly with the said Convoy. In which Case, you are to accompany them, to conduct them safely to this Port, taking particular Care that you do not

fall to Leeward of it. And if you should meet any single Vessel coming Express with Letters and Orders for me, if he does not apprehend the Convoy to be near coming, you will then likewise accompany him, for his speedy getting here; or in case he does, send an experienc'd Officer to conduct him here.

All *Spanish* Ships or Vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost Endeavour to take, sink, burn, and destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthoriz'd Attempts of the Subjects of any Nation, to cover and protect the Ships, Persons, or Effects of his Majesty's Enemies the *Spaniards*; you are in no Sort to permit the same, but to seize the said *Spaniards* Ships, Persons, or Effects, wherever you shall find the same on the Seas; and to seize all Ships and Vessels you shall meet with going to supply his Majesty's Enemies the *Spaniards* with Contraband Stores.

But on meeting with any of the *Guarda Costas* of his most Christian Majesty; you are carefully to preserve with them that good Correspondence that ought to subsist between Officers in the Service of Princes in Amity with each other.

And as you will be cruizing in the Way of the *French* Trade, you are to use all friendly Offices toward them, and direct your Officers not to harass or rummage any such *French* Ships or Vessels, as give you no just Cause of Suspicion of their being going with contraband Stores to any of the *Spanish* Ports.

You are to continue Cruizing on the said Station, and on the Service afore-mention'd, till the 15th Day of this present Month, or your sooner being relieved, or leaving it on the Occasion injoined you; at the Expiration of which Term, you are to make
the

the best of your Way for joining me here, and receiving my further Orders. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Harbour*, (formerly called *Walthenam*) on the South Side of *Cuba*, this 31st of *October*, 1741.

E. V.

To the Hon. the Commanding Officer of his Majesty's
Land Forces coming to the WEST INDIES.

S I R,

AS I send you inclosed a Copy of the Resolutions of our last Council of War, held on the Information sent us by his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, of the speedy Reinforcements intended to be sent out to us;

It is needless for me to add any other Inducement to you, Sir, to engage you to consent to the Commanding Officer of the Convoy's proceeding directly to bring the Convoy to join us here; as going so far to Leeward as *Jamaica*, would be the most fatal Incident that could happen to his Majesty's Service.

No one being named to us for the Command on this Occasion, obliges me to make Use of a general Direction. I am,

S I R,

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

Boyne, in *Cumberland
Harbour*, *Cuba*,
Nov. 1, 1741.

E. V.

To the Commanding Officer of the Convoy coming out
with the Reinforcement.

By, &c.

SENDING you inclosed a Copy of the Resolutions of our last General Council of War, you will see how much it is for his Majesty's Service, that you should not lose a Moment's Time in coming to
join

join me here with all your Convoy. And you are, therefore, on receiving these Orders, immediately to acquaint the Commanding Officer of the Land Forces with it, and desire his Consent for your proceeding accordingly; which cannot be doubted of, as I have sent him likewise a Copy of the said General Resolutions of the Council of War.

And you are accordingly hereby required and directed, upon the Receipt of my Orders, to make the best of your Way hither, with all the Transports and Storeships under your Convoy. And if any be separated from you, you will leave a Ship to cruize for them, and bring them after you; and Captain *Lea* has my Orders for coming with you, to pilot you hither, taking particular Care not to fall in with the Land to Leeward of the Harbour, for fear of a Lee Current. And as his Majesty's Service requires it, you will use all possible Diligence in the due Execution of your Orders. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Harbour, Cuba*, this 1st of *November*, 1741.

E. V.

Orders of the same Tenour with those given to Captain *Lea* of the Bomb Sloop, of the 31st of *October*, were this Day given and issued to Captain *Allen* of the *Seahorse*, to cruize till the 15th of *December*, together with the foregoing Letter to the Commanding Officer of his Majesty's Land Forces, said to be coming hither, and the Order to the Commanding Officer of the Convoy coming out with them, this 6th of *November*, 1741. E. V.

To his Grace the Duke of N * * * * *

My Lord Duke,

MY last to your Grace was of the 6th of *October*, by the *Fireband* Fireship, Captain *Barnard*; a
Duplicate

Duplicate of which accompanies my present Letter to your Grace. Which I chuse to begin in Time, for going by the next Opportunity, which I apprehend must be by the *Prince Frederick*, Captain *Boscawen*, when he arrives here, from the bad Accounts they have sent me of her upon her late careening : But she is not arrived this 21st of *October*, when I am beginning my Letter, which gives me some Uneasiness, as, by the latest Accounts I have had, I expected her here much sooner.

On the 7th of *October* arriv'd here Captain *Broderick* in the *Shoreham*, who has been cruizing off *Carthagena*, and brought me a certain Account of *Don Blafs de Lezo's* Death, and a Letter to me from his Excellency the Vice Roy of *Santa Fé*, which I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of ; as likewise of my Answer to it, which fully informs your Grace of the Particulars of the *Champana* Prize, taken by Captain *Broderick*, being Part Bale-Goods of the Cargo of the Galleons going for *Monpos*, and Part Money ; which together are computed at near four-score thousand Pieces of Eight Value. And I have sent the *Shoreham* off *Cape François*, to cruize on the *Spanish* Privateers, that are cruizing on our Northern-Colony Trade, from that Port.

On the 8th came in here a *French Guarda Costa* Sloop, commanded by Captain *Olivier*, a Captain of Infantry, that brought me here a Letter from the *Marquess de Larnage*, that I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of ; and from the trifling Contents, and his Conduct here, I am fully satisfied his principal Business was being a Spy on us. I gave my self little Concern for the Remarks he could make on our Disposition ; but as he went privately in the Evening to make a Visit to the Camp, the first of my Officers of the Flotilla that met him, finding he did not pretend to have had any Leave from me,

told

told him, without such Leave he could not admit of his advancing further; so he was prevented going there: And by a Letter from Mr. *Wentworth* afterwards, I found he was desirous he should not come there. And he soon after took his Leave in a Hurry and seeming Confusion, having, as I apprehend, had Advice, that I knew he had a Contraband Cargo on board; which, however, I had determin'd not to take any Notice of in this Harbour. I was glad he was going, and let him sail accordingly on the 10th in the Evening, having, on his dining with me on the 9th, given him my Letter for the Marquis de *Larnage*, with my Complaint against the Governor of Port *François*, for the Countenance he gave to the *Spanish* Privateers, in cruizing upon our Trade from thence; a Copy of which comes likewise inclosed. And I send your Grace inclosed, likewise, a Copy of the Information of the two *English* Seamen he brought me, of the Cargo he had for *St. Jago*; and I had dispatch'd Orders by my Tender Sloop to Captain *Long* of the *Chester*, to have prevented his going into *St. Jago*, and, on such an Attempt, to have taken out of him his Contraband Cargo, and then have left him to proceed as he thought proper: But he went away, I believe, so full of Apprehensions of his Designs being discover'd, that, by my Cruizers to the windward of the Port I understood, he stood directly away for *Hispaniola*.

And I am glad to acquaint your Grace, that the whole Convoy of Transports I sent to *Jamaica*, for the Army's recover'd Officers and Men, and the Supplies of Provisions and Stores, are all safely arriv'd here, without any Accident by the Way.

The *Montague* return'd from her Cruize off *Point a Bacoe* on the 10th, and the *Augusta* from hers off *Cape François* the 11th, having chased a *Spanish* Privateer

Privateer into Port *François*, and retaken a Prize from her, and also taken a *Spanish Carracca* Ship of three hundred Tuns and fifty-three Men, which she sent into *Jamaica*. This Ship came from the *Havanna* the 5th of *August*, N. S. bound to the Coast of *Carraccas*, but losing her Mast in her Passage, was going to Cape *François* to refit: But the Governor of the *Havanna*, straiten'd for Money, had, in the *Spanish* Manner of borrowing, taken out of her eighty thousand Pieces of Eight, to serve the Urgencies of the publick Service; by which you may judge of their extraordinary Expences. I send your Grace inclosed, the Copy of a Letter from the Governor of the *Havanna* to the Governor of the Province of *Carraccas*, by which you will have Information of the *Spanish* Admiral's Ship, the *Invincible*, being blown up in that Harbour. And by what I can gather from other Letters taken on board of her, I find Don *Rodrigo de Torres*, the *Spanish* Admiral, sail'd from *Carthagena* in the *Sta Anna*; and that they run that Ship aground on the Rocks, in their going into the *Havanna*, and had beat off Half her Keel, for which they had been oblig'd to careen her: That in the *Invincible*, a new Ship, built at the *Havanna*, and never at Sea, there were blown up four Millions of Pieces of Eight: That the Town was deserted by every Creature whilst the Ship was burning: That two Churches had been extremely damag'd by the Blast, and the Dome of the Principal one must be taken down to repair it; And that, in general, all the Doors that were left lock'd were found blown open, the Ship lying within Pistol Shot of the Walls of the Town. Some of our Letters from *Jamaica* mention, as Advices from *Carthagena*, that there was an Account there, that Admiral *Spinola*, in the *Europa*,

that went from the *Havanna* for *La Vera Cruz* to fetch Money from thence, was lost, either in his Passage going, or Return : And other Letters on board the *Augusta's* Prize, mention the Vice Roy of *Mexico's* being march'd for *La Vera Cruz*, with a large Body of Militia, to prepare for our Reception there. And I am perswaded, whenever they can remit their Treasure, the Crown of *Spain* will find sensible Deductions, from the great Expences they have put themselves to. Don *Rodrigo de Torres* had a narrow Escape in his Boat, after he got from his Ship ; and ill Fortune follow'd him in the next Ship that he hoisted his Flag on board of, which had her Main-mast carried away by a Clap of Thunder, in two Days after his coming on board : So that the superstitious *Spanish* Seamen are weary of him, as an unfortunate Commander. And some Letters mention his starting up in his Sleep, and running out upon Deck, and crying out, the Ship is haunted. But you will observe, the *Spanish* General, Don *Francisco de Guemes y Horcasitas*, flurs all over as slightly as he can.

Having Advice that the two Ships that got into *Carthagena* were soon bound home, I dispatch'd the *Defiance*, the cleanest Ship I then had, to cruize for them, between the *Grand Camainos* and *Cape Corientes*, which I judge, in the North Season, to be both the most probable and the securest Station for her cruizing for them ; and the *Augusta* is preparing for the Sea, for taking the Station to windward of *Carthagena* ; (for I have much Difficulty to patch up Cruizers, to supply all the Stations in which I am desirous of carefully watching all the Enemy's Motions ;) and I have sent the *Tilbury* to cruize upon all bound down the *Old Babama* Channel : So that I think they cannot well move any Way, but I will have a Chance for them,

them, as long as I have Ships that can keep the Sea.

On the 18th in the Evening, the *Chester*, that is cruizing off St. *Fago*, sent in a Snow here, that he met with off there, pretending to be bound to *Mississippi*: But Capt. *Long* having observ'd them to be throwing Papers overboard, and some Colours from the Staff, judg'd to be *Spanish*, had the good Fortune to pick up some of the Letters, that were not sunk with a Weight; which gave plain Intimation of their being bound another Way, and having taken in their Cargo at St. *Sebastian's* and *Ferrol*. That from *Ferrol* is all Quicksilver, brought aboard by the King of *Spain's* Officers, and stow'd very carefully in the Hold, by *Spanish* Carpenters brought on board by them for that Purpose. And it appears further, since Capt. *Long's* sending him in here, that the best Goods of the Cargo (as Gold and Silver Lace, *Flanders* Lace, and such like fine Goods) were taken on board at St. *Sebastian's*. And Mr. *Daragory* being said to be the Merchant (who has lately been detected of undertaking to convey Cloathing, Iron and Arms, for the *Spanish* Seamen and Soldiers of Don *Rodrigo de Torres's* Squadron, when the *Spanish* Papers and Pass were all found conceal'd in a hollow Timber) That gave the strongest Suspicion that he was now attempting the like good Office for the King of *Spain*, of conveying his Quicksilver to *La Vera Cruz* for him. And tho', probably, he has thrown into the Sea all his *Spanish* Papers and his Pass, yet there appears sufficient Evidence to prove it, even from his *French* ones. And I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of the Orders found upon Captain *Bebie*, commanding this *François* Snow, which sufficiently prove the same: But he having cramm'd it into his Fobb, some Part of it was torn off

and lost, which makes a Defect in some of the latter Articles; but the Remaining appear plain enough. And there was found in a Tub of Salt, a Letter from *Daragory*, to *Claret* the Supercargo, in which he mentions how the three thousand and nine hundred Quintals of Quicksilver might easily be stow'd in three Vessels. It appears also that *La Reine des Anges* loaded her Part at *Ferrol*, and sail'd before them; and the *St. Jean Baptist* they left behind at *Ferrol*, to take in her Part: And there having been three Wrecks seen at Sea, in the late stormy Weather, by the *Sbeerness*, and one of them a Snow; as the Quicksilver would make her very laboursome in the Sea, if she was catch'd in that Weather, *La Reine des Anges* might, as probably as any other, be one of them: And I hope the *St. Jean Baptist* may yet fall in the Way of some of my Cruizers. Your Grace has, inclosed, the Copy of this Letter from Mr. *Daragory* to *Claret* the Supercargo.

It is with Concern I am oblig'd to entertain your Grace with the widely different Sentiments of the Gentlemen of the Army and us; which I think I cannot do with more Impartiality, than by sending your Grace inclosed Copies of two Letters from Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and me, of the 16th and 19th of *October*, to General *Wentworth*, as our Advice to him in case of having any sudden Intelligence of a *French* War; all our Advices from *Jamaica* having mention'd such an Incident as seemingly unavoidable. Upon which, he having thought proper to send me, inclosed in a Letter of the 21st, the Resolutions of his Council of War of the same Date, on his communicating to them a Part of the said Letters; I laid their Resolutions before a Council of my Officers (as he had done a Part of our Letter before his) and sent him our Resolutions inclosed,

of

of the 22d : In answer to which, he sent me inclosed a Paper sign'd by them, of the 25th of *October*, call'd their Sentiments on our Opinion : Copies of all which come inclosed, for your fuller Information.

My Engineer, Lieutenant *Innes* of the *Grafton*, with her Seamen, has near compleated a very good Fascine Battery, being four Sides of a *Decagon*, with three Guns on each Side, designed to be supplied from the lower-deck Guns of two of our largest Ships, which will be four thirty-two Pounders, and eight twenty-four Pounders. And the Timber and Plank is all cut here for the Platforms, and a great Part of it got to hand, all ready to be laid down : Which I delay a little for the first Advices from your Grace ; in order to judge, whether a *French War* might make it necessary to take other Measures, or our having certain Advices of Succours being sent here, should make it proper to compleat it, for the Defence of this Harbour. For having the Stuff at hand, we can soon lay the Platform and mount the Cannon ; and should it be necessary to move, these Materials can be converted to the Use of the Wharf that we are making for the careening our Ships at *Port Royal* ; where such good Timber as we have cut here, is very scarce to be got. So that there can neither be loss of Time, or unnecessary Expence, whether they be converted to the one Use or the other.

