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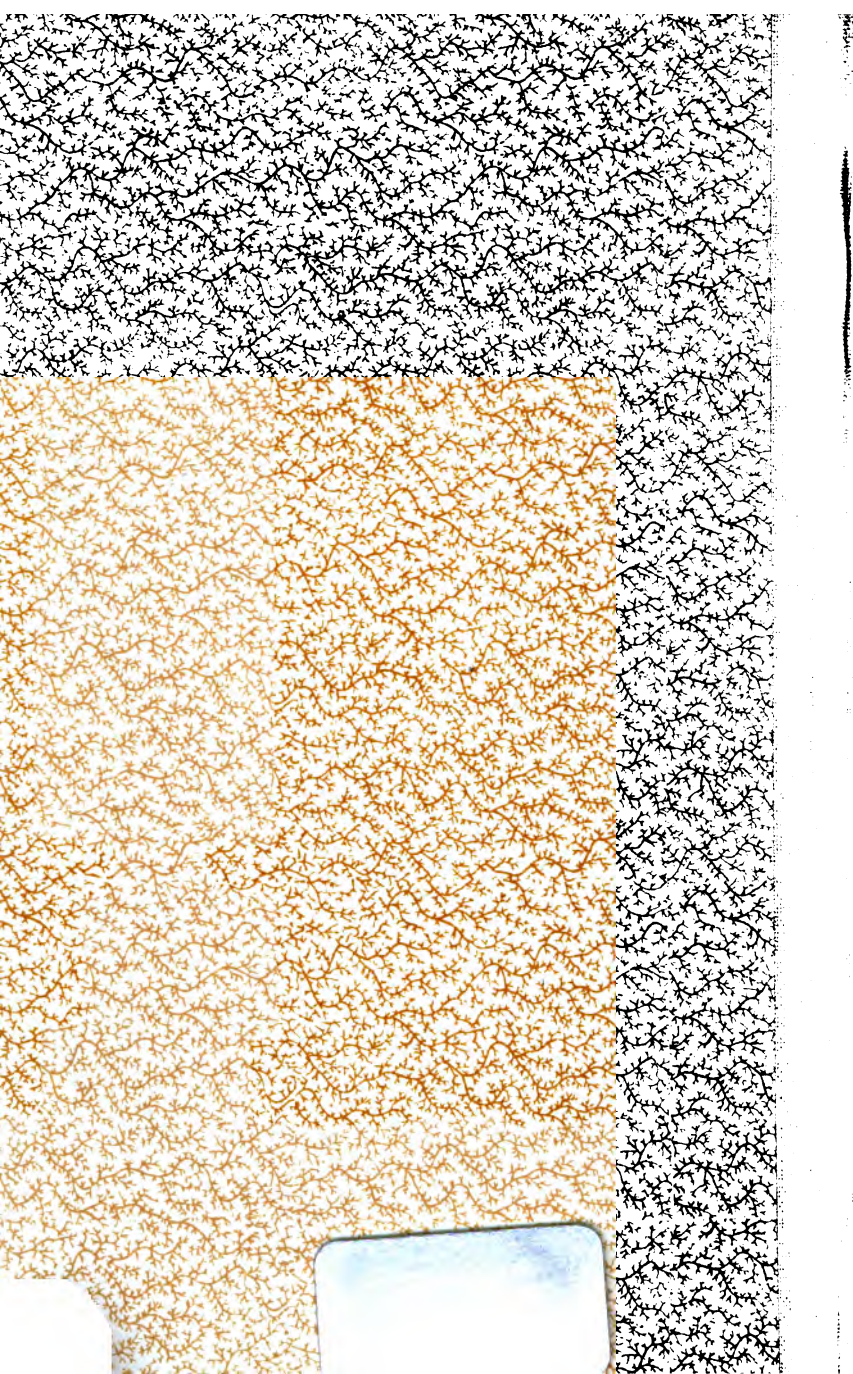
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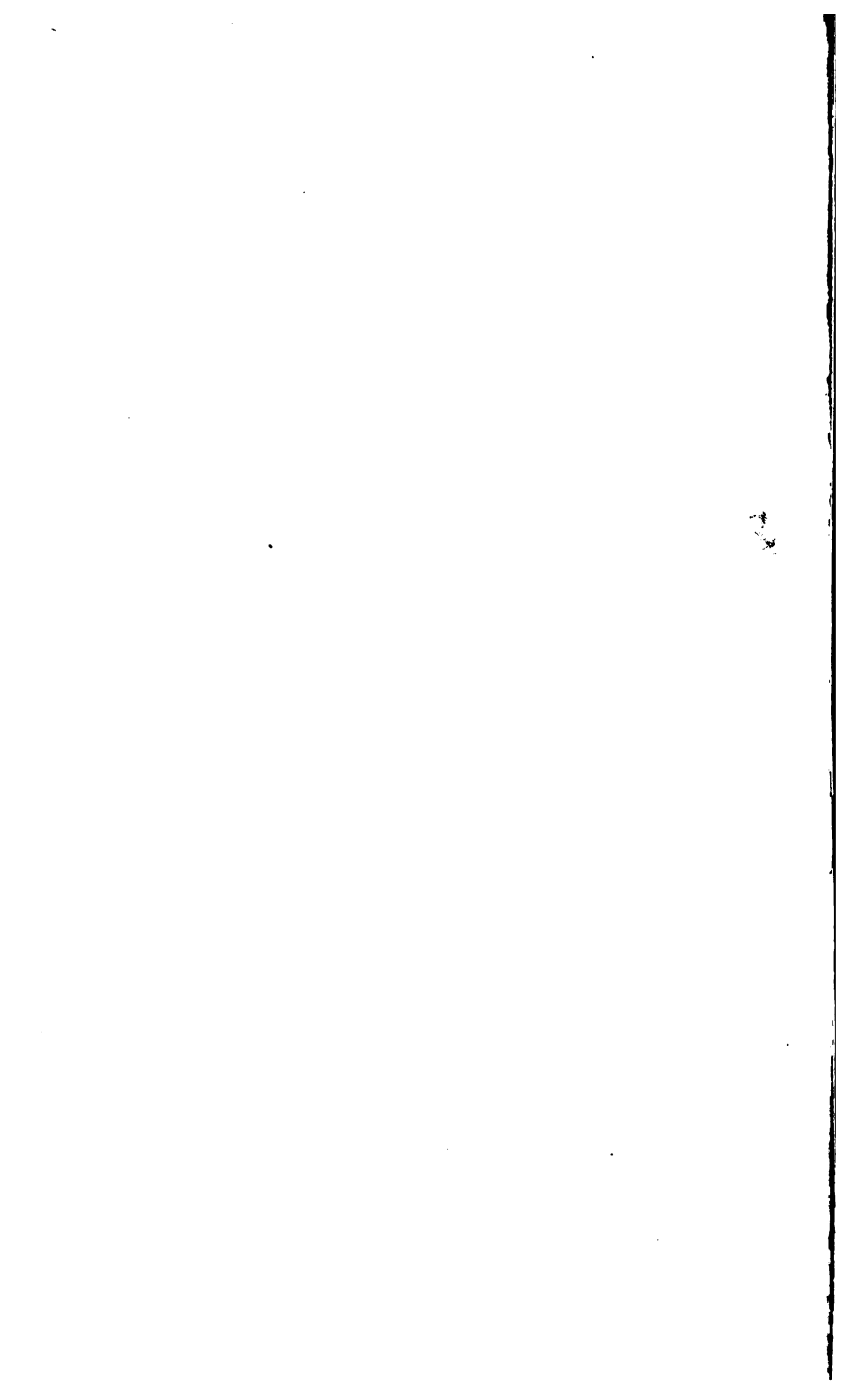