On the 25th of *October* in the Evening came in here the *Bonetta* Sloop, with the long-wish'd-for Dispatches from your Grace, of the 28th of *August*. And I cannot but be extremely sensible of the great Honour done me by my Lords of the Regency, by their Approbation and good Opinion of my Zeal for his Majesty's Service ; which, to the best of my Ability, I shall always, with Pleasure, continue

tinue diligently to exert, for the Honour of our Royal Master and Prosperity of our Country; both in regard to my Duty to his Majesty, and preserving that good Opinion which my Lords of the Regency have so highly honour'd me with.

I order'd Capt. *Lea* to wait on General *Wentworth* very early the next Morning, with the Letters he had for him from your Grace and others; and I sent a Letter to him, in which I express'd myself perswaded, that when he had read over his Letters, he would be of Opinion with me, that a General Council of War should be held; which should be at any Time he should desire: And the Copy of my said Letter comes inclosed. He sent me for Answer, that Mr. *Blakeney* and he would be with me on *Wednesday* Morning, the 28th; when we met at a General Council of War accordingly, and we had read to us your Grace's Letters to Mr. *Wentworth* and me of the 28th of *August*, and a Letter from Mr. *Couraud* of the same Date. And to give the Council of War the best Light I could, I took the Liberty of communicating to them likewise, two Letters I was honoured with from Sir *Charles Wager*, of the 18th and 22d of *August*; and two Proposals that had been sent to him, the one from Captain *Lea* of the *Bonetta*, and the other from Mr. *Daniel Campbell*. And Captain *Lea* was called in, and examined before us; as was Capt. *Rentone*; and Captain *Allen*, who was lately return'd from *New-York*, where he had been to carry the General's Letters to the Governors of the Northern-Colonies; and the Officers he had sent them by. We had then read his Majesty's last Instructions, of the 10th of *July*, 1740: And as, by them, I was, with the Fleet, to be aiding and assisting to the Commander in Chief of the Land Forces, in any Enterprize this Council should judge properest to be undertaken;

undertaken ; I desired Mr. *Wentworth* would be pleased to name which of the Places mention'd in the said Instructions he thought most proper to be attempted, for our maturely deliberating upon it. To which he said, he was not prepar'd for that then, but desired we might adjourn to another Day, before we came to any final Determinations. And I desiring he would name the earliest Day he thought proper, he pitched upon *Saturday* the 31st of *October*, and we adjourn'd the Council of War to that Day accordingly ; and after their favouring me with their Company at Dinner, we parted as we met, very civilly.

On the 31st of *October* the Council of War re-assembled, according to their Adjournment ; and Lieutenant *Lowther* was called in, and examined before us, Mr. *Wentworth* having desired his Attendance for that purpose ; as was likewise, afterwards, Captain *Rentone*, an experienc'd Officer in these Seas.

And having first calmly deliberated on several Proposals that Mr. *Wentworth* desired might be considered, for landing on the Leeward Parts of this Island, *Bayamo* and *Trinidado* ; on their being so, he declared himself fully satisfied they were ill-grounded and impracticable.

The Council of War then proceeded regularly to take into Deliberation the several Places propos'd to us, in his Majesty's Instructions of the 10th of *July*, 1740, in the Order therein directed : And after maturely deliberating on them, the Council of War came to the unanimous Resolutions that I have sent your Grace inclosed a Copy of, which, I hope, will appear to be drawn up agreeable to the Directions in your Grace's last Letter of the 28th of *August* last.

And

And after their favouring me with their Company at Dinner, we parted very civilly as we met. It was a great Pleasure to me, that at the same Time that I receiv'd your Grace's Letter of the 28th of *August*, I receiv'd one from Commodore *Lestock*, of the 1st of *September*, with the good News of his safe Arrival, with the Squadron I had detach'd home under his Command. And I hear by the Return of Captain *Allen* from *New-York*, that the leaky Bomb-Ketch got safe to *Boston*, where they can soon give her a new Bottom.

As I know it to be proper for the unsheath'd Ships to be dispatch'd home, I immediately gave the necessary Orders in it. And the *Orford* and *Prince of Orange* are sail'd from hence, for the necessary refitting at *Jamaica*, and under Orders to proceed home with all possible Expedition, under the Command of Capt. *Davers* in the *Suffolk*; who is likewise to take with him the *Prince Frederick*, Captain *Boscawen*: The *Dunkirk*, Captain *Cooper*, who is in best Condition for the Sea, is under Orders to go home Convoy to the Trade, or discharged Transports, that shall be ready to sail with him: And the *Superbe*, Captain *Hervey*, goes home Express with our Letters to your Grace. So there are four seventy-gun Ships, and two sixty-gun Ships, under immediate Orders for proceeding to *England* with all possible Expedition. By my former Order to *Jamaica*, the *Weymouth* and *Jersey* were to be endeavouring to careen by each other, and the *Deptford* was obliged to be careened at the Wharf; (but 'till my next Return from thence I cannot tell what they have been doing in pursuance of these Orders :) The *Augusta* is on a Cruize off *Rio La Hacha*; and the *Bristol* I am daily expecting up here with a Convoy from *Jamaica*. And your Grace may be assured these five Sail shall be ordered home

as they can be got in Condition for it, and, for certain, to be at home in time to be refitted for next Summer's Service.

I must now proceed to state to your Grace what will be our remaining Force in these Seas; and what that under the Command of Don *Rodrigo de Torres*. He sailed from *Cartbagena* with twelve Sail of the Line of Battle, and found in the *Havanna* three Sail of Men of War of the Line, besides the *Vizara* of 60 Guns, that was at *La Vera Cruz*: Which are, together, sixteen Sail of Men of War of the Line; and I take them to be full as good Ships, as the sixteen Sail that, it is said, will be left under my Command. Of this Number, he has certainly had one, the *Invincible*, blown up at the *Havanna*; and he is said to have had the *Europa* lost, between *La Vera Cruz* and the *Havanna*; the *Vizara* damag'd, by running a-shore at *La Vera Cruz*; and the *Sta Anna*, in going into the *Havanna*, which they were endeavouring to repair by careening. So that there are fourteen remaining, and of them two are damag'd, which they are endeavouring to refit. And I have the *Princess Louisa*, that, I am sure, can only be refitted for going home in the Summer; and the *Strafford*, that they begin to think now, by her careening, may be made fit for Service again.

So the certain Ships for Service, are twelve and twelve: And, as I apprehend, from the Numbers of spare Seamen they had out of the Men of War and Galleons destroy'd at *Cartbagena*, they must be infinitely better mann'd than my Ships. And when it comes to be consider'd, what different Services we have to employ them upon; then, I fear, it will be found, the Superiority of Force will be very greatly on the Side of the *Spanish* Admiral, Don *Rodrigo de Torres*.

For my Orders being to cruize on their Trade, and cut off all Communication, as far as I can, between *Old Spain* and their *American Dominions*; I have, for the present, Cruizers in six several Stations, some of which are above two hundred Leagues asunder; *viz.* One to windward of *Rio La Hacha*, for intercepting all coming from *Old Spain* for *Carthagena* or *Porto Bello*; one between *Cape Corientes* and the *Grand Camainos*, for all coming for *La Vera Cruz* or the *Havanna*, from *Carthagena*, or *Porto Bello*, or the Coast of *Caraccas*; one for intercepting all going down to the *Havanna* thro' the *Old Babama* Channel on the North Side of *Cuba*; one cruizing on the Enemy's Privateers, and for the Protection of our Trade from the Northern Colonies, to windward of *Port François*, where they have found Shelter and Protection; one to the South East of *Point a Bacoe*, on the South Side of *Hispaniola*, for protecting our Trade from *England*, and lying in the Way to meet the expected Succours, and to conduct them here; and one to cruize off the Harbour's Mouth of *St. Jago*. And as some must be cleaning and refitting at *Jamaica*, your Grace will easily perceive, that the Force remaining with my Brother Admiral and me must be very small. If at Times we can have Seconds for us both, that will be the most; and we must, I believe, be often but with five Sail of the Line between us. Whereas the *Spanish* Admiral, never keeping his Ships a cruizing, has his whole Force ready for proceeding together upon whatever he may have Orders to undertake: So that, till the promis'd Succours arrive, I think we may be said to be much the weakest. I am sure my Brother Admiral and I are heartily dispos'd to serve his Majesty to the utmost of our Power, with such Force as is put
under

under our Command : But as the Fleet, thus reduced, will not require but one Admiral, I hope, if I weather the Winter out with it, I may reasonably expect to receive your Grace's Orders to be coming home in the Spring of the Year; especially as his Majesty has so experienc'd an Officer in these Seas as Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, to take this Command upon him.

I have three twenty-gun Ships (if they can all be made fit for the Sea) and the *Bonetta* Sloop : Of which, the *Experiment* (clean'd here) and the *Bonetta*, are both design'd to go on the Expedition for attempting the Settlement on *Ratan* Island; and for Capt. *Lea* to see what he can make of his Advices about the River *Dulce*, and Province of *Guatemala* : Which do not appear to us to be well founded, particularly as to any Insurrection having been amongst the *Indians*, and very far from any News of their continuing so. But I will give him all the Opportunity he can desire, for collecting any certain Evidence about it; and I think, that beginning with a Settlement at *Ratan* Island, to collect some of the *Musquito Indians* there, and some of our Logwood-Cutters, would be the properest Foundation for undertaking any Enterprize that Way, whenever there should appear any Encouragement to it. And in my Opinion, nothing can be more necessary for securing to us the Logwood Trade; of which, I can already perceive, the *Dutch* are going on apace to draw the principal Advantage to themselves. For tho' they are the Subjects of his Majesty that cut it, they sell it to any that go to fetch it; and the *Dutch* are greatly encreasing in their Traffick with them, having here a large *Dutch* Ship that brought us Wine, that is going down to the Bay of *Honduras*, to buy a Loading of Logwood of our Logwood-

U 2

Cutters.

Cutters, who account themselves their own Masters at present, and subject to no Government. But a Settlement at *Ratan*, prudently manag'd, I think, promises fair for the only Means of securing us the Logwood Trade, and excluding other Nations from reaping the Fruit of the Labour of his Majesty's natural-born Subjects.

Colonel *Gooch*, your Grace will have learn'd from your Letters by Commodore *Lestock*, was return'd to his Government, with the discharg'd *American* Transports, that sail'd under his Convoy. And I believe your Grace will have heard from him, and on all Hands, that the *American* Forces have had nothing to complain of from the Sea, and have never express'd themselves dissatisfied at being employ'd on board his Majesty's Ships.

I think my Inclinations have been entirely conformable, to what, I believe, was the principal Motive of all the *American* Officers engaging in the Service, the Hopes of being settled in the *West-Indies*, and in *Cuba* preferably to all other Places. But I have heard some of them mentioning many Complaints they had to make of their Treatment in the Army; and of the Discontent express'd by some of the *Europeans* (as the *Americans* call'd them) that they were to expose their Lives for procuring Settlements for the *Americans*. A just Occasion of Offence, I shall, as your Grace desires, be very cautious of ever giving them; and I hope that will never be esteem'd a just Occasion of Offence, which they themselves don't think so.

As the Affairs of the Army are not my Province, I have thought it my Duty to avoid mentioning any Thing of them, but where Necessity and his Majesty's Service appear'd to me to require it.

Captain

Captain *Mayne*, who now goes home Captain of the *Orford*, being the only one of our Captains that ever was at *St. Jago*, your Grace from him may be best inform'd as to the Entrance into the Harbour : And by this Occasion, I send Sir *Charles Wager* (as a Sea Officer, most capable of judging of what I have said of it in my former Letters) a Sketch of it, as drawn by Capt. *Durell*.

And if you think proper, your Grace may ask Captain *Mayne*, with whom B——r L——r came a Passenger in his Ship hither, whether he did not, at several Times in our Way up here, hear the said Officer say, *the Army would not land in C U B A*.

And if he did not hear him say, after the General Council of War that was held on the 20th of *July*, which he was a Member of, that *the Army would not move from their Encampment on the River Side*.

And if at other Times he had not said, that *the Spanish Forces were better Soldiers than his Majesty's Forces*.

Reports of such Discourses were, to me, Grounds of Suspicion of some form'd Cabal, that might even compel Mr. *Wentworth* to act under their Direction ; though I do not pretend to point out who it was compos'd of. But I think, a principal Officer, throwing out Surmises that have been verified, must know something of the Matter : And as it may be judg'd necessary to be enquir'd into, I thought it my Duty to mention this to your Grace, as what may probably serve as a Key to such an Enquiry.

As to your Grace's compassionate Concern for our sick Men, I most heartily sympathize with you ; and have already pursued your charitable Directions in the Affair, by having had Persons constantly employed in clearing our Ways up the several Branches of the
River

River that my Ships water at; which we find to have three Mouths, and in the Islands formed by those Branches, have found Supplies for them, from the great Number of Cabbage-Trees they produce, and the several Groves of wild Oranges, which prove a most seasonable Relief in our present reigning Distemper of the *Scurvy*. And we get them likewise a Supply of fresh Fish; to which I have added a new Regulation, of supplying Rice, in lieu of all Species of Salt Provisions, to those who have the *Scurvy*; to endeavour at attaining to an Alteration in the Juices, by a total Disuse of Salt Provisions, while they are so affected. And we have, besides, erected Huts, for conveniently lodging them ashore, and their having the Smell of the Earth, and Opportunity of walking, by which they have many of them reaped great Benefit. I am perswaded, a Neglect of the Sick, or not giving them all the Relief in my Power, will never be laid to my Charge. I am,

My Lord Duke,

*Boyne, in Cumberland
Harbour, &c. Nov.
3, 1741.*

Your Grace's most

Devoted, and most

Obedient, Humble Servant,

E. V.

A Letter from Mr. *Wentworth* coming to my Hands as I am closing my Packets, I cannot omit adding a Paragraph of it, as a Postscript to my Letter to your Grace.

“ If the Sickness increases two or three Days
“ more, so much as it has for a few Days past, we
“ must necessarily come on board the Transports, as
“ we shall not have People to defend our Cannon.
“ I will write to you more particularly on that head
“ to-morrow.”

General *Wentworth's* Dispatches come now under Cover with mine.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Have this Morning receiv'd your Letter of the 3d, with the inclosed which I now return you; and am heartily concern'd for the Account you give me, of the encreasing Sickness amongst your Troops. But as you mention it to be chiefly Agues, I imagine that may proceed from the sudden Change of Air, on the Norths coming in; and believe that will not prove a fatal Distemper to them, though it may disable them from Service for the present.

The late Heats we have had, probably have put them into a Way of lying as cool as they could at Night, which must now be carefully avoided, and Care taken for their lying warm in the Night, as a Guard against the cool Air of the Norths.

The Directions you have given for supplying Mr. *Lewis* with Blacks, are fully sufficient, in my Apprehension, for answering all Services he mentions in his Letter; as none are properer to assist in rowing of Boats, and they are as handy as any for over-hauling his Ordnance Stores.

As to your Weakness in the Camp; for Persons to do Duty there, I will readily spare you, from our Capital Ships, all the *Americans* or Marines that we have fit for Duty, if you desire it.

But those Ships that are for Service in cruizing on the Sea, or preparing for Relief, are so weak, they cannot be spared from them: Nor could we venture at it from our Capital Ships, but that we are near enough to you, to have a Supply upon any Emergency. Our Capital Ships (which I am going to post anew for the Defence of this Harbour) are but four; the two we have our Flags flying in, and the two seventy-gun Ships. And you know, the Security of the whole depends on our being in Condition to defend the Harbour:

For

For which Purpose I have erected a good Battery for twelve Pieces of Cannon on the Point, and propose setting about erecting another upon Capt. *Mayne's* Island, and to lay my four Ships in a Line a little to windward of those two Batteries; which will be a pretty good Line of Fire.

And as you know, besides these Works, I have the Protection of the River I water my Ships at, and cutting Timber there for Platforms, on my Hands; and very weakly-mann'd Ships besides, and my Men sickly too as your Troops are; there are no Seamen can be spared from our Ships, which are upon the advanced Guard for the Security of the whole.

For by a Schooner brought in Yesterday, that failed from the *Havanna* five and twenty Days past, it appears, that Don *Rodrigo de Torres* was then at the *Havanna*, with his powerful Squadron, all fitted and ready for the Sea.

And you know, Sir, the Situation of both *French* and *Spaniards* in *Europe*; and that they had powerful Squadrons ready for the Sea, that they may detach this Way. And whenever they come, though met by my Cruizers, I can have but very short Notice of them before they arrive; so that it is necessary for the Security of your Army, as well as of his Majesty's Ships, that I should be kept in Condition, on my advanced Guard, to protect the whole.

And when I have said this, I am perswaded you will be thoroughly convinced, I have offered all in my Power for your maintaining yourself in your Camp; which I look upon to be of the utmost Importance to his Majesty's Service; and it might defeat the Success of the expected Succours, if it should be abandon'd. I am,

S I R,

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Have the Favour of yours of the 5th; which it gave me much Pleasure to receive, on finding you determined in your Opinion, for not quitting your present Post while you have Men to maintain it; and that you had hopes, as the Distempers your Men were seized with were principally Agues, that many of them will recover; which Bedding, and otherwise contriving to have them lye warm in the Nights, will, I believe, greatly contribute to.

And as, on Advice of a War with *France*, it might be necessary to re-embark speedily, for making them a Visit as soon as possible; I submit it to you, whether it might not be proper for Mr. *L—s* to be re-imbarking some of his heavy Cannon, as that probably cannot be wanted for the Defence of the Camp; and indeed I never could well conceive why he landed it at all.

Captain *Rentone* tells me, he has been to wait on you, as you desired, for shewing you the Road for coming to the Bay where he rides, from the Camp; which, he says, might easily be made a very good Road, with a few Negroes.

You may remember, Sir, I mention'd to you one Incident that might make it necessary for the speedy embarking a Part of the Troops from thence, to assist on board the Ships in the Defence of this Harbour; which was, the Enemy's suddenly pushing into this Harbour. For they would then lye, in Action with us, between the River your Transports ride in, and us, and consequently, cut off all Communication that Way; which would make it necessary to ship the Men off (for assisting us) from that Bay; from whence they would come safely to us.

The *Chester* I shall send for *Jamaica* on *Monday*; so you will be pleas'd to send your Letters in time to go by her: And Captain *Long* will have Orders to take under his Convoy all the discharged Transports that shall be then ready to sail with him; And what cannot get ready to sail with him, shall be put under the Care of the next Ship I have occasion to send that Way.

I send you inclos'd a Copy of the Intelligence Lieutenant *Lowther* has pick'd up from the Master of the Schooner, lately taken coming from the *Havanna*; by which you will see there is good Reason for me to keep myself as strong as I can here, with regard to other Services injoin'd me.

I took the Liberty, Sir, at our late Council of War, to suggest to you my Opinion, that in your present Condition, you are not to think of sending away either Officers or Men yet, for the Service of Recruiting; and I cannot but repeat to you, Sir, my Advice, for your suspending it, at least, till the Arrival of the Succours, or the next Advices from *England*; which I think most for his Majesty's Service. And I will answer for it, they will get to *England* near as soon, if not sooner, than by your sending them away in the Transports now; as I shall keep one of the best unsheath'd Ships, for going directly with them.

As to the Memorial to you from the Wine-Sutler, I do not look upon him to be within my Promise of Protection to those that come with Supplies of Provisions; as that is such, that the Men's Healths would be better preserv'd without it: Particularly, his four Cargo, which has occasioned his lying here so long, is not fit to be drunk. And I hope you will believe me, Sir, that if there had been any Reason on his Side, I should have hearkened to it.

I was

I was concern'd to hear of Mr. *Blakeney's* being out of order; and heartily wish for his speedy Recovery, and for your Continuance in good Health, which it has pleas'd God so wonderfully to bless us both with. I am,

S I R,

*Boyne, in Cumberland
Harbour, &c.
Nov. 6, 1741.*

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

UPON the Receipt of your Letter, with the inclosed Resolutions of your Council of War, and Opinion of your Surgeons, and the Letters from Mr. *Wallace* relative thereto, sent me by Mr. *Wallace* by your order;

I could not but think it of Consequence to his Majesty's Service, immediately to advise with Sir *Chaloner Ogle* upon them.

And we cannot but express ourselves under a hearty Concern, for your finding yourselves under a Necessity of leaving the advantageous Post you are incamp'd in; as we fear, on Resolutions coming to be taken for returning to it again, it may cost some Men's Lives to regain it.

You, Sir, I find, think, that according to the Advices I sent you, it may not be improbable, that Don *Rodrigo de Torres* may think of moving this Way; and that we ought to be putting ourselves in a Condition to receive him; which is what we always had in View, and we are now new-posting our Ships for that purpose. For which Services, and the many others we have (upon these Advices from you) to be making Provision in, it is impossible for us to be sparing any of our few Long-

boats to be upon Service in the Re-imbarking your Cannon and Baggage : And we are clearly of Opinion, you can have no Occasion for them, as the Longboats, and other Boats from your Transports, are more than sufficient for that Purpose. And that you may not want their Service, we cannot but absolutely advise, that no Transports should come out of the River 'till your Cannon and Baggage is all re-embark'd; which may be done, (under the Direction of a prudent Officer, and with the Assistance of the Blacks to Man the Boats of those that are weakly-handed) in a very short Time.

And for the Distribution of your well Men on board our Ships, to assist in the Defence of them, we cannot but heartily agree with you in the Necessity there may be for it; but think that Disposition can be more properly made at a Leisure Time for it, when the Transports have brought them all out into the Bay.

So must beg Leave to repeat our former Opinion given you, that after the Re-embarkation of your Cannon and Baggage, it would be proper for all your well Men to be reserv'd for your Rear-Guard, and to march together in a Body directly on board such Transports as are reserv'd for them; which will be but the Work of a few Hours. And we believe you will agree with us, the well Men must necessarily be reserv'd for such Service, for the Security of the whole.

If you think the Assistance of one of our Officers may be necessary to you, for the prudent Direction of the whole, we shall be ready to send you one, on your desiring it. But in such Case, we hope he will have a full Authority from you over all the Officers of the Train, and others necessary to be

be employ'd in it ; or else, their Cavils may disappoint the whole.

We thank you for the Directions you have given to the Transports, for receiving our Lumber, to clear our Ships for Service. As the *Chester* must sail to-morrow, for carrying the necessary Orders to be sent to *Jamaica* for strengthening ourselves all we can, we hope what Letters you may have for *Jamaica* will be down by to-morrow Noon. We are,

S I R,

Boyne, Cumberland
Harbour, &c.
Nov. 8, 1741.

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servants,

E. VERNON,
C. OGLE.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

THIS Morning having brought in here Capt. *Perez*, in a large Canoe, with a *Spanish* Flag of Truce, from *St. Jago* ; (which Captain *Perez* was, some Time since, sent from hence by Capt. *Mostyn*, with your Approbation, and at the Governor of *St. Jago's* Request, in Part of the Exchange for the sixty-four *English* Prisoners he had releas'd :)

We thought it proper, immediately to dispatch Capt. *Rentone* to you, who was the Translator of the said Letter, with a Copy of his Translation of it.

And as one seeming Part of the said Letter, is for procuring Wine for his own Table, we have judg'd, that (with your Approbation) the best Way of answering to that would be, to send him a Pipe of Wine for a Present, for the Use of his own Table ; and to desire him, that he would permit their Hunters to bring us in some Beeves, for the
Use

Use of our Tables ; which we shall honourably pay them for to their Satisfaction ; and shall be proud to pleasure him with another Pipe of Wine, whenever he will favour us with letting us know it would be agreeable to him : And to avoid saying any Thing to that Part of his Letter, where he desir'd a Passport for the *French Colonies*.

But in regard to Exchange of Prisoners, to let him know, we have an equal Regard to all who are our Royal Master's Subjects ; and shall willingly accept those taken by his Excellency Don *Rodrigo de Torres* in his Passage here, in the Exchange ; and that when they will send us their Numbers, and name a Place for the Exchange, we shall be ready to facilitate it all in our Power.

We are glad to hear you find your Officers sufficiently experienc'd for directing the shipping off your Cannon ; and the Orders are given, as you desir'd, for preventing any of the Transports coming out of the River, till all your Cannon and Baggage are re-embark'd ; and the very stopping the Transports, mention'd in Mr. *Wallace's* Letter to have been discharg'd, is, of itself, a larger Supply of Boats, than we have for all the various Uses we have to apply them upon. We are,

S I R,

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servants,
E. VERNON,
C. OGLE.

Cumberland, in Cumberland Harbour (formerly call'd Walsbename) on the South Side of Cuba, Nov. 10, 1741.

P. S. We shall be glad to know your Sentiments by the Return of Captain *Rentone*.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Receiv'd yours of the 10th last Night by Lieut. *Williams*; and but just before had an Account from our Agent, Mr. *Maynard*, of fifty sick Men being sent on board the *St. Elizabeth*, one of the Transports you had allotted us for bringing our Provisions from *Jamaica*, which we have not yet been able to clear. So that these Men are come to a Ship without any Provisions on board, and lying the farthest distant from the Camp; tho' I had requested the Favour of you (for giving the Dispatch you desire) that you would be pleas'd to put all your Men, for the present, on board the many empty Transports you have in the River, to be brought out into this Harbour in them: Where they can be afterwards, at Leisure, shifted into the *Dorsetshire*, *Margaret*, and *St. Elizabeth*, that are riding here; two with the Provisions for our Ships, and the *Dorsetshire* with all the *Spanish* Prisoners, which I have collected there, on the Petition of all the Masters of the Transports and Storeships, to enable them to sail their Ships when you have embark'd your Forces: And they are there at their joint Request and Mr. *Wallace's*. And therefore, for God's Sake, let me desire you to prevent your Officers from committing such Irregularities, and acting so inconsiderately, as to throw all Things into Confusion, and to occasion unnecessary Delays, by sending Men such a Distance off to Ships not yet ready to receive them, when they have such a Number of Ships at hand, that would greatly facilitate Dispatch.

I have put two of our Longboats (tho' we can ill spare them, and, I am satisfied, under prudent Management you could not want them) under the Orders of Capt. *Rentone*, that he may give the necessary

cessary Directions with them for getting off your Cannon; and he will readily give you his Advice in any Thing you desire, being a prudent and experienc'd Officer.

I fear Part of this Confusion and Delay is owing to your M——r L——s: For by my Observations, and my Accounts of his Proceedings, I am satisfi'd, that if his Majesty had lock'd him up in the Tower, the Service had been better carried on, and there had been much less Waste and Loss of Stores.

I have strengthen'd the Flotilla by a Detachment of Soldiers, and shall take care to get our Provisions out of your two Transports as fast as I can. I am,

S I R,

Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,

Boyne, Cumberland
Harbour, &c.
Nov. 11, 1741.

E. V.

To Capt. FORREST, of the Alderney Bomb.
By, &c.

FOR the better securing the Re-embarkation of the Forces from the Camp;

You are hereby required and directed, to receive on board his Majesty's Bomb-Vessel the *Alderney* (under your Command) from the *Kent*, a Lieutenant; two Serjeants, two Corporals, a Drummer, and twenty-four private Men, belonging to Colonel *Gooch's* Regiment, and bear them for Victuals only while they continue on board. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland* Harbour (formerly call'd *Walthenam*) on the South Side of *Cuba*, this 10th of *November*, 1741.

E. V.

To

To Captain RENTONE, of the Rippon.

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed, to take the Command of the Flotilla upon you, for covering the Transports, and preventing all Surprizes in the River. And I have likewise order'd the *Boyne's* Longboat, and the *Cumberland's*, with an eight-oar'd Boat, and a Lieutenant to each, to be attendant on your Orders, for the safe and speedy Re-embarkation of the Cannon, since the General is determin'd to leave his Camp. You are likewise to give General *Wentworth* your best Advice and Assistance, in every Thing where he shall desire it of you.

These Boats are to be employ'd under your Direction only, I having sufficiently experienc'd how improper M——r L——s is, to give Orders in any Thing regularly: And, by your Judgement and Experience, you will supply all you find further necessary for his Majesty's Service. For, &c.

Given under my Hand, on board his Majesty's Ship the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland* Harbour, *Cuba*, this 11th of *November*, 1741.

E. V.

To Captain CHAMBERS, of the Montague.

By, &c.

WHEREAS it appear'd by the View you took with me Yesterday (in our going up the River *Boyne* as high as the Stone Quarries, and afterwards taking the Tour by Land from the Hills above the Stone Quarries, down into the great *Salina*, and then to the River, by our Saw-Pit;)

That as the Redoubt we have built for the Defence of the Watering, is upon an Island, made by the River's branching out into two different Chan-

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nels

nels besides that our Boats Water at (which makes not only that Land the Redoubt is built upon, an Island, but two more Islands are formed above it :) And as the Enemy have no Canoes, or Craft of any kind, on that River, I think there is little Apprehension that they can come to attack it on the Island Side; and by what we could observe, I do not see they can have any Access to it but by the Way cut by us to the *Salina*, which is none of the best: I do not see but we may continue watering our Ships safely there as long as shall be found convenient, notwithstanding the Army's having judg'd it absolutely necessary for them to reembark from their Camp on the River *Augusta*, by reason of the encreasing Sickness amongst them.