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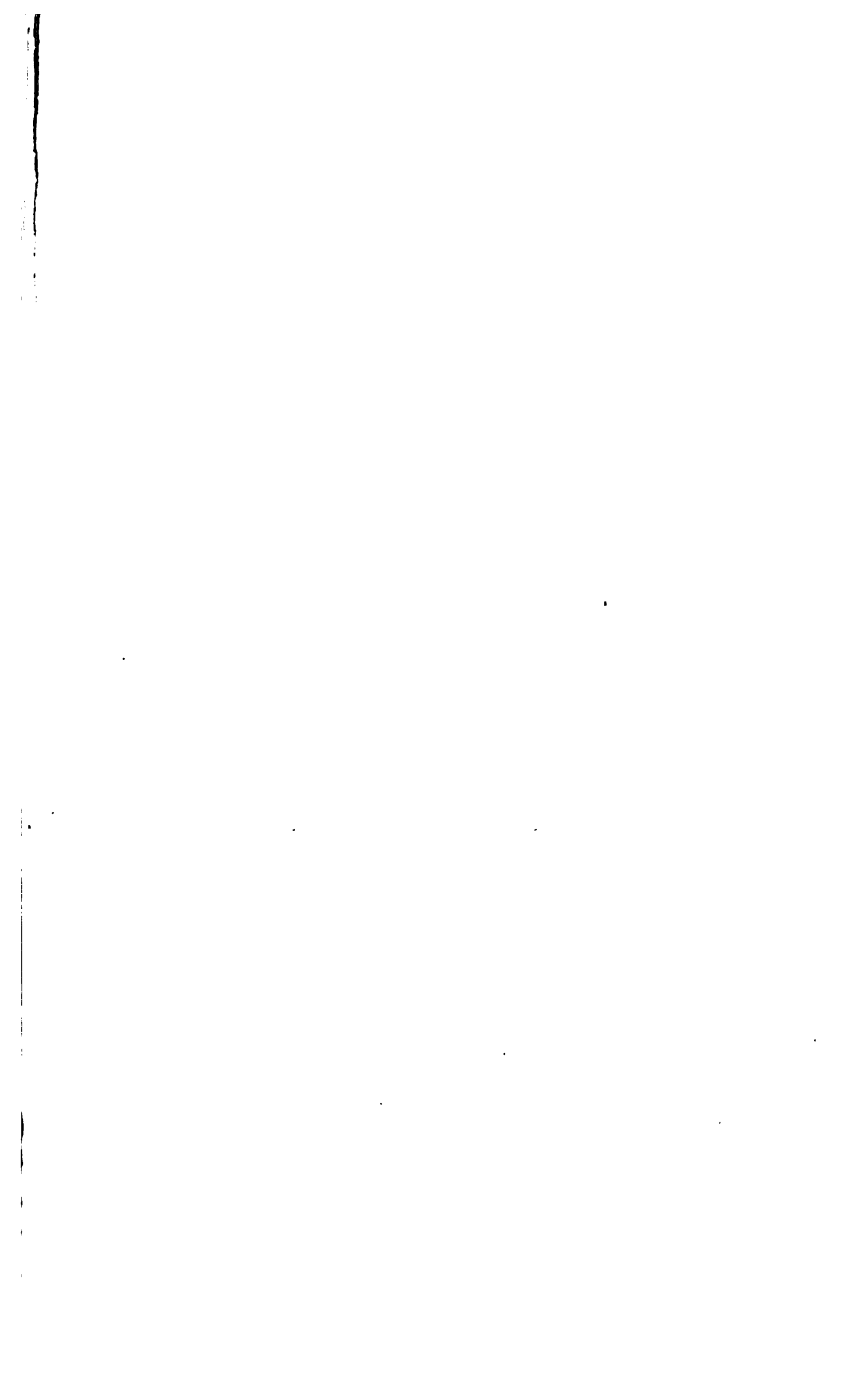
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OF THE

**Proceedings of the Squadron**

UNDER THE COMMAND OF

**REAR ADMIRAL SIR WILL. SIDNEY SMITH, K. C.**

IN

EFFECTING THE ESCAPE, AND ESCORTING

THE

**ROYAL FAMILY of PORTUGAL to the BRAZILS,**

On the 29th of November, 1807.

AND ALSO THE

**SUFFERINGS OF THE ROYAL FUGITIVES**

DURING THEIR

**VOYAGE FROM LISBON TO RIO DE JANEIRO.**

WITH

A VARIETY OF OTHER INTERESTING AND AUTHENTIC FACTS

**BY LIEUT. COUNT THOMAS O'NEILL,**

Of the Royal Marines. Author of the "Treatise on the Eighteen Military  
Manœuvres," and of an "Address to the Inhabitants  
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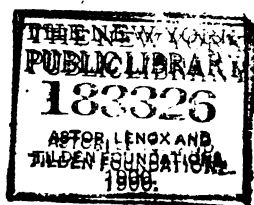
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dom, that your Royal Highnesses have ever the interest of your beloved Sovereign's subjects at heart.

Your protection of the small Work that has now the honor to come from the press under your illustrious patronage, demands my deepest gratitude : Such beneficence from your Highnesses, and from my noble Subscribers, will be ever borne in remembrance with respectful deference, and with a grateful heart, by

Your Royal Highnesses'

Most obliged and devoted

15, Carlisle Street,

Soho Square.

Sept. 20, 1809.

Humble Servant,

LIEUT. THO. O'NEIL.

*Royal Marines.*

## ADVERTISEMENT.

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THE design of this little Work, is briefly to communicate to the Public an account of every material occurrence connected with the emigration of the Royal Family of Portugal to the Brazils ; and at the same time to vindicate a brave and distinguished Admiral from numerous unfounded assertions ; which, when brought to the test of investigation, must necessarily fall before the superior light of *truth*.

It has been the Author's practice, since he embarked in the service of his country, to make daily remarks on the passing events : Being employed as Lieutenant of the Marines on board one of the ships, under Sir S. Smith's command, he had reason to believe that the squadron was destined for



## ADVERTISEMENT.

some particular enterprize that might furnish occurrences not altogether unworthy of being recorded ;—the Author of the following Journal was on that account the more anxious to minute with exactness every circumstance that came within his personal observation. And he flatters himself that the present little Work will be found to communicate *some* facts at least, which have not already been offered to the perusal of the Public.

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 Plomer, William, Esq. Portland, The Hon. General  
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 Puller, Messrs. C. and R.

R

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 Romney, Earl of  
 Reddesdale, Lord  
 Radstock, Admiral Lord  
 Robuck, Baron  
 Rargerssfield, Baron De  
 Rutland, Duchess of  
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 Rowlett, William, and Co.  
 Runkell, J. J. Esq.

S

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 Spencer, Earl  
 Scarborough, Earl of  
 Stair, Earl of  
 Sandwich, Earl of  
 Sefton, Earl of  
 Sydney, Viscount  
 Somerville, Lord  
 Somerset, Lord Charles  
 Spencer, Lord Robert  
 Seymour, Lord George  
 St. Helens, Lord  
 Sebright, Lady  
 Stuart, Lady Louisa

Stanhope, Lady Hester  
 Simpson, Lady Ann  
 Spencer, Mrs.  
 Scott, Mrs.  
 Shaw, Mrs.  
 Swinburne, Mrs.  
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 Sturgeon, Mrs.  
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 Siffner, Mrs.  
 Sebright, Miss  
 Smith, Miss  
 Saunders, Rt. Hon. Robert Dundas  
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 Stuart, Hon. Wortley  
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 St. Leger, General  
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| Stanley, Colonel             | Stanley, Colonel             |
| Sebley, Edward, esq.         | Sebley, Edward, esq.         |
| Smith, George, esq.          | Smith, George, esq.          |
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 Strachan, William, esq.  
 Strack, William, esq.  
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 Stuart, John, esq.  
 ———, James and Gabriel, Messrs.