You are, therefore, hereby required and directed, to take upon you the Command of all the Ships and Vessels in the upper Harbour, for the better guarding and protecting our watering the Fleet and Transports at the said River. And you will take Care to enlarge your Garrison in the said Redoubt, to as many as can be conveniently lodged in the said Redoubt; and if you can have Provision made within it for lodging twenty Soldiers, besides a Gunner's Mate and seven Seamen, for the Management of the Pattereroes mounted there, it would be well to have a Lieutenant of Soldiers posted to command in the Redoubt. But if, by reason of the Straitness of it, there be no proper Accommodation for a Commission Officer there, then a Lieutenant of Soldiers and ten Men may lye at hand, on board the Sloop at the Mouth of the River, for his being carried up by the large Canoe, to throw himself into the Redoubt, and take the Command, on the first Alarm.

And you will, with all convenient speed, be cutting a Way from the Back of the Fort, to the nearest
nearest

nearest commodious Place for a Landing in the Bay without the River's Mouth, for your sending Succours to them that way from the Ships, upon the first Alarm being made of an Enemy's Appearance.

You will continue a Guard-Boat, with an Officer to command and regulate every Thing, daily at the Watering Place; and order that no Boats come to water in the River but in the Day Time, and none be permitted to go above the Guard-Boat, but such little Dories, as, by your Allowance, may go for the more convenient procuring Cabbage, or Oranges, for our sick Men: And the Officer commanding the Guard-Boat, is to see all Boats out of the River by Night.

For as no Enemy can well cross the River in the Night without Boats, and as they have none of their own, you must be careful we do not assist them with any; and my Master, who commands on board the Sloop at the River's Mouth, has my Orders to be assisting to you with his Men, in cutting the Way to the Harbour on the Back of the Fort.

And all who have occasion for cutting Wood for their Firing, must be appointed to cut it only on the Fort Side of the River. And you will permit no Persons to go on the other Side of the River, that they may not be in the Way of being surprized.

And when the Transports Boats may come to Water there, all Boats are to be ordered to bring some Arms with them, for their Defence; and no one to be permitted to ramble from them; that all possible Dispatch may be given to what they come about (watering their Ships.) And you will, from your own Experience and Observation, add such further Orders and Provisions as you shall judge necessary for the main End, of protecting

and securing our safe watering our Ships from the River *Boyne*. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Harbour*, *Cuba*, this 13th of *November*, 1741.

E. V.

To Captain *RENTONE*, of the *Rippon*.
By, &c.

HAVING put the Flotilla under your Command, I desire, when any of the Transports have taken on board their Troops, and what else they are to receive, and the General has no further Occasion to detain them for the Use of their Boats; that you will send the necessary Orders to Captain *Pellat*, to let them pass into the Bay. And I would have you acquaint the General with these Orders that I have sent you. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Harbour*, &c. this 13th of *November*, 1741.

E. V.

MEMORANDUM. Be pleased to let the General know, that the *Henrietta* and *St. Elizabeth* Transports are quite cleared of our Provisions.

E. V.

To Mr. *DE LA MOTTE*, Master of his Majesty's Ship the *Boyne*, now Commanding Officer on board the Sloop Tender at the Watering Place.

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed, to obey all such Orders as you shall receive from Capt. *Chambers* of the *Montague*, to whose Care I have committed the securing our safe watering our Ships on the River *Boyne*.

And

And besides the Communication you have cut, for landing Men to succour the Redoubt from the Bay, in case of any Enemies appearing to molest us; you will cut another Communication from the Redoubt, to some convenient Place a little within the Entrance of the River, for the speedier succouring it from the Tender Sloop you are posted in.

And in sending your Dory up the River, for cutting Cabbage or procuring Oranges for our sick Men, order them not to frequent that Side of the River next the *Salina*, but to procure them in the Islands lying above the Island the Redoubt is on, if they can.

And you will moor your Sloop as near as you can to the Mouth of the River, for the greater Security of maintaining our Watering. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Har-*
bout, Cuba, this 15th of *November*, 1741.

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Have this Afternoon receiv'd your's of this Day's Date, with a hearty Concern for the encreasing Sickness you complain of amongst your Forces. And for the sending all such as you judge may require being sent, to your Hospital at *Port Royal*, for their Recovery, I will take Care a Convoy shall be ready to proceed with the Transports, with the sick Men, on any Day you shall desire; and I think, the sooner the better, as they cannot want much Water to carry them to *Jamaica*.

And I presume you will, at the same Time, send the two hundred and forty-four Officers and Men, mention'd to be design'd to be sent home for the Service of Recruiting; and I have prepar'd Orders
for

for Captain *Trevor*, to distribute all the Subalterns and private Men of that Number into the three sixty-gun Ships going home, for their speedier Arrival there, and enabling you to ease the Crown of the great Burthen of more Transports than are necessary, and for the better Defence of his Majesty's Ships, who go home very weakly-handed.

I believe, Sir, you may remember, it was your own Proposal, to have strengthen'd his Majesty's Ships here with five hundred Men from the Forces under your Command, and to have let all the Transports go for *Jamaica*; but the next Time you mention'd it, you thought they would not amount to three hundred and fifty. Whatever they are, I cannot but freely give you my Opinion, That would be the best Disposition of all your Forces in Condition for Duty, for his Majesty's Service; and to dispatch the Transports away with all the rest, under such Orders to Mr. *Guise* as you think proper.

And my Reasons for it are, that your well Men would put the Squadron of his Majesty's Ships in the best Condition we could, for going to meet the Reinforcement said to be in their Way hither, and for being in a Readiness to act with them, agreeable to such Instructions as his Majesty shall send out by them. You have already experienc'd, that Delay is the Ruin of all *West-India* Expeditions: Whereas, by meeting them on the South Side of *Hispaniola*, we shall be ready to enter upon immediate Action against the *French*, if a War should break out with them; or may move off directly for *Carthagena*, if his Majesty's Orders should direct us thither, as has been rumour'd.

And if these Troops, as is to be presum'd, should be order'd under your Command, who are a principal Person of the Council to direct their Proceedings;

ceedings; how fatal would it be to his Majesty's Service, to have you absent! I cannot, therefore, but absolutely give my Opinion against your going to *Jamaica*, as of the most fatal Consequence to his Majesty's Service.

If you desire a Council of War (agreeable to his Majesty's Instructions) of the four principal Officers; maturely to deliberate on this Point, I will call one on any Day you desire it. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour
(formerly call'd *Walthenam*)
on the South Side of *Cuba*,
Nov. 23, 1741.

Your most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Have receiv'd the Favour of your Letter of this Morning; and cannot but express my hearty Concern for the melancholy Account you give of the Sickness amongst your Forces. And I cannot but be the more uneasy, that you declare, you are quite disabled from giving his Majesty's Ships any manner of Assistance.

But I am sorry to be oblig'd to add; I am very far from agreeing with you, in the Necessity for your going to *Jamaica*; for I apprehend, your Directions for the Care of the Sick, may very well be executed by those you send your Orders to for it; as you have with you now the Director of your Hospital, and have Mr. *Guise* at *Jamaica*, to see all your Orders put in due Execution.

And tho' no Part of your present Army may be deem'd by you in Condition to stay, and act under your Orders; yet, as there is a fresh Army coming out, which, it is to be presum'd; will bring with them all proper Officers to command the Forces
under

under you, and a Supply of Ordnance Stores too; I cannot, from the Reasons mention'd in my Letter to you yesterday, but continue to be of Opinion, that it is most for his Majesty's Service you should continue with the Fleet, till we meet either the Forces, or other Orders from his Majesty. For the Reasons therein mention'd appear unanswerable to me, that for want of your Presence, who may be presum'd to be a principal Director in their Operations, the Opportunities of doing his Majesty the most effectual Services may be entirely frustrated. And if you think it, therefore, proper, to take the Opinion of the Council of War, whether you ought to go to *Jamaica*, or continue with the Fleet, with such of your Forces as are in Condition to act under your Orders; such a Council of the four principal Officers (agreeable to his Majesty's Instructions) shall be summon'd, whenever you desire.

But if you remain determin'd on going to *Jamaica*, I can only say, I am sorry for it, and cannot give any Countenance to it by an Order under my Hand: But, without that, Captain *Broderick*, who will command the Convoy, I am sure, will give you the best Accommodation he can.

And as we are so reduced ourselves, and at no Certainty what Force we may meet with, I can spare no Seamen to either Transports or Storeships, for going to *Jamaica*; who cannot want working Hands for carrying them thither, from the Soldiers on board, and the Blacks you have assist'd them with; besides near two hundred *Spanish* Prisoners, that I have supplied them with, even when their Assistance was much wanted for his Majesty's Ships going home.

But if you don't think you can spare us any Soldiers, I hope, at least, you will assist us with the

the three hundred Blacks that you have not wanted to distribute to the Transports and Storeships, who may be materially necessary to act with the Army expected: And I am the more inclin'd to desire it, as I have receiv'd an Intimation, that it will not be easy to procure the Return of any Blacks to the publick Service, after their once getting back to *Jamaica*.

Tho' his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle* says in his Letter, the Reinforcement is order'd for *Jamaica*; yet I am perswaded you will agree with me, that in case of a *French War*, or even Orders for the attacking *Carthagena*, it would be most for his Majesty's Service that we should meet the said Reinforcement on the South Side of *Hispaniola*, for entering upon immediate Action with them.

I am heartily concern'd for our different Sentiments: But I should think myself ill to deserve that Confidence his Majesty has placed in me, if I did not give my Opinion clearly, on this Occasion, of what I judge most for his Majesty's Service. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, &c. Nov. 24, 1741. Your most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

E. V.

P. S. I send you inclosed a Copy of a Letter from the Governor of *St. Jago*, which I receiv'd this Morning by Captain *Perez*.

E. V.

To his Grace the Duke of N * * * * *

My Lord Duke,

MY last Letter to your Grace was of the 3d of November, from *Cumberland Harbour*, by the *Superbe*, Captain *Hervey* (a Duplicate of which ac-

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companies this;) which I concluded with a Paragraph of a Letter I that Day receiv'd from General *Wentworth*, which might serve as a Prelude to what has since happen'd. Of which being somewhat apprehensive, I wrote him the Letter of the 4th (which your Grace has, inclosed, a Copy of;) and upon receiving from him the Resolutions of his Council of War of the 7th, I immediately took them into mature Consideration, with Sir *Chaloner Ogle*; and we wrote him a joint Letter of the 8th (both which your Grace has, inclosed, Copies of) that nothing might be wanting on our Parts, to prevent an Incident so contrary to the Resolutions of our late General Council of War.

On the 10th Captain *Perez* (mention'd in my former Letters) arriv'd here in a Canoe, with a Flag of Truce, and with a Letter to me from the Governor of St. *Jago* (which I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of, as likewise of the joint Letter to General *Wentworth*, from Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and me, of the same Day, inclosing the said Letter to him, and desiring his Opinion on it.) And on the 11th I dispatch'd Captain *Perez* back, with my Answer to the Governor of St. *Jago* (that I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of;) chusing rather to make him a Present, than open a Correspondence for him with our Neighbours, which, I apprehend, was in great Part his View. And I send your Grace likewise, inclosed, a Copy of such Intelligence as Mr. *Rogers* procur'd from the *Spaniards* that came with the Flag of Truce, Mr. *Rogers* (whom I have made a Purser) having formerly resided at St. *Jago*.

Finding Mr. *Wentworth* determin'd to move, I went the next Morning early as high up the River *Boyne*, as my People as yet had been able to clear their Way, which might be about three Leagues; and then

then ascending the Hills by the Stone Quarries, I took a Tour round by Land, for forming the best Disposition I could for securing our watering our Ships at the River *Boyne*, notwithstanding the Army's having judg'd it necessary to abandon their Camp on the River *Augusta* : And I send your Grace inclosed a Plan of my Disposition, in a Copy of the Orders given to Captain *Chambers*, whom I took to accompany me in that View. I had before sent a Reinforcement to strengthen the Flotilla, for securing their Retreat; and sent Captain *Rentone* up to command the Flotilla, for their more regular and orderly Proceeding.

All the Cannon, Baggage, Provisions, and sick Men, being embark'd, on *Monday* the 16th in the Morning we discern'd the Hutts of the Camp to be on Fire, Mr. *Wentworth* having that Morning march'd down with his remaining well Men, and embark'd himself that Night on board his Majesty's Ship the *Grafton*; Capt. *Rentone* remaining with the Flotilla under his Command, for taking Care of the orderly getting out of the Transports from the River into the Harbour; which, by the Assistance of the Captains of my Flotilla, and Mr. *Wallace* the Agent for the Transports (an active diligent Officer) was effected gradually by *Friday* the 20th; all being then got out but my Flotilla under Captain *Rentone*, which remain'd to close the Rear, neither Army nor Transports having had a single Shot fired at them by any one : And on *Saturday* the 21st the Flotilla came out into the Harbour without any Interruption.

I am in daily Expectation of hearing again from your Grace. But the governing Maxims of the Council of General Officers, against Forces marching into a woody Country (which some have extended even so far, as to say, that *Woods should be*

clear'd for the March of an Army, even beyond Musket Shot of them) cuts off all Hopes of succeeding in an Expedition in these Countries; which cannot but give me great Uneasiness. For unless other Maxims are establish'd, there is no Prospect of Success in any Land Expeditions in the *Spanish* Territories, which, under such Maxims, must be deem'd only burthensome and unnecessary.

Had the great *Julius Cæsar* ever harbour'd such Maxims for his Government, I am perswaded he had never conquer'd *Britain*. Or had the great Duke of *Marlborough*, the renown'd General of our Age, entertain'd any such Maxims, he never could have march'd the Confederate Army into *Germany*, and preserv'd the Empire, or have fought the glorious Battle of *Malplaquet*. Which makes me hope, if these Forces do come, it will be under the Conduct of Officers that will govern themselves by Maxims suited to a Country in the State of Nature; or that the Resolution for sending them will have been alter'd: For under these Maxims, they are not only unserviceable themselves, but a Clog to the Proceedings of a Fleet.

The *Tilbury*, in her Cruize, having taken a *Spanish* Schooner that came from the *Havanna* about the 12th of *October*, the Master of her reports, that Don *Rodrigo de Torres* was then there with thirteen Sail of Men of War, eleven of them of the Line of Battle; and that they had in each Ship between six and seven hundred Men, all ready for the Sea, expecting Orders every Day.

The next Things in Course to inform your Grace of, are two Letters from General *Wentworth* to me, on the 23d and 24th of *November*, with my Answers to them of the same Dates; which containing the Reasons of our different Sentiments, must be humbly submitted to the Judgement of
our

our Royal Master; and come here inclosed to your Grace, together with a Copy of Mr. *Wentworth's* Letter desiring a Council of War.

On the 24th I receiv'd by Capt. *Perez*, with a Flag of Truce, a Letter of the 2d of *December*, N. S. from the Governor of St. *Jago* (which comes likewise inclosed;) and with it he sent me twelve horn'd Cattle and six Hogs; the former of which I have distributed for the Relief of our sick Men. And I shall return him a Horn-maker, a *Spanish* Friar, that the *Tilbury* took in a large Canoe, coming from *Leogane* for *Baraccoa*, with some Trifles in her; and I shall remind him of his Promise, of releasing Captain *Wyllis* as soon as he can be at Liberty to do it.