## T

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Trollop, Sir Henry, Bart.  
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Trail, H. esq.  
Taylor, John, esq.  
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 —, John, esq.  
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 Tierney, John, esq.  
 Tietkens, George, esq.  
 Till, Henry, esq.

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Urquhart and Hope.  
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 Usher, Henry, esq.  
 Unwin, Samuel, and Co.  
 Usher, Hugh, esq.

## V

Vincent, Earl St.  
 Vernon, Lord  
 Villers, Hon. George  
 Villiers, Sir John, Bart.  
 Vernon, General  
 —, George, esq.  
 —, J. C. esq.  
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 Villoughbois, Henry, esq.  
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 Westmorland, Earl of  
 Winchelsea, Earl of  
 Winchester, Lord Bishop  
 Wentworth, Viscount  
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 Wilson, Captain  
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Whateley, William, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
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\_\_\_\_\_, John esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
Whitley, George, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
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Wildman, Henry, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
Wilkie, John, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
Wilkinson, Messrs. J. and J. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
\_\_\_\_\_, R. esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
\_\_\_\_\_, Rowlatt, and Co. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
\_\_\_\_\_, Thomas, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
Wilks, James, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
\_\_\_\_\_, Mathias, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
Williams, Alexander, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
\_\_\_\_\_, H. T. and Co. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
\_\_\_\_\_, James, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
\_\_\_\_\_, Joseph, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
\_\_\_\_\_, L. esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
\_\_\_\_\_, Samuel, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
\_\_\_\_\_, W. esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
\_\_\_\_\_, W. esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
\_\_\_\_\_, and Dobbins, Messrs. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
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\_\_\_\_\_, John, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
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\_\_\_\_\_, Thomas, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
\_\_\_\_\_, Thomas, esq. \_\_\_\_\_ W  
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 ———, Robert, esq.

Y

Young, Admiral  
 Yeo, James, esq.  
 Yelloly, esq.  
 Young, William, esq.  
 ———, Alexander, esq.  
 ———, George, esq.  
 ———, G. A. and Sims, Messrs.  
 ———, William, esq.  
 ———, and Bacon, Messrs.  
 Yuille, Thomas, esq.

Z

Zurherst and Van, Messrs.

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SQUADRON UNDER THE COMMAND

OF

*Adm. Sir Wm. Sidney Smith, &c.*

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**T**HE Rt. Hon. the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having appointed Admiral William Sir Sidney Smith, to take the charge and command of his Majesty's ships and vessels undermentioned, (then lying at Cawsand Bay) viz.



**The LONDON,**  
(which bore the  
Admiral's Flag.)

} *Capt. Western.*

**MARLBOROUGH**

*Capt. Graham Moore.*

**ELIZABETH,**

*The Hon. Capt. Curzon,*

**BEDFORD,**

*Capt. Walker, and the*

**MONARCH,**

*Capt. Lee.*

The squadron under his command sailed at eleven o'clock in the morning of Nov. 11, 1807, without any officer having the slightest possible idea of their destination;—a system of secrecy which was never before so strictly observed until the present Ministers adopted it with the happiest success; and which, when rigidly persevered in, cannot fail of producing the most beneficial results.

11th Nov. 1807. A fine breeze wafted

the squadron down the channel. We saw several small sail off the Lizard Point, whence we steered for Cape Finisterre; and after communicating with two of his Majesty's ships that were stationed off the Cape, we parted company, saw the Burling Rocks on the 13th of Nov. at eight o'clock in the evening: the squadron brought to, off the Rock of Lisbon, and after laying by for some hours off the mouth off the Tagus, the squadron made sail at ten in the morning of the 14th Nov. and the Admiral was informed by the crews of some fishing boats, that the ports of Portugal were shut against his Britannic Majesty's ships and vessels. This circumstance excited no small surprise in the Admiral: and now *only* for the first time did the

officers conceive any idea of their destination.

The sentiments which this measure produced in the mind of Sir S. Smith may be more easily conceived than described. The situation of Portugal at this time was singularly critical ;—her sovereign was on the point of adding one more to the number of captive kings, whom the desolator of empires had insidiously seized ; while her ports being closed against Britain, effectually prevented any communication with the only power that could serve her, and which had uniformly evinced herself to be the steady and faithful protector of the House of Braganza ; a sentiment congenially and reciprocally felt by his Royal Highness.

Nov. 15th.—The wind continued to blow almost a gale for several days, directly into the harbour of Lisbon; from which quarter it never shifted, excepting a few hours from the eastward; and thus afforded the royal fugitives an opportunity of escaping the snares which Napoleon had so artfully laid for them.

On the morning of the 15th, the Admiral received a Portuguese pilot on board; and made signal for the *Confiance* to close. Her commander, Capt. Yeo came on board; and, having received from the Commander in chief dispatches for Lord Strangford, his Majesty's Minister at the Court of Portugal, he made sail for the Tagus, bearing a flag of truce.

17th.—Detained several Brazil merchant ships.

18th.—Capt. Yeo left the Tagus with his Lordship, who had then finally quitted the Court of Lisbon.

The minister, and several merchants came on board the London; who informed the officers, that the effects of all British residents in Portugal, had to a considerable amount been seized by order of the Portuguese government. Their opinion, however, of the Prince Regent was, that his Royal Highness disapproved of the steps which had been taken, but that he was in part compelled to shut his ports against Britain by the power of France; as every one of his Highness's

ministers, except (as they conceived) the prime minister, was most sincerely attached to the Prince's interest, and to the alliance with England.

19th.—A boat was discovered standing out for the London: it brought dispatches to the Admiral. These dispatches contained positive intelligence that the French forces had passed the frontiers of Portugal, and that the writer believed there was treachery existing to deceive the Portuguese Cabinet.—This information afforded the Admiral another opportunity of exerting his distinguished talents; with what success the subsequent pages will conspicuously disclose.

On the morning of the same day, (19th

Nov.) his Majesty's ship *Hibernia* joined the squadron ; and on the 22nd, Sir S. Smith shifted his flag on board her, being accompanied thither by Lord Strangford.

21st, The Admiral received fresh advices, with assurance that the French troops were rapidly marching to Lisbon ; and that every commander of the different provinces had not only applied to the Prime Minister for arms and ammunition, but also had actually written to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, apprizing him of the imminent danger which threatened himself, his family, and his country ; yet, through some unaccountable circumstance, not the slightest notice had been taken of their zeal.

Intelligence like this, as it demanded, so it received the utmost promptitude of decision : accordingly on the 22nd, signal being made for the *Confiance* to close, Capt. Yeo received dispatches from the Commander in Chief, for his Royal Highness the Prince Regent. With him, Lord Strangford returned to Lisbon, for what particular purpose I have not been able to ascertain, unless, probably to confirm the Admiral's advices ; which stated, from unquestionable authority, the imminent danger in which Portugal was placed, and, (as the event has shewn) offered to his Highness and his family, the protection of the British fleet.

The Prince was at a country seat,



some miles distant from Lisbon, when Sir Sidney Smith's dispatches were landed ; they were announced by telegraph, and immediately forwarded by Lieutenant Smith of the royal navy.

The following circumstances were communicated to me by a gentleman of the royal bedchamber ; who was present when the dispatches reached the Prince Regent. He demanded whence and from whom they came ; being answered " from the British Admiral, Sir Sidney Smith," he withdrew, and perused them alone. A few minutes after he returned, and summoned his consort and family, whom he addressed to the following purport :—

“We are deceived,” said his Highness,—“we are actually betrayed. The French troops are on their march to Lisbon: take care of the Queen, my beloved mother; and you and your daughters follow me without loss of time.”

The news was instantly spread through the palace, where the utmost confusion and distress prevailed. All persons, of every rank and description, were eagerly anxious to save themselves and their effects. The Prince Regent and his sons proceeded immediately to Lisbon. Her Majesty, the Queen, the Princess of Brazil, the Dowager Princess, and the younger Princesses, made every preparation for their departure; and in less than five

hours, *seven hundred cars*, laden with their effects, were on their route for the capital.

On the arrival of his Highness and sons at Lisbon, a council was immediately summoned; and the Regent announced that himself, his family, and country were betrayed, and that the French troops were ~~not~~ within four days march from his Capital. This intelligence was immediately communicated to the inhabitants of Lisbon; and the alarm and distress it occasioned, may be more easily conceived than described.

On the 23rd at five in the evening, orders were given to have his Royal Highness's squadron in readiness to put to sea

at a moment's notice, or at least as soon as circumstances would admit. At the same time a second council of state was convoked, when it was discovered, that all communications and letters, which had been addressed to the Prince Regent and the government, and which conveyed intelligence that the kingdom of Portugal was actually invaded by the French armies, had been intercepted. It was further supposed, that the intention was, to allow the French invaders to seize the Capital, and the illustrious royal family.

On this discovery, orders were issued by his Royal Highness, that every valuable should be embarked on board the Prince Royal. A scene of distress now

ensued which is impossible to be conceived only by a generous heart. The whole of the royal family arrived that evening at Lisbon, and every preparation was made for their departure for the Brazils. A third council was summoned, wherein his Royal Highness declared his determination to embark, and (if Providence should permit) to place himself under the protection of the British flag. He added, that all who were disposed to follow him, and share his reverse of fortune, had his royal permission; but to those who remained behind, his orders were not to make any resistance to the French. Resistance, indeed, he believed was too late; but he trusted, that when an opportunity offered, his faithful subjects

would revenge their country's cause, and although himself and family had fled for safety, the interests of his people would be always dear to his heart.

That royal declaration created such a scene of sorrow and distress, that the author could not relate it without dropping a tear of pity; all ranks became anxious to share the fate of their Sovereign, and to evade the perfidious treatment, which they could not but expect from the French:

The following circumstance was related to me by an officer in the service of his Royal Highness,—a gentleman, in whose veracity I can place the most im-

plicit confidence. He observed, that as  
 soon as the Prince's intention of embark-  
 ing for the Brazils became known, a  
 dreadful scene of confusion and affliction  
 pervaded every rank. Thousands of  
 men, women, and children were constant-  
 ly on the beach endeavouring to escape  
 on board ; *many ladies of distinction wa-*  
*ded into the water* in the hope of reach-  
 ing some boats, but many unfortunately  
 perished in the attempt ; and from the  
 25th to the 28th inst. as near as my in-  
 formant could calculate, not less than ten  
 thousand distressed objects were inces-  
 santly on the beach, endeavouring to ef-  
 fect their escape. At length the ships  
 of war became so crowded, that with the

most painful reluctance, the officers were compelled to refuse them admittance. He remarked, what scenes of distress and vicissitudes of fortune now prevailed;—numerous ladies of elevated rank who were in affluence a few days before, were now reduced to the greatest necessity, having given up all to follow their much-beloved Prince. Many of the females that had actually embarked, were totally destitute of any change of raiment; and had to undertake a passage of five thousand miles on board ships, whose officers had only three days notice given to them to prepare for such an immense voyage. What added to their terror was, that they momentarily expected the French to arrive, and seize on them as prisoners.