On the 25th in the Morning we met at a Council of War. But as we entirely (as Sea and Land Officers) differ'd in our Sentiments of what is most for his Majesty's Service; and they would not admit of a casting Vote in the Opinion of the Senior General Officer, no Resolutions could be form'd. So I can only send your Grace a Copy of the Minutes of our Proceedings, attested by my Secretary; and acquaint you, that they determin'd to return to *Jamaica*, and we to proceed to meet the Reinforcement, after seeing the Transports dispatch'd under proper Convoys.

And as both the General's Reasons and mine are summ'd up in our inclosed Letters of the 23d and 24th, I can only add my hearty Concern for their being so widely different. But at parting, I told him, if I met the Succours, in case of a *French* War, I should exhort the Commanding Officer to join with us, in embracing the most favourable Opportunity for doing Honour to the Crown, and Service to our Country: And if my Advice had any Weight with him, we would not slip the most favourable

favourable Opportunity that could be hoped for, as I should not fear our Royal Master's Censure, for a Measure that appeared to me so much for his Honour and Service, though not within the Letter of our Instructions:

As I am forced to write in a hurry, for my Letters going by some of the unsheath'd Ships from *Port Royal*, I have only to add, that nine of them are under my Orders for proceeding with all possible Expedition to *England*; and that the *Augusta* and *Bristol* (the only remaining two, that are now out a cruizing) shall, at the Expiration of their respective Cruizes, meet my Orders at *Jamaica* for refitting, to go home with all possible Expedition. So that I doubt not but the latest will get home within the Time ordered, for being ready to be fitted for Service in the Spring of the Year; and I pray God send them all safe home, and within the Time desired.

With my most ardent Wishes for a speedy hearing from your Grace at this critical Juncture, and in our crazy Condition (we having a general Sickness to lament, as well as the General;) I am,

Boyne, in Cumberland
Harbour (formerly
call'd *Walthenam*)
on the South Side of
Cuba, Nov. 26, 1741.

My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most
Devoted, and
Obedient; Humble Servant,

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

I Send in by Captain *Broderick*, as you desire, an Order to Captain *Trevor*, to supply you with the first Ship or Vessel of his Majesty's that is in readiness for the Sea, to bring you up to join us; Your Person, as a principal Counsellor to direct the Operations

Operations of his Majesty's Forces when they arrive, being what I apprehend to be the principal Point wanted : And the recovered Forces may be sent for, wherever it may be determin'd to go.

There being Blacks belonging to the Fleet as Seamen, if you would have me enquire after the seven Blacks you mention as wanting, you will be pleased to send me a List of their Names. I am,

S I R,

Boyne, in Cumberland Harbour, &c. Nov. 27. 1741.

Your most Obedient,

Humble-Servant,

E. V.

To Captain LONG, of the Chester.

By, &c.

WHEREAS it is of the utmost Importance to his Majesty's Service, to keep a watchful Eye on all the Motions of his Majesty's Enemies at this critical Juncture :

And whereas Captain *Allen*, in the *Seaborse*, is now under Orders of Cruizing between five and eight Leagues to the S. E. of *Point a Bacoe*, (for being in the Way of meeting the Reinforcements that are mention'd to have been coming here, as well as for intercepting any of the Enemy's Trade coming that Way, or for getting the earliest Advices of the Motions of any of their Squadrons; and likewise with Letters from me, to be delivered to the Commanding Officers both of the Squadron and Land Forces; which it is of the utmost Consequence to his Majesty's Service should not pass by us :) Which Service he is under Orders of continuing upon till the 15th Day of *December* next :

That you may be at hand before that Time, to succeed him in Cruizing upon the aforementioned Service,

Service, and likewise for meeting any Orders that may be coming by Express to me, for their speedier coming to my Hands :

You are hereby required and directed, to make the best of your Way for *Tiberoon* Bay, where you may compleat your Watering with greatest Expedition, to be at hand for proceeding to cruize in the aforefaid Station, for the Service afore-mention'd, before the Expiration of his Term. And on your meeting with the *Seaborse*, you will give her Captain Orders for proceeding to *Tiberoon* Bay, to recruit his Watering; and then to Cruize off there, for joining me and giving me all the Intelligence he may have met with.

And the Face of Affairs being changed since my writing the Letters to the Commanding Officers both of the Squadron and Land Forces, you will now acquaint them, it is both my Desire and Orders to them, that they should not proceed to Leeward of Cape *Tiberoon*, but give me Time to come and join them there; being fully perswaded, that our Junction there is of the utmost Importance to his Majesty's Service. And you will give them a Copy of this Clause from your Orders, signed by you, together with the return'd Letters, that I had wrote to meet them by Captain *Lea*; and press the Commanding Officer of the Land Forces by no means to proceed further, but to give me the Opportunity of joining him there.

All *Spanish* Ships and Vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost Endeavours to take, sink, burn or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthoriz'd Attempts of the Subjects of any Nation, to cover and protect the Ships, Persons, or Effects, of his Majesty's Enemies the *Spaniards*, you are in no Sort to permit the same, but to seize the said *Spaniards* Ships, Persons,

Persons, or Effects, wherever you shall find the same on the Seas; as you will all Ships and Vessels you shall meet with, going to supply his Majesty's Enemies with contraband Stores.

But on meeting with any of the *Guarda-Costas* of his most Christian Majesty, you are carefully to preserve with them that good Correspondence that ought to subsist between the Officers in the Service of Princes in Amity with each other.

And as you will be cruising in the Way of the *French Trade*, you will use all friendly Offices towards them, and direct your Officers not to harrass or rummage any such *French Ships* or Vessels, as give no just Cause of Suspicion, of their being going with Contraband Stores to any of the *Spanish Ports*.

And you are to continue on this Service 'till the 31st Day of *December* next, or your sooner being join'd by me, or receiving other Orders by some of my Cruizers: At the Expiration of which Term, you are to return to *Port Royal*, for my further Orders, if you shall not receive them sooner. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Harbour, Cuba*, this 28th of *November*, 1741.

E. V.

To his Grace the Duke of N * * * * *

My Lord Duke,

MY last Letter to your Grace was of the 26th of *November*, from this Place.

The next Day General *Wentworth* went away himself, with the second Detachment of Transports, leaving those that were most helpless for me to detach after him; and I dispatch'd away a third Detachment, under Convoy of the Bomb-

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Ketch

Ketch and one of my Fireships, on the 28th: But there were two, the most distress'd, that were oblig'd to be reserv'd to go with the *Tilbury*, which I shall detach to Sea with them to-morrow, as I could not get her ready sooner, she returning pretty much shatter'd in her Rigging, from a Cruize. There go with her two Fireships, too sickly to keep the Sea with me, and an empty Victualler, loaded with all the Timber and Plank that I had cut here, to have serv'd for the Platforms of the Battery I had erected for the Defence of this Harbour: And likewise the *St. Jean Baptist*, that has the Remainder of the Quicksilver from *Ferrol*, she being sent in here by one of my Cruizers on the 27th, agreeable to what I had mention'd to your Grace, that I was in Hopes some of my Cruizers would meet with her.

I have since discover'd all her conceal'd *Spanish* Papers, they being let down, in two tarr'd Canvas Bags, between the Timbers in the Midships of the Ship. But as I am in a continual Hurry at present, and think these Papers will come more authentically before the Court of Admiralty for not being open'd here, I send them as they are, directing the Commanding Officer to be present at the opening them, to take Care of all State Papers (if there should be any of them, besides those relating to the clandestine Proceedings, of conveying the King of *Spain's* Quicksilver for him under the Cover of false Colours;) and if they are material for his Majesty's Service, I have order'd them to be immediately forwarded to me.

This happy Success will prove no small Disappointment to his Catholick Majesty. For if (together with our having taken the *François* and the *St. Jean Baptist*) *La Reine des Anges* should have been shipwreck'd, as is probable from what I mention'd

mention'd in my former; then they have lost the whole three thousand nine hundred Quintals of Quicksilver: Which is a Loss to his Catholick Majesty of the same Weight of Virgin Silver; as they oblige their Subjects in the *Indies* to take it from his Majesty at that Price. This makes it one of the best Branches of the King of *Spain's* Revenue; and it is Death for any one but himself to deal in it, to lay them under the Necessity of paying him the Price he sets upon it.

And I hear the great Expences they have been put to, to subsist the Number of People drawn together at *St. Jago*, has forced them upon the wretched Expedient (put in Practice by King *James* in *Ireland*) of coining a Copper Money, which they have issued for Dollars and Ryals, and oblig'd a Currency of them, under Promise that the Vice Roy of *Mexico* is to make them good to those who have taken them.

I shall dispatch in one of my Hospital Ships with the worst of our own sick Men and the two remaining Victuallers, on the 4th; and with them I shall be oblig'd to send in a clean twenty-gun Ship (the *Experiment*) that is likewise too sickly to keep the Sea with me.

And then, after setting Fire to my Fascine Battery, I will endeavour to put to Sea on the 5th, with my Brother Admiral's eight Ships of the Line, one Fireship, and one Hospital Ship, in the best Condition we can put them into; and shall proceed to cruize to the Southward of *Hispaniola* (for meeting the Reinforcement, or the next Orders from our Royal Master, or Letters from your Grace) with the sincerest Inclinations for doing all in our Power, for the Honour of the Crown, and Service of our Country.

I hope this will arrive in Time to accompany my Letters by Captain *Knowles*, with the sixty-gun Ships; for, according to Capt. *Davers's* Letters, he should be now at Sea with the three seventy-gun Ships. I am,

Boyne, in *Cumberland*

Harbour (formerly call'd *Walthenam*) on the South Side of *Cuba*, Dec. 1,

1741.

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's most

Devoted, and

Obedient, Humble Servant,

E. V.

To his Grace the Duke of N * * * * *

My Lord Duke,

MY last to your Grace were, one of the 26th of *November*, by the *Shoreham*, and one of the 1st of *December*, from *Cumberland Harbour*, sent to *Jamaica* (to go home by Captain *Knowles*, with three of the sixty-gun Ships) by the *Tilbury*, with the last of the Transports, that sail'd the 2d of *December*. And on the 4th I dispatch'd for *Jamaica* one of my Hospital Ships with the worst of our sick Men, and the remaining Victuallers, with the *Experiment*, which was too sickly to keep the Sea with us.

On the 5th I detach'd the *Tyger*, Capt. *Herbert*, to shew himself first off *St. Jago*, in order to continue them under the Apprehension of having Ships cruizing off their Port; and then, after ranging the North Side of *Jamaica*, to see that Coast is not infested by any of the Enemy's Privateers, to go to *Blewfields* to compleat his Watering, and then proceed to supply the *Defiance's* late Station, of cruizing between the *Grand Camainos* and *Cape Corientes*.

And having reserved a *French* Gentleman, taken in the *Spanish* Schooner from the *Havanna*, for the better Pretence of sending to spy what the Mar-ques

quefs *de Larnage* has been doing at *Leogane* and *Petit Guave* (as he has often done by me;) I detach'd the *Ludlow Castle* with him for *Leogane* on the 5th, fending a Letter by Captain *Stevens* to the Marquess *de Larnage*, to be delivered him at the same Time he presented that Gentleman to him: And your Grace has, inclosed, a Copy of my Letter to the Marquess *de Larnage*, and of the Narrative from the Journal that I sent him therewith.

On the 6th I put to Sea myself from *Cumberland*, with our remaining Squadron (of eight Ships of the Line, a Fireship, an Hospiral Ship, and two small Sloop Tenders) in the best Condition I could put them into, having an hundred Men upon the sick List in my own Ship; but I am in hopes we shall be on the mending hand in that particular, by the Sea Air.

Three Days before my sailing from *Cumberland* Harbour, by a Sloop with Provisions from *New-York*, I had a Letter from Governor *Clark*; who was pleas'd to send me an old *Spanish* Pilot, who he hop'd might be of Service to us. And finding he was one of the King's Pilots at the *Havanna*, and a very old Man (above Seventy) I had his Examination taken, in regard to the Forces they had at the *Havanna*, and their Preparations for the Defence of it; which, I believe, is a pretty genuine one; and I have sent your Grace a Copy of it inclosed.

On the 8th I was join'd at Sea by the *York* from *Jamaica*, near Cape *Dona Maria* on *Hispaniola*: But he brought me no News from thence, only that he sail'd a Day before Captain *Dawers* was to sail with the three unsheath'd seventy-gun Ships; which gives me the Hopes of meeting with him, and sending the Duplicates of my last Letters, and my present Letter, to your Grace by him.

On the 9th, by a Sloop from *Jamaica*, I receiv'd a Letter of the 2d Instant, from Captain *Dennison* of the *Augusta* (wrote off *Port Morant*, in his Way to *Port Royal* Harbour) to acquaint me, that very bad Weather and increasing Leaks had obliged him to leave his Station: And he will meet at *Port Royal*, my Orders for refitting to go home with all possible Expedition; but having much Work, and few Hands to do it, there cannot be that Dispatch I could wish for.

I was in hopes of meeting Captain *Dauvers*, and the three seventy-gun Ships, before now; or to have heard they were pass'd by. And I leave my Letters on board the Hospital Ship, for her cruizing to meet him off *Cape Dona Maria*, and putting them on board of him; as that will prove the speediest Opportunity for their coming to your Grace's Hands.

I have detach'd Captain *Rentone*, in the *Rippon*, to supply the Station off *Rio La Hacha*; and shall now ply up further to windward, for lying in the fair Way of the Reinforcements said to be coming, or meeting the freshest Advices from your Grace for my future Government; which I very much long for at this critical Conjunction: And as I have some of my Cruizers up to windward of me, I hope they cannot pass by us. I am,

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's most

Devoted, and Obedient,

Humble Servant,

E. V.

Boyne, at Sea, off Cape Ti-
beroon, Dec. 10, 1741.

To Captain ALLEN, of the *Seahorse*.

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed, with his Majesty's Ship the *Seahorse* under your Command, to make the best of your Way for compleating your Watering in *Tiberoon Bay*.

And whereas I am expecting the *Sheerness*, Capt. *Ward*, to come to join me there very speedily, and am under an Uncertainty, whether one of the Transports with Stores for the Fleet, may not come with him: In case the Transport with Stores comes up with him, you will put her under the Care and Protection of Captain *Cotes* in the *York* (whom I left riding at anchor in *Irish Bay*;) and acquaint him, it is my Order, he should take her under his Care and Protection there, or in *Tiberoon Bay*, till my Return to my appointed Rendezvous. And you will give Orders to Captain *Ward* of the *Sheerness*, to be plying up to windward, to look out carefully for me, between the said Rendezvous and Cape *Ala Vela*; which he is to do the 25th Instant: But not meeting me before that Time, he is to come to look out for me in my said general Rendezvous. A Copy of which, and my Line of Battle, you will have ready to deliver him, upon your meeting with him.