By the 27th, the royal family were all embarked. His Royal Highness the Prince Regent and his sons were on board the Prince Royal ; her Majesty, the Princess of Brazil, and the Infantas, were in the Ilfonza ; the Dowager Princess on board the Count Henrick ; and the ladies of distinction were accommodated as circumstances would admit in the respective ships.—Is there a heart that will not sympathize in the misfortunes of these illustrious personages, when their forlorn situation is for a moment considered ? For, in addition to the destitute state in which they were now placed, it should be observed, that numbers of their followers had to encounter the perils of a long and tedious voyage through (to them at least) unknown seas, without even a sin-

gle bed on which to repose their weary heads.

28th.—The wind continued to blow from the same quarter, so that it was impossible for his Royal Highness's ships to quit the Tagus ; and the French troops were now within fifty miles of Lisbon. At eight o'clock on the same day, General Junot arrived in that city, and was not more disappointed than he was surprised to learn, that the Royal Family had been informed of his approach with the French troops. His mortification was beyond description on finding that the Prince had embarked ; the seizing of his person being the principal object of his mission, if the wind had not providentially allowed him to quit the Tagus.

Junot, with the usual arrogance of French Republicanism, demanded an audience of the Regent : it was conceded on condition that some noblemen should be present, one of whom it would be injustice not to mention, he being a man of the most magnanimous principles, an honour to his country, and a faithful friend to the English nation. The distinguished nobleman referred to, is Don Rodrico de Souza Coutinho, at present the minister of war, and for foreign affairs : whose character (though it had long been known to me by report) I have experienced from personal knowledge, to correspond with every thing that has been related or can be said of his fidelity to his Sovereign's interests, and his honourable disposition towards the English nation.

At nine o'clock on the morning of the 28th Nov. the French General came on board the Prince Royal, and was introduced to his Royal Highness the Regent. And in an arrogant tone of voice he demanded why his Royal Highness had embarked? And what were his reasons for quitting his kingdom? Junot expressed his regret for his Royal Highness's resolution; expatiated at considerable length on the greatness of the French nation, and the honourable sentiments of the Emperor his master, and towards Portugal;—and concluded with observing, that he expected a *private*, and not a public audience. During the general's insolent address, his Royal Highness remained perfectly silent, but afterwards addressed him as follows:

“ Pray, General, have you said all you wish to express? Being answered in the affirmative, his Royal Highness thus proceeded, “ In reply to your question, General ;—you have demanded of me why I quit my kingdom? I will ask you, why your perfidious master invades it without my knowledge? Are such proceedings honourable? Are they the principles of an honest man? Have not I shut my ports against the British nation in order to maintain my neutrality with your master? yet that is not sufficient for the overbearing views and disposition of Napoleon. I therefore command you to retire from my presence; and to tell the French Emperor from me, that I disdain *his* alliance, whose restless ambition aims at the destruction of the Universe. I scorn his

protection, and will to-morrow, if Providence favor me, put myself, family, and fleet, under the protection of his Britannic Majesty's Admiral, who is my faithful friend, and is now waiting to receive me. Rather indeed would I perish than listen to your master's delusive promises: and if you, General, did but consider the base mission on which you are sent, and the dishonourable character you are compelled to sustain, you surely must think with myself, that you are acting the part of a dishonourable man. Retire, therefore, from my presence, and never presume to appear before me again."

His Royal Highness gave directions that Junot should immediately quit his

ship, and that if he ever attempted again to approach it, to sink him and the boat that should convey him ;—a decided proof this, of his Royal Highness's magnanimity in the hour of imminent danger. The French were, in fact, at that moment, advancing rapidly towards his Capital ; and his Royal Highness's family, and fleet had no prospect of escape, as the wind still remained in a contrary quarter, and continued so until twelve o'clock on the 28th Nov. when it became calm. At two on the 29th, a fair wind sprang up from the eastward, blowing directly out of the Tagus : His Royal Highness instantly commanded his Admiral to get every ship ready to weigh anchor by day-break. The Prince Regent walked the deck at intervals du-

ring the night; and when the welcome day appeared, every possible effort was made for all the ships to get under weigh. His Highness observed, that where danger might ensue to his faithful subjects, he would be the first to encounter it, and that the ship he was in, should be the last; that he would follow them, and encouraged every individual to exert himself, observing, that it was the usurpations of Bonaparte which had caused their distress, but that Divine Providence would now place himself, his family, and fleet, under the honourable protection of the British Flag.