And on Captain *Stevens*, in the *Ludlow Castle*, coming to the said Rendezvous, you will acquaint him, it is my Order, he should put into *Tiberoon* or *Irish Bay*, as he can most commodiously and safely; and to compleat his Water there, and continue under the Orders of Captain *Cotes* till my Return. But if he has procured any material Intelligence, he is to send we the Account by you; who are to make the best of your Way to windward, for looking out for me, to deliver it, as is directed above for the *Sheerness*.

And

And Captain *Douglafs* in the *Princess Royal* Hospital Ship, on his Return from the present Service, is to compleat his Water, and to put himself under the Orders of Captain *Cotes*.

And you are to give to Captain *Cotes* (or send, if you are not anchored in the same Bay with him) a Copy of these my Orders, signed by you as a true Copy ; which he is hereby required to govern himself by, till my Return to my said Rendezvous.

And when you are watered, you are to put to Sea, and cruize in the said Rendezvous for my Return, and the Information of all coming to it. But on Captain *Cotes's* meeting any Intelligence that he judges proper to be immediately communicated to me, you will follow his Orders, and make the best of your Way for finding me out. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, at Sea, off *Point à Bacoë*, the 15th of *December*, 1741.

E. V.

To Captain *LONG*, of the *Chester*.

By, &c.

WHEREAS it may be of great Importance to his Majesty's Service, that neither the Reinforcements said to be coming from *England*, nor any Orders coming for me, should pass by me unobserved ;

You are hereby required and directed, to make the best of your Way as high up as *Cape Alta Vela*, as the Current seems favourable for it ; and to cruize to the Southward of that, under the former Orders you have from me, to the 10th Day of *January* next. At the Expiration of which Time, you will look out for me, or Orders by some of my Cruizers, at the general Rendezvous appointed you ; and not meeting with any, make the best
of

of your Way for *Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica*, for receiving my further Orders. For, &c.

Given on board the *Boyne*, at Sea, off the Isle of *Ash*, the 15th of *December*, 1741.

E. V.

To General WENTWORTH,

S I R,

I Have receiv'd yours of the 25th of *December*, with one inclosed without Date, sign'd by you, Mr. *Guise*, and Mr. *Trelawney*, with your Opinions for holding a General Council of War as soon as we could, upon the Receipt of his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle's* Letters.

Capt. *Ward* deliver'd me these Letters on *Sunday* Morning the 3d Instant, as Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I were in our Way to *Jamaica* for holding the said General Council of War; after having first made a strong Detachment for going to cruize off *Cape Alta Vela*, for the Security of the Transports, that I found were coming out with so weak a Convoy as two fifty-gun Ships and a forty-gun Ship with four Bomb-Ketches. I know the *French* have nothing as yet in these Parts to annoy them; but God knows what may be at *Martinique*.

As we are all agreed in the Expediency of holding a General Council of War as soon as may be, Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I will be in *Spanish Town* on the 7th Instant in the Evening, for meeting you and Mr. *Guise* at Mr. *Trelawney's* on the 8th Instant, by nine o'Clock in the Morning. And we shall take up our Quarters at Friends Houses, that Mr. *Trelawney* may have Accommodations for you and Mr. *Guise*.

I will take care to have Captain *Lea* and Lieut. *Lowther* to attend the Council of War, for being

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examin'd;

examined; and desire you will give Orders for Mr. *David Campbell's* Attendance on the Council, and any one else you think proper, for giving Information on the several Projects that have been transmitted to you; and I have wrote to Mr. *Trelawney*, to have Mr. *Hodgson* to attend us.

And as I conceive the drawing up our Reasons, for or against any Thing propos'd, must necessarily draw our Proceedings into a great Length, I shall decline any longer acting as Secretary; but think it absolutely necessary we should have a Secretary to attend us, to take Minutes, and draw up our Proceedings and Resolutions in Form: And as they should be kept a Secret, I cannot think of any one so proper for it as Mr. Attorney General, who is a sworn Officer to keep secret the Councils of the Crown; and I have desir'd Mr. *Trelawney* to request that Favour of him.

I was exceedingly surpriz'd, upon reading Capt. *Trevor's* Letter, that you had prevail'd on him to give Orders, for the sick Soldiers of the *American* Regiment being receiv'd into the Hospital for our Seamen at *Port Royal*: An Order, I conceive, that neither he nor I can justify, it bringing such a Charge on the Navy, and which he may be liable to have charg'd upon his Wages.

Whereas, Sir, you well know, you have an establish'd Hospital for your Army, and much more numerous Officers and Surgeons appointed for the Care of it than we have, tho' we have a greater Number of Men to be taken Care of; and you have likewise the strictest Orders, for the *American* Regiment to be regarded in every Respect as the other Forces your Army is compos'd of, and have the large Town of *Kingston* to provide Quarters for them all in: Whereas we are so straiten'd in *Port Royal*, as not to be able to procure

cure sufficient Lodgment for our sick Seamen. And as this is so inconsistent with what his Grace has recommended to us (an amicable Union in all Things) I must beg the Favour, Sir, you will give immediate Orders for the sick *American* Soldiers, lent us to man our Ships, being receiv'd into the Army Hospital (agreeable to his Majesty's Orders) whenever they have Occasion for it; and that you will, by Captain *Trevor*, let me know where such as have immediate Occasion for it, may be now sent accordingly, from our Ships come in with us, and coming in.

I will do all in my Power, punctually to comply with his Majesty's Instructions; and hope you will give immediate Orders for removing this Stumbling Block, that I may leave the necessary Orders behind me in that Particular, before my going for *Spanish Town*.

I congratulate you on your late Recovery from your Fever; and, with my best Wishes for your Health, I am,

S I R,

Your most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

E. V.

*Boyne, in Port Royal
Harbour, Jamaica,
Jan. 5, 1741.*

A P P E N D I X

SATURDAY, July 2, 1733
This Morning about half an Hour past
Nine we set out from the Camp on
the Right Hand of the River (namely
in Charles County formerly in Stafford County)
and about four Miles we came to the
Left Hand of the River (in Stafford County)
and marched about two Miles further and came
to a Hill where we found a small Cabin
and look about us. We found no
not been seen before. We found
Eleven Hours on the Hill of the
and found on the Hill about two
hundred and fifty Acres of good
land of which we took possession of one of
our Company for the purpose of our
A few more steps we took to our
and then we went to the Right
Hand of the River. In rolling
the River down a high Bank over-lying us
down the side of the Bank we saw a Hill
marked the same as the one we
we saw on the Hill of the
there there were several
I wish to see the strong
to the Right Hand of the River

A P P E N D I X.

An Account of our March from the Camp at the Upper Barkadier on Augusta River, to the Village of Etteguava, and back to the Camp.

SATURDAY, July 25, 1741.

THIS Morning about half an Hour past Nine, we set out from the Camp, on the Right Hand Side of the River *Augusta*, in *Cumberland Harbour* (formerly call'd *Walthenam*;) and about four Miles up, we cross'd over to the Left Hand of the River (it being then near Noon) and march'd about two Miles farther, and came to a Hutt, where we stopp'd to refresh the Men, and look about us. We found the *Spaniards* had not been long gone, for in the Fire we found Plantains not half roasted; we likewise catch'd eleven Horses, one live Hog, and some jerk'd Pork; and found in the Wood near the Hutt about two hundred small Shot for Fuzees, and about ten Pound of Gunpowder, and the Sails of one of our Longboats that the *Spaniards* had destroy'd. About Four in the Afternoon we set out again, and soon cross'd the River again to the Right Hand, at a Place they call *Hog Hole*. In crossing the River, there was a high Bank over-against us. On the Top of the Bank we saw a Hutt, and march'd directly up to it; but before we could get up, a *Spaniard* fired a Musket and ran away. Here there were several Paths, and we had the ill Luck to take the wrong, which carried us, too far to the Northward. Night coming on, we got up-
on

on a small Hill, and staid there 'till the next Morning.

SUNDAY, July 26, 1741.

This Morning at Day Light we set out again in order to find the River and right Path, and about Nine o'Clock we came to the River, and cross'd over to the Left Hand Side of it, and came to another Hutt, where we found the other Longboat's Sails, and the right Road. We staid here about an Hour, and then set out again; the Pilot was ask'd if he knew where he was; he answer'd, he did, and told them, before we reach'd the *Savanna* we should come to a Ruinat, (which we did.) The Path here is very good, leading by the River Side till you come to a Rivulet about two Steps over, and then you go into the Woods again, and then you have a plain smooth Road 'till you come to the *Savanna*. The Pilot told us, that just entering into the *Savanna*, was a likely Place for an Ambush (which we found coming back.) We march'd about four Miles over the *Savanna*, and came to the House, and took Possession of it about Half an Hour past Three in the Afternoon; this House and *Savanna* belong to Don *Pedro Guarro*, and are called *Guantanamo*. The Pilot shew'd another House about two Miles and a half from *Guantanamo*, over a fine *Savanna*, which is call'd *Cano Vaco*, belonging to *Marcos Paries*, the River running between the Houses; here Major *Dunston* order'd fifty Soldiers, we with the rest of the Forces staying at the first House. Here is plenty of Cattle, Horses, some Sheep and Fowls, and Water very near the House.

MONDAY, July 27, 1741.

This Morning about Eleven o'Clock, an Officer with a Guard of eight Men was sent with Letters to the General; by the same Officer I wrote to the Admiral.

miral. The Guard had not been long gone before News was brought from *Cano Vaco*, that they had taken two *Spaniards*, one very Old, the other a young Man, who was going to his Captain *Don Pedro Guarro*, who had a Company of fifty Men. He likewise told us, that Captain *Marcos Paries* had another Company of twenty-five Men, guarding this Part of the Country. We continued at the first House.

TUESDAY, July 28, 1741.

This Morning we set out for the Village of *Etteguava*, leaving fifty Soldiers to take Care of the House, and called at the other House called *Cano Vaco*, and took fifty Men that were there with us, which made us about a hundred and fifty Shot. We march'd over a pretty steep Hill and an ugly stony Road, and about Four o'Clock in the Afternoon we enter'd the Village without any Resistance. About two Miles before we came to the Village, we met with a Lime-Kiln, and, a little Way from that, with two Hog Crawls, with some Hogs in them. The Village stands on a high Bank, the River running half Way round it; it consists of a few Hutts, and a Church about forty-five Foot long and eighteen broad. Here we saw a *Spaniard* in a Corn Piece; he was pursued, dropp'd his Musket, and got away; the Musket was one of our Ship's Arms. This Place is about N.W. from the Mouth of the Harbour, distant ten Leagues. In the Evenings and Mornings it is fair Weather, in the Middle of the Day we never missed of Rain with Thunder and Lightning. Here is plenty of every Thing but Bread Kind, the Plantains not being ripe.

WEDNESDAY, July 29, 1741.

This Afternoon we took a Negro Man with three Lances and a Musket, who had run away from

from his Master's Hutt with four more Negroes; they knowing our People were about. He is a poor silly Fellow, like a new Negro. We continued in this Village.

THURSDAY, July 30, 1741.

This Morning about Ten o'Clock an Officer was sent to *Guantanamo* with a Guard of four Men, with Letters to be forwarded to the General, and one of mine to the Admiral. About Six o'Clock in the Afternoon, we took another Negro Man, who lives at *St. Jago*, a free Man. He had two Hog-Spears and a Mascheet, just come from Hunting. He came through the *Savanna* called *Sta. Catalina*, and finding no Body there, was going directly to *St. Jago*. He seems to be a sensible Fellow, but pretends not to know of any Parties of *Spaniards* being about. We sent a Party out this Morning to look about them; they found, about one Mile and a half, some more Hutts, Hogs, and Fowls. There are several Hutts about this Place.

FRIDAY, July 31, 1741.

Weather as before; we sent our Men out to get Bread Kind; very little to be found.

SATURDAY, August 1, 1741.

This Morning about Eleven o'Clock Lieutenant *Freeman* arrived here from *Cano Vaco*, with ten Soldiers, a Serjeant and Corporal, and twenty-four Baggage and Shot Negroes; and gives an Account of Lieutenant *Withers* and one Negro Man being shot, and six Negroes more missing, they meeting with an Ambush at the Corner of a Wood between the two Houses called *Cano Vaco* and *Guantanamo*. He likewise brought a Letter from Colonel *Cockran*, (then at *Guantanamo*) to Major *Dunston*, to return

to him with all Expedition. About half an Hour past Two o'Clock in the Afternoon we set out from the Village (*Etteguava*) and about Ten at Night we got into *Cano Vaco*; (it was so dark in the Wood that two Negroes were forced to go on their Hands and Knees to find the Road;) here we laid all Night.

SUNDAY, *August 2, 1741.*

This Morning about Eight o'Clock we set out from *Cano Vaco*, and got to *Guantanamo* about half an Hour past Nine, where we found Colonel *Cockran* with two hundred Soldiers (as I was informed.) I applied myself to him, as being the Commanding Officer; he told me he expected to hear from the General this Evening or the next Morning, and then he believed he should go down, and that I might go with him; and that he had forwarded a Letter I wrote to the Admiral from the Village. About half an Hour past Six in the Afternoon, Lieutenant-Colonel *Whitford* arrived from the Camp with fifty Soldiers, thirty-two Shot Negroes, and seventy-six Baggage Negroes, with Provisions (Bread and Brandy) for four hundred Men; our Men were ordered a Quarter of a Pint of Brandy, and one Pound of Bread each. Here we staid all Night.

MONDAY, *August 3, 1741.*

This Day nothing remarkable, but tried to pen Cattle and Horses. Continued at this Place all Night. Our Men had short Allowance of Bread, and a Quarter of a Pint of Brandy. The Colonel asked me if our Men had got their Provisions for to-morrow, for he should go by Day-break; I told him, I was afraid, if they had their Brandy they would drink it to-night; he then said they should have it in the Morning.

TUESDAY, August 4, 1741.

This Morning about Six o'Clock, we set out from *Guantanamo*, in order to march to the Camp; and about nine o'Clock, just as we were enter'd the Wood from the *Savanna*, we were ambush'd by the *Spaniards*. They let the Soldiers pass, and most of our Men. There was a Soldier easing himself behind us; the *Spaniards* fired first at him, and shot him in the Breast, and ran to him and cut him thro' the Jaw-Bone, and one Side of his Neck; another cut thro' the Flesh of his Thigh into the Bone; and another on his Side. Our Men directly turn'd to the *Spaniards*, and kill'd that Man and two more. As soon as they found that, they ran away through the Woods. They wounded one of our Men in both his Arms; one, after he was brought on board, was cut off close to his Shoulder; the Soldier lived about half an Hour. We brought him on a Horse about three Miles, and buried him at a Hutt where we staid and dined. After Dinner we set out again, and about four o'Clock we arriv'd in the Camp. We met the General a little Way out of the Camp, who desir'd me to go to his Tent, and said that he should return soon, and that he had two Letters from the Admiral to me; I went to his Tent and staid 'till the General return'd, and receiv'd the two Letters, and then took Boat and waited on the Admiral.

T. STURTON.

The

The following are Translations of three Letters from the Governor of St. Jago de Cuba, to Capt. Peter Guerra, dated the 30th and 31st of July, and the 2d of August, 1741, N. S.

To Captain PETER GUERRA.

THE Bearer *Balthazar* arriv'd here at Eleven, with an Account of seventeen Ships having anchor'd in the Bay, and of eight being off the Mouth of the Bay, and of two Sloops being got into the River. And as it is natural to think they are come to take Possession thereof, it is absolutely necessary you interrupt them, as much as is in your Power, from proceeding higher up; and if they should offer to land, you must dispute their advancing at every Pass, taking care to have proper Men to observe their Motions; of which you are to send me immediate Notice, that I may send you sufficient Succours. You are to take Possession of all the Passes with small Numbers of Men, and lie in Ambush, that in case they should come up the River, they may return like Mad Men, and not dare to land.

I have order'd all the Men to be assembled together, excepting those that are necessary for making Cassave and Curing Beef for them that are in *Junicon*.

To attack this Place, they have no other Part but that Bay to come to an Anchor at. Therefore it's necessary that you and your People should maintain yourselves in Sight of the Bay, that if they should offer to land you may afford them good Diversion; which is what I expect from your good Conduct and Knowledge of the Place. If you want any Powder, send a Party of Horse, and a Person you can confide in, that they may carry it, and Firelocks, if you should want any.

Cuba, July 30. 1741, N. S.

CAXIGAL,

To Captain PETER GUERRA.

I Have receiv'd your two Letters, by which I find there are in that Bay and the Entrance thereof sixty Sail, and observe by them what you have done, and of their having chased your Boats twice in the River; and expect from your Zeal and Love to the Royal Service, that you will not only impede whatever they may design, but that by your Care, with that of your People, you will observe their Operations by Day and by Night, and endeavour to learn if they have rais'd any Fortifications, giving me Notice of every Thing; and don't lose an Instant of Time.

We have eight Sail in Sight off this Harbour. By *Ambrozio Lopez* I have sent you twenty good Muskets, two Arroves [fifty Pound] of Powder, three hundred Balls, and thirty Flints.

I expect that you will not only hinder them from burning your *Hato* [a Pen of Cattle,] but even from putting a Foot on Shore; and take care to observe if they fortify themselves or not.

Cuba, July 31, 1741; N. S.

CAXICAL.

To Captain PETER GUERRA.

WITH a great deal of Pleasure I receiv'd your two Letters of yesterday, in which you tell me you have beat away the Enemy, burnt two of their Boats, taken an Ensign, with some Arms and Baggage, and kill'd and wounded a great many of them: For which I give you and your People a thousand Thanks, expecting from your Valour, Zeal, and Love to the King, that you will hinder them from watering, and destroy every one that offers to put his Foot on Shore; or to see them oblig'd to leave the Glory to you alone, of having drove them ingloriously away from this Bay. And if, for your enjoying this Pleasure, you should

should have Occasion for more Arms, Men, and Ammunition, advise me of it, that, altho' I go myself in Person, you may be assisted.

You have already receiv'd by *Ambrozio Lopez* two Arroves [fifty Pound] of Powder, three hundred Balls, and thirty Flints; and if they are not sufficient, I will send you what Quantity you please.

I have wrote to Father *Napoles* to provide you with Rum and Provisions, that you may have sufficient of every Thing; and take Care, for I confide entirely in you and your People.

If any *Englisman* should happen to come over to you, give him good Quarters, and send him to me, that I may get some Intelligence from him. For I am perswaded that they intend to fortify themselves at that Port; of which you are to endeavour to get some Account by all manner of Means, sending Persons that know the Place to the very Bay, that they may see and observe whether they land on the little Island, or elsewhere; if they raise any Earth, and of every Thing they do, give me Advice. And to the Person by whom you send such Advice, give your Passport, that he may get Horses all the Way, for the greater Dispatch.

Let all your People know, that if any of them shall plunder, or take any Thing from the *English*, all that he shall so pillage shall belong to him, let it be what Quantity it will.

Cuba, August 2, 1741, N. S.

I live so satisfied of Your's and your People's Zeal, that they will be a Terror to the Enemy; and with such favourable Beginnings, I hope they will leave *Cuba* with more broken Heads than they did *Cartaxena*.

CAXICAL.

To

To Admiral VERNON.

Honoured S I R,

THE Bearer of this is Don Miguel Perez, an Inhabitant of St. Jago de Cuba, whom I beg Leave to recommend to your Protection. As he is a Person practised in the Sea, he is able to give a particular Account of the Place of his Nativity; and I believe what he says may be depended upon. I am,

Honoured S I R,

Kingston in Jamaica,

Your most Obedient,

July 18, 1741.

Humble Servant,

J. A. ORD.

DECLARATION of Don Miguel Perez.

HE is a Creol of St. Jago, has been many Years Master of a Vessel out there, trading to different Parts of the Spanish Main; has a Wife and Children in the said City; and was taken Prisoner by an English Privateer, off Zamba on the Coast of Cartaxena, about the 12th of September last, and carried into Jamaica, where he remained about ten Months.

About eleven Years ago he had occasion to go to Barracoa, in order to recover some Debts; and set out from St. Jago about Five in the Morning, and got to Guaninicu (a Sugar Plantation belonging to Padre Joseph Mustilier) before Noon, travelling quite at his Ease and Leisure; and believes it to be about four Leagues distance. From thence, next Morning he set forward, and got to Xagua (another Sugar Work, belonging to Don Diego Mustilier) before Noon; where he rested that Night. From thence, next Morning he went for Savanilla, where is a large Pen of Hogs belonging to Don Joseph Losada, and arrived there the same Night. From thence,

thence, next Morning (being the fourth Day) he set out for *Sta. Catalina* (a large Cattle-Pen belonging to the Family of the *Cavalleros*) and arrived there in the Evening : These two last Stages he lay by from Nine in the Morning till about Three in the Afternoon, hanging up his Hammock under the Shade of the Trees, to avoid the Heat of the Sun. From *Sta. Catalina* towards *Barracoa*, is a Place called *Tiguabos* (distant about six Leagues, to the best of his Judgment) where there is a Church, and many Houses scattered to and fro, inhabited by *Mulattoes* and ordinary People ; and he knows of no other Place in the whole Road which can be called a Village. He has always heard that the said *Tiguabos*, is reckon'd twenty-five Leagues from the City of *St. Jago*, and a tolerable good Road the whole Way ; in some Places broader and more open than in others, but in all so broad that Horses and Mules loaded can very well pass ; which is the only Carriage in the Country, except within about two Leagues of the City, where they drive with Wains and Oxen. There are wild Horses, Cattle, and Hogs, in plenty, the major Part of the Way, and Rivers and Rivulets in abundance, with many other Pens, &c. scattered here and there near the Highway.

He knows nothing of the Road from hence to *St. Jago* by Experience, but believes it must be much nearer to go by the Way of *Guantanamo* ; which is a Cattle-Pen, belonging to *Don Pedro Guerra*, from which Cattle-Pen this Bay, or Harbour, takes its Name ; and, he believes, may be distant from it about seven Leagues.

As to the Declaration of General *Wentworth*, he has read it, and allows it to be open and generous ; but before the Inhabitants can be supposed to give into it, they will necessarily expect to peruse the
Terms ;

Terms; but the Consequence of that he cannot answer for, and desires to be excused giving his Opinion: But, at the same Time, says, that he has a Wife and Children, Father, Brother, and Sisters, in the said City; should they accept of the Terms, how is it possible for him to part from them?

And I Don *Miguel Perez*, being entirely satisfied as to the Interpretation of the said Declaration, twice read to me by Mr. *William Rogers*, do affirm the same to be just and true, according to the best of my Judgment.

Dated on board his Majesty's Ship the *Boyne*, in *Guantanamo* Harbour, this 11th Day of *August*, 1741.

Witness,

Polycarpus Taylor,
W. Rogers.

MIGUEL PEREZ.

N. B. That Lieutenant *Lowther* (who resided long with the *Spaniards*, has travelled much in their Country, and been employed in cutting Roads for them) says, their computed Leagues are not two *English* measured Miles.

DECLARATION of Manuel Joseph de la Cruz,
a Free-born Negro of St. Jago de la Cuba.

THAT he is perfectly well acquainted with the Road from St. *Jago* to *Tiguabos*, which leads in the following Manner, *viz.*

From St. *Jago* to the *Cuava*, a Sugar Work belonging to Don *Francisco Rubalcava*; from thence to *Guaninicu*, a Sugar Work belonging to Padre *Joseph Mustilier*; from thence to *Xagua*, a Sugar Work belonging to Don *Diego Mustilier*; from thence to *Agucate*, a Cattle and Hog Pen, belonging to Don *Joseph Palacios*; from thence to *Savannilla*, a Cattle and Hog Pen, belonging to Don *Joseph*

Josepb Lofada; from thence to *Marcarejas*, a Cattle and Hog Pen belonging to *Don Diego Mustilier*; from thence to *Tiguabos*, where is a little Church covered with Tiles, and about forty or fifty straggling thatch'd Houses, not in any regular order, but all in sight of each other; the Inhabitants thereof being free *Indians* and *Mulattoes*.


He cannot venture to say, how far distant any of the abovesaid Places are from each other; but is positive that it is accounted fifteen Leagues in the whole, and that he has travelled the same on Horseback in one Day and a Night.

He has often heard that there is a Cattle Pen, called *Sta. Catalina*, belonging to some Brothers, named *Cavalleros*; and another belonging to *Pedro Guerra*, called *Guantanamo*; but does not know exactly where they lye. He never heard of any House called *Cano Vaco*, belonging to *Marcos Paries*, or any thing like the Name; nor does he know, or ever heard of, any Place or Pen whatever called *Etteguava*.

So far as *Tiguabos* he knows very well, and no farther; and will undertake to lead the Way from thence to the said City of *St. Yago*. He farther saith, that there are wild Horses, Cattle and Hogs, great part of the Way, and several Rivers and Rivulets; the Road in some Places not so good as in others, but at all times, and every where, passable for loaded Mules and Horses; which is the only Carriage made use of above two Leagues distance from the City; within which Compass they frequently use Wheel Carriages with Oxen.

Dated on board his Majesty's Ship the *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Harbour*, this 12th of *August*, 1741.

Witness,
T. Watfon,
W. Rogers.

The Mark  of
Man. Joseph de la Cruz.

DECLARATION of Sebastian de Hicierdo, taken about five Months ago on the Coast of Cartaxena, in a small Ship from St. Jago loaded with Sugar and Tobacco.

HE is a Creol of the said St. Jago, and says he knows the Country and Roads perfectly well from hence thither ; that he went out with a Party of Men commanded by Colonel Cockran, to *Guantanamo*, a Cattle Pen belonging to *Pedro Guerra*, which is four Leagues (or four Hours) distance from the Camp : That when there, Colonel *Cockran* asked him many Questions ; as, how far from thence to St. Jago ? what sort of a Road ? whether there were Plantations or Houses in the Way, and Plenty of Water and Cattle ? to which he answer'd, from *Guantanamo* to St. Jago was reckon'd fifteen Leagues, the five first of which were but indifferent in the rainy Season, being wet and sloppy under Foot and not so open as the other Ten ; which is a good broad Road the whole Way, and wide enough for six Men to walk a-breast : That in the Way there were many Sugar Works, Cattle Pens, and Vegas of Tobacco, with plenty of Water, and wild as well as tame Cattle : That from *Guantanamo* they went about a League farther in order to view the Road, and upon their Return the Colonel told him, that he was very well satisfied with his Intelligence, and believed he had told him the Truth.

He has travelled from *Guantanamo* to St. Jago a-foot in a Couple of Days, walking leisurely along, and lying by the Afternoon and Night on the Road : But says, upon Occasion, he could reach St. *Ines* (a Sugar Work belonging to *Don Miguel de las Cuevas*, which is within a League of the Town) in one Day, and that he has rode it, on one Horse, in ten Hours.

The

The foregoing Declaration being interpreted, and distinctly read to me by Mr. *William Rogers*, I do affirm the same to be just and true.

Dated on board his Majesty's Ship *Boyne*, in *Cumberland Harbour*, this 1st of *September*, 1741.

Witness,

R. Swanton,
W. Rogers.

Sebastian de Hicierdo.

DECLARATION of Mr. Toler.

May it please your Honour,

HAVING but short Warning allowed me, when I represented to you the Situation of *St. Jago, Byam, &c.* with the Inclinations of the People, as they stand affected at this present Juncture; give me Leave to offer you this as a farther Account of both. The Towns in general are made up of a few rich Dons, who exercise their arbitrary Power over a Multitude of poor People, who having no Recourse to any open Laws to relieve them out of their unnatural and inhuman Behaviour towards them, has brought them to an idle and effeminate Course of Life, without any Hopes of Relief, except what may be now expected from the *English*, whom they have long hoped for, and now daily expect, not only the poorer Sort, but Numbers of higher Degrees of Life, which I have for a long Time conversed with on that Head. Your Honour, I believe, will not suppose that their not coming in to us before we shew ourselves resolved to protect them, is any Reason why they are not well inclined towards a Change; their Lives and Fortunes depending upon the bad or good Success of the Enterprize. That there is a great Number of People scattered throughout this large Island, is most certain, the major Part of which

is now at the *Havanna*; and I really believe that that Town contains about half the Inhabitants of the whole; but let any Man live among these People as long as I have, and he will readily see and know, how incapable they are of defending themselves against a well-trained and couragious People, as we for many Centuries past have proved ourselves to be: I say, for Men who are Strangers to Arms, and bred up as wild as the Hogs they devour (without any kind of Exercises to create man-like Dispositions) can never be supposed to stand the least Attack of an Enemy. I shall offer some small Account of the great Excellencies of this Island (as far as I know and have seen) which I believe will be enough to invite any Man to attempt the Conquest.

I was sent from St. *Jago* to *Byam* with sixty-three Prisoners, to be kept there at the cheapest rate; we lived upon half a Bitt a Day, and had Beef, Pork, and Bread to spare.

Thro' all the Country that I past, the *Savannas* were swarming with Cattle, and the Woods with Hogs, both tame and wild; the Land is good for Sugar Canes, which it produces, and Tobacco of the best Kind in great plenty; Wheat and Rice grow well, and all kind of Salleting and Pulse in the greatest Plenty that ever I saw, with Fruit of all Kinds that those *Indies* afford. The Woods are full of Mahogany, Fustick, *Spanish* Elm, and Cedar, and several other Kinds that I am not acquainted with; Cotton grows wild, besides what is planted. The Town of *Covery* has in it the richest Copper-Mine that is known, and they are daily at work upon it; it lies within three Leagues of St. *Jago*. The whole Island is full of fine Rivers, and Harbours fit for Transportation. This being all that came in my View, can say nothing of the great Tract of
Land

Land that leads to the *Havanna*, which I am told far exceeds what I have mentioned.