To prevent the painful necessity of recurring to the following circumstance



again, I think it necessary to mention it here, although I was not in possession of it until the 11th of December following, when it was related in my presence on board his Majesty's ship *Solebay*, by a very respectable Portuguese gentleman of unquestionable veracity. *Bonaparte* had charged General Junot to "*put the royal family aside*" the moment they were in his power; saying, that while *they* were in the land of the living, *his* views would never be accomplished.—All the particulars of this detestable plan were related with every protestation of their veracity, and further that General Junot had said, the ships alone had prevented his plan from having its desired effect; and that his

master would be much disappointed when he heard that his orders could not be complied with. Of the correctness of this last assertion, neither my informant, nor myself, entertained the slightest doubt: nor, I apprehend, can any reflecting reader hesitate as to its probability, when he considers the conduct of the Corsican Usurper towards their Spanish Majesties, as well as his *subsequent* proceedings towards that unfortunate branch of the Bourbons.—To return however to the observations I had an opportunity of making on board His Majesty's ship; the London;

On the 29th at seven, it was a beautiful morning; a fine breeze blew from the eastward, which wafted the Portuguese

ships directly out of the Tagus. Signal was made for two sail, which shortly afterwards was repeated for three ships of the line; and we saw Portuguese colours; at nine the signal was repeated for six sail; at ten for nine; and a telegraph from the *Confiance* announced, that the royal standard was flying on board one of the ships. Signals were repeated for several ships of a smaller class, which were composed of brigs, schooners, and merchant ships, together with the Lisbon packet. The sight was truly grand; and it excited the most grateful reflections, to know that his British Majesty's faithful ally had evaded the snares of Napoleon.

Signal was made from the Commander in chief to clear for action, or a general

salute: and, on the approach of the Prince Royal, (which had the royal standard of Portugal then flying) the noble admiral's ship and those under his command saluted the illustrious fugitives, who instantly returned it. The gallant admiral without loss of time, repaired on board to pay his respects to the Prince Regent, by whom he was received with every possible demonstration of respect. His Royal Highness informed the Admiral, that himself, his family, and fleet, came out to place themselves under the protection of his British Majesty's ships; and that his intention was, to go to Rio de Janeiro, trusting that part of the squadron would be allowed to convey him to the place of his destination. Sir Sidney answered his Royal Highness in the

name of his King, that every assistance should be granted; that the British nation were his *real friends*; and that the whole kingdom would have been distressed, had the French seized on his Royal Highness's person.

110  
1000 The Portuguese men of war indeed presented a wretched appearance: as they had only three days to prepare for their escape, scaffolds were still hanging by their sides, and in short, they rather resembled wrecks than vessels of war. Signal was now made from the Commander in chief's ship for the marines of the London to repair on board his Majesty's frigate *Solebay*. The officer under whom I had the honor to serve, (Major Malcolm) Lieut. Baynon, and myself, toge-

ther with eight privates, three serjeants, three corporals, and two drummers left the London as soon as circumstances would admit for the frigate; and on our arrival on board, we were given to understand that our destination was to take possession of Fort Boujai, situated at the entrance of the Tagus. At four we made sail; at six the wind came round to its original point, and the combined Portuguese and English squadrons stood out to sea.—May I be permitted to hazard the remark, that it appeared as if Divine Providence had changed the wind in order to crown the British arms with more honourable laurels; as it continued to blow a gale of wind from the same quarter for the additional space of ten days.

At seven in the morning of the 30th, the frigate was close in with the fort: it blew a tremendous gale with a heavy sea, that rendered it impossible for us to disembark. At eight we saw the French flag flying on every fort; and I have since been informed by the same respectable gentleman, that the French troops were not twenty miles distant from Lisbon, on Sunday the 29th, when his Royal Highness left the Tagus. At nine the gale increased; at ten, the ship was in imminent danger, expecting every moment to be cast on shore: but Providence protected us; she worked out, and at seven in the evening, we considered ourselves out of danger. During this period we lost sight of the combined squadrons, and saw no more of them until the 25th of December.

In their absence, the Solebay detained several Brazil Portuguese merchant ships, on board one of which (the *Olivira*, Capt. Belham) I was ordered, Dec. 16, with twenty marines, accompanied by Lieut. Kirwin, of the Royal Navy ; the frigate having no seamen to spare. With the risque of the marines' lives, we arrived on board ; and were instantly given to understand, that they were in the greatest distress for provisions, being destitute of bread, meat, wine, and spirits, and having only sixteen gallons of water, and twenty quarts of rice. The gale increased to such a degree, that no further communication could be had with the ship we had left. We were now forty-nine persons on board, and had nothing to subsist on but the scanty articles above specified.



The gale continuing, the Lieutenant was obliged to put her before the wind, as she was in such a bad state that we all expected to go to the bottom every moment. We saw no more of the frigate, or any part of the squadron until Christmas-day; during which interval, our only sustenance was three spoonfuls of boiled rice per day, for each person.

On the 25th Dec. in the morning, we saw the squadron from the mast head, made signals of distress, and fired several guns; but the distance was too great to be observed. Throughout the 24th and 25th, we took no food, our scanty stock being expended. At seven, we passed under the stern of a British man of war, and hailed her. A lieutenant was sent

on board, to whom we described our urgent distress, and craved relief. The officer returned on board; and after some time had elapsed, we were hailed by the Captain, who ordered us to proceed to the Admiral, without contributing to our wants!!! This ship had the look out during that night; but for the honor of the British nation, she shall be nameless.