I return your Honour Thanks for the great Care you have taken in procuring me and my Fellow Prisoners our Deliverance out of the Hands of those brutish People, who by their filthy Behaviour to each other, as well as their barbarous Usage to Strangers, shew themselves ripe for Destruction. And I make no doubt of Success, if all concern'd use the same willing Means that you do; and what great or good Thing can be had without some Hazard or Pains? Had not your Honour sent for me, I should have offer'd myself to you upon this Occasion, with a hearty Will to serve either by Land or Water, as you shall think fit. I am

Witness,
T. Watson,
W. Rogers.

Your most humble Servant,

W. TOLER.

On board the *Boyne*, August 17, 1741.

Captain Allen, of the Seahorse, his Account of what pass'd at M. Larnage's Table at Hispaniola.

Saturday the 25th of July, 1741, being then in Company with Monsieur Marquis de Larnage, the French General of Hispaniola, he asked me where I left Admiral *Vernon* and Sir *Chaloner Ogle*; I told him off the *Navassa*, with about fifty or sixty Sail of Transports. He ask'd if I knew where they were design'd; I answer'd no, that it was kept a Secret. I believe, saith the Marquis de Larnage, the Admiral will go for *St. Jago de Cuba*, it being a Place that will always give you Gentlemen English Trouble, on Account of their Privateers: But for the Admiral's attacking it by Sea, saith the Marquis, I think it not possible, by Reason of the Narrowness

Narrowness at the Entrance of the Harbour, and the Winds that take your Ships aback in going in : But, said he, if it is to be taken, it must be by Land.

Seahorse, in Cumberland Harbour,
Cuba, Aug. 12, 1741.

E. ALLEN.

Mr. Mac Neill's Remarks on the Road betwixt the General's Camp and Guantanamo.

SOME Remarks of the Road betwixt the General's Camp and the other.

The Distance between both being, to the best of my Knowledge, about sixteen Miles; of which there is five Miles of a *Savanna*, which wants little or no Clearance. The rest of the Road in general is but narrow, but very level, and can be easily clear'd twenty Foot each Side of the said Road, with a little Trouble.

August 13, 1741.

A. MAC NEILL.

Lieutenant George Lowther's Declaration of the 14th of August, 1741.

IT is sixteen Miles from the Camp to *Peter Guerra's House*, call'd *Guantanamo*.

I judge a Road might be cut to *Guantanamo* twenty Foot wide in five Days by three hundred Negroes, I having had Slaves, and they always cut twelve Yards Square each Day, and had due Time to rest.

I believe if the Road were cut streight, it would shorten the Distance two Miles.

I never heard or knew that Colonel *Cockran* advanced in the Road from *Guantanamo* towards the Village with the little Church, where Lieutenant

Sturton

Sturton went with the first advanced Guard, above one Mile, and that was in an open *Savanna*, I then being with him.

August 14, 1741.

G. LOWTHER.

Report of Lieutenant George Lowther, and John Gibbins, Pilot.

S I R,

PURsuant to your Order, the 22d of *August* we weigh'd and sail'd from *Cumberland Harbour* in the Sloop *Triton*, and proceeded on our Voyage to the Westward, coasting along Shore, to see if there was any Place for a Ship to anchor in between this and the *Aquadores*; but could not find any Place fit to anchor our Sloop in.

About three Leagues to the Eastward of the *Aquadores*, there are three small Hills, call'd by the *Spaniards* the *Attaos*. Here *Alexander de Vilnaire*, a *Frenchman* we had on board by Order, said there was a good Bay with anchoring Ground; we stood close into the said Place, and sounded with our deep Sea Line, but could get no Ground with eighty Fathom; nor was there any Bay, but the whole Coast is an Iron-bound Shore, and steep too in all Parts.

From this Place we could see the Fortifications at the *Aquadores*, which we did intend to view in the Morning; but Night coming on with bad Weather and a great Sea from the South East; we made the best of our Way to *Cumberland Harbour*, according to our Orders.

Sign'd on board his Majesty's Ship the *Boyne*, this 30th of *August*, 1741.

Witness,
T. Watfon,
R. Swanton.

G. LOWTHER,
J. GIBBINS.

Bearings

Bearings and Distances, as they were found to be by John Frazer, Master of his Majesty's Ship Orford, Capt. Perry Mayne Commander, Sept. 18, 1741.

FROM Cape Mayze to Cumberland Harbour the Course is W. S. W. 1/2 W. distant 29 Leagues.

From Cumberland Harbour to St. Jago the Course is W. S. W. distant 11 Leagues.

per J. FRASER.

Mr. William Scott's Account of the Road, that he was brought by from Barracoa to St. Jago de Cuba.

ON Monday the 24th of May, 1742, I set out from Barracoa, guarded by two Soldiers, who were to conduct me to St. Jago. The Soldiers both march'd on Foot with their Muskets, but I had a Horse allowed me, being very weak from a late Sickness. Our Road lay chiefly over the Mountains 'till Thursday Evening, when we came to the Sea Shore on the South Side of the Island. We travell'd on by the Sea Side 'till Friday Afternoon, and then turn'd off to the Hills, over which we continued our Journey untill eight o'Clock on Sunday Morning; (by their bringing me by the Sea on the South Side of the Island, I conceive they did not bring me the direct Road to St. Jago.) In descending this last Hill, I saw the Opening of a very large Harbour, which the Soldiers said was *Guantanam* (and which we call'd *Cumberland Harbour*.) We travell'd the remaining Part of Sunday thro' large *Savannas*, well stock'd with Cattle and Sheep, and lodg'd that Night at a ruin'd Church that stood on a high Bank, near a River that surrounded about two thirds of the Village, which the Soldiers told me was the Village that the *English* had been at and destroy'd it.

On

On *Monday* Morning (being the next Day) we cross'd the River, which River the Soldiers told me emptied itself into *Guantanamo* (or *Cumberland Harbour*.) After crossing the River, we travell'd thro' Groves of Trees, where no Path appear'd; the Soldiers frequently notching the Trees with their *Mascheets*, which, they told me, was to know the Way by another Time; for, if I had not been with them, they said they could have gone a much nearer and better Road. Having travell'd about two Hours in this manner, we came to a Path between two Hills, where two Men could walk abreast of each other; which Road, I think, might very easily be open'd, the Trees near the Road being but small. About eleven of the Clock we came to the Bottom of a Hill, where the Path was narrower, and only fit for one to pass at a Time: But I think the Path might be made broader without any great Difficulty. About Noon we got to the Top of that Hill, where was a *Fascine Battery* of eight Guns (of six and four Pounders) which Battery they told me was erected while our Army lay encamp'd; which was likewise confirm'd to me, when I came to *St. Jago*, by Mr. *John Cray*, who said those Guns were brought in Carts from *St. Jago*.

We travell'd from the *Fascine Battery* thro' a Cart Road to *St. Jago*, each Side of the Way being full of Plantations. About four o'Clock we came to a small Town with a large Church in it; from whence we travell'd thro' a fine *Champion Country* to *St. Jago*, where we arriv'd on *Monday Evening*, at the *Governor's House*. And I judge our Distance from the *Fascine Battery* to the Town of *St. Jago* might be about eighteen *English Miles*, and believe the Distance from the Village to the *Fascine Battery*

tery might be about the same; and think it could not be more, the Soldiers that accompanied me in that Day's March having march'd it all on Foot, as they had the whole Journey from *Barracoa*.

On my being brought to the Governor's House, he sent me Prisoner to what they call the Castle; which is a Square Stone Building, the lower Part divided into Apartments for the Use of the Officers and Soldiers, which have arch'd Roofs, and a Platform over the Top of them, where there are eight Guns mounted, two on each Side of the Square; the chief Use of which, I was inform'd, was to Alarm the Country on the Approach of an Enemy.

After being sixteen Days in the Castle, I had the Liberty of walking about the Town; when I was inform'd that the Soldiers, who conducted me to *St. Jago*, were imprison'd for bringing me to the Fascine Battery. The Town of *St. Jago* is entirely open to the Country, without any manner of Fortification.

Having the Liberty of walking about the Town where I pleas'd, I met with one Monsieur *Abea*, Captain of a *French* Sloop, whom I formerly was acquainted with at *Jamaica*. Happening to talk of the Fortifications of the Harbour, he told me that Nature had fortified it as much as Art; for that whenever a Ship was coming, they had a Launch with a Cable in her, ready to carry on board of them as soon as they got to the *Moor* Castle; for then the Eddywind, that comes down the Gully between the *Moor* Castle and the *Estrella*, takes them aback, and would infallibly put them on the Western Shore, if they were not brought up by that Cable, which is fast to an Anchor on Shore in the Bight between the two Castles. Which

Which Account I found to be true, for Captain *Ashea* carried me on board of his Sloop when the *Carracca* Ships came in there, and I then observ'd that the second Ship did not offer to come in, 'till the first Ship had slipt the Cable, and sail'd up the Harbour.

The above-mention'd Remarks, made by me on the Road, and at St. *Jago*, are true to the best of my Knowledge.

Sworn at *Mincing-Lane*, in *London*, the 7th Day of *March*,
1742, before me

Robert Willimott, *Mayor*.

W. SCOTT.

Paragraph of a Letter from Dr. Hume, of Port Royal, Jamaica, dated Jan. 16, 1742.

I Will pray your Permission to relate an Affair that has happen'd here since you left us; and tho' Negroes are the Parties concern'd, yet as it makes so great an Impression on most People's Minds, and as the Story is told so naturally, without Art, and so like naked Truth, I hope you will excuse me for troubling you with it.

About three Weeks ago, six Negroes made their Escape from St. *Jago de Cuba* in a Canoe. They belong'd all to *Jamaica*, and had been taken in Turtles before you went to *Cumberland* Harbour. They were employ'd on the Works at St. *Jago* all the while our Army lay on the Island of *Cuba*. Two of them, who are free Negroes, and very sensible rational Men, are very particular in describing the Place and Fortifications. They affirm, that the Governor and principal Inhabitants were constantly in the utmost Dread, lest our Army should march over Land and attack them;

and so much were they perswaded of this, that the Governor and Grandees would not trust themselves to sleep in the Town or Forts, but went every Night into the Woods. When *Dunston*, who, you know, was Major of the Black Regiment, had march'd into the Woods with a hundred Negroes, the Governor and Town were in the utmost Consternation, believing he was so far in his Way to attack them; as he was then but six Hours March, and that no very bad Road, from the Town. The Fellows affirm, and most People here are now of Opinion, that if *Dunston* had had one hundred Soldiers to his Blacks, and had marched on, the Town as well as Forts would have fallen into his Hands. There are many other Particulars, which I forbear troubling you with, as Doctor *Fuller* told me he would send you the full Examination of the whole Affair. For my own Part, I give a most implicit Faith to the whole Relation, as the poor Negroes can have no Party Principles, nor any other Inducement to make them go from the Truth.

J. HUME.

*Extract of a Letter from Port Royal in Jamaica,
dated July 29, 1743*

ABOUT two Months ago Ten wounded *Spaniards* fell under my Care. As they were all Inhabitants of *St. Jago de Cuba*, I had the Curiosity to ask them many Questions relating to that Place. I had heard many of the Land Officers insist much on the Badness and great Length of the Road, between the *English* Camp and Town of *St. Jago*; for that Reason I was very particular on that head; but

but could hear nothing of the terrible Mountains and Bogs our Army used to talk of. I drew together, in the Form of the inclosed Affidavit, what my Patients had told me in many Conversations; and after they had perused it, asked them if they were willing to swear to it; to which they very readily consented. They are very sedate, sensible Men, and are particularly acquainted with the Road, having often travell'd it. They tell me their Countrymen are still at a Loss to guess, what it was that kept the *English* from marching on after they landed. They used to say merrily to one another, they believed the *English* were come to a Hunting Match in their Woods, and not with any hostile Design against the Inhabitants.

I doubt not, Sir, but you are sufficiently provided with Credentials of this kind: But as these People were under Arms the whole Time of the Expedition to *Cuba*, and as they are very intelligent Men, they must be supposed well acquainted with the State of the Place, and Sentiments of the Enemy. Their Account of the Road effectually demolishes the mighty Mountains and huge Rocks, the Lakes, the Marshes, and the thick Woods, which were given as Reasons for the Impossibility of our Army's March, and were the *Raw head and bloody Bones* of that Expedition.

Copy of a Deposition of Two Spaniards, Inhabitants of St. Jago de Cuba.

JAMAICA. ff.

Sebastian Fiallo,
Miguel Antonio de Flores. } Inhabitants of St. Jago,
of the Island of *Cuba*,

being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, say, they were in the aforesaid Town when the *English* Army was landed

on

on the Island of *Cuba*; and that they were under Arms during the whole Time of the *English* Encampment there. The Distance between *Cumberland* Harbour, and the Town of *St. Jago* by Land, these Deponents say, is computed to be about twenty Leagues; that the Road in dry Weather is very good, and easy to be travelled by Horse or Foot; and that it is neither mountainous nor swampy.

These Deponents further say, that when the News of the *English* Army's being landed, reached the Town of *St. Jago*, the Governor and Inhabitants were in the utmost Consternation, expecting to see them before their Town every Moment; especially as their Fortifications were in no Repair, nothing having been done to them from the Beginning of the War to that Time. And these Deponents further say, that the *Spaniards* had but little Ammunition of any Sort; so that it was the general Opinion, had the *English* march'd soon after their landing, the Town would have easily fallen into their Hands.

These Deponents further make Oath, That when a Party of the *English* was advanced as far as the Church of *St. Catherino*, the Inhabitants of *St. Jago* expected they were then so far in their Way to attack the Town; and as the Road they had to march was not worse than that they had already passed, the Deponents say, the *Spaniards* were surprized they had not advanced.

The Deponents further say, That they were under no Apprehensions from the Shipping, the Entrance into the Harbour being very narrow, and deep Water close to their Fortifications; besides, they had Vessels ready to sink in the Mouth of the Harbour, which would have made an Entrance into it altogether impossible.

These

These Deponents further say, That since the *English* Fleet and Army left the Island of *Cuba*, the Town of *St. Jago* has been reinforced both with Men and Ammunition; and that about four hundred Workmen have since been kept constantly employed in repairing their Fortifications. And further these Deponents say not.

Sworn before me, at Port Royal
in Jamaica, this 26th of July,
1743.

Sebastian Rodrigues Fiallo,
Miguel Antonio de Flores.

John Hume.

F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

PAGE 41. Line 27. for We having, read He having. p. 78.
l. 5. for by Letter, read my Letter. p. 158. l. 17. for
you are not to think, read you ought not to think. p. 183.
l. 28. for Admiral's eight Ships, read Admiral and eight Ships.
p. 187. l. 32. for send we, read send me. p. 199. l. 26. for
Junicon, read *Function*.

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U S I 2

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