The *Olivira* joined the squadron early in the morning, and Lieut. Kirwin repaired on board the Commander in chief's ship. As soon as the Admiral was acquainted with our distress, his benevolence was far different from that of the former; and he ordered every thing necessary for us.—Had it been our misfortune to have parted from the squadron,

previous to our speaking with the Admiral, every soul on board the Portuguese vessel must have inevitably perished.

At ten, the Solebay came within hail; and on Capt. Sprole being made acquainted with the situation we had been in, he applied to the Admiral to have us instantly removed on board the frigate, which request the Admiral granted. As soon as circumstances would admit, in the evening of the 26th, we returned to the frigate, and were informed, that the London, Marlborough, Bedford, and Monarch had parted company, and were on their passage, convoying the Prince out to Rio de Janeiro.

Thus were my commanding officer;

and myself, together with the detachment, left without any other apparel except what we wore;—a situation of a most unpleasant nature. Our distress was represented to the Admiral; who informed us, that the frigate must take dispatches out to the Brazils, and that we were all to remain on board: every assistance that lay in his power, should be rendered to us; and the moment he was ready, we were to sail.

1808. Jan. 12.—Signal being made for the ship to close, the Capt. went on board the Admiral's ship, and received his orders. We parted company at three, and made the island of Madeira on the 16th; we took in a supply of water, and sailed on the 18th. We passed the Canaries

on the 23rd, and saw the rock of Teneriff and Cape de Verd Islands. We put into port Epre, in the island of Santa Jago, took in more water, and sailed thence for Rio de Jainerio, whither we arrived on the 29th of Feb. and found the London, Monarch, and Marlborough, with part of the Portuguese squadron; the Bedford and the remainder had parted company with the Prince Regent in a gale of wind, but had arrived at St. Salvador, which place his Royal Highness was obliged to put into, being destitute of all kind of provisions. On the same day we all re-joined the London; it was a most gratifying sight to us, when we first beheld her lying at anchor, having then been absent thirteen weeks, without any change of apparel, except what had been given us by

the liberality of the officers on board the *Solebay*. Here, however, I experienced a new disappointment; I found my chest had been forced, and every article of my linen that was of any value, had been taken away. There were several hundred fugitives on board the *London*, chiefly females; but through the generosity of the officers, they obtained every necessary that lay in their power to afford.

The following letter, addressed to me from St. Salvador, I found on board the *London*, on the evening of the 29th Feb. 1808.

*H. M. S. Bedford, St. Salvador.*

"I embrace the favourable opportunity of writing to you by the brig of war

which conveys dispatches from this place to Rio de Janeiro; and, with every hope that you have rejoined the London. I will give the particulars of our voyage. We had the good fortune to keep company with his Royal Highness, who put in here, being in want of provisions. My pen is inadequate to describe the distressed situation of the poor females, with whom the ship was crowded: and as they were without proper provisions, I am astonished that they have been able to surmount their difficulties. This morning, the Duke de Caraval died, *literally broken-hearted*. I have heard, that he was one of the first noblemen in Portugal, and a man of exemplary character. I really think he was starved in his passage; and hope the Prince will land them here to

prevent any further scenes of distress. I have this moment heard all the ladies in the vicinity are collecting clothes for the distressed females; God reward their humanity! This morning the Prince and his family landed; they were received with every mark of respect, and have taken up their residence in the governor's house. The inhabitants have already offered to build them a palace, and grant the Prince an immense revenue out of their private property until he can arrange his future government.

"The good people here pay the greatest attention to the British officers. The royal fugitives having announced to Capt. Walker their intention of visiting the Bedford, which took place the third day af-



ter landing;—they left the shore under a royal salute from the batteries, and from the ships, and were received on board with the greatest respect, where a cold collation had been prepared for them. His Royal Highness visited every part of the ship, and expressed his approbation of the cleanliness which prevailed throughout. Capt. Walker's attention to the Prince has been very great, not only to the ship which his Royal Highness was on board, but also to every one of the Portuguese men of war. In grateful acknowledgment of his assiduous attention, the Prince has presented him with a gold medal of a very ancient Portuguese order of knighthood. His Highness consults with him on all occasions; and seems glad to receive his advice. Thus, my friend, while Bonaparte endeavours to annihilate

all crowned heads, we on our part exert every nerve to protect them : and I trust we shall always imitate the generous disposition of our noble Patron, and beloved Sovereign.

“ As you will perhaps be gratified with a few remarks on the town of Bahia, I will now offer the best description my situation has enabled me to make. It is a large, well built populous city, far beyond my expectation ; and stands on the side of a hill : the lower part is not very clean, but contains excellent shops of jewellery : the upper part of the town is delightful, commanding the finest possible view. <sup>and</sup> The country abounds with the finest fruits ; <sup>and</sup> I have seen groves of orange trees for two miles in length, where I could walk and

be screened from the heat of the sun. Being situated so near the equinoctial line, the weather is intensely hot. The town lies in W. lon. 38. lat. 11, though till now I always considered it in 12, our geographical writers, therefore, are mistaken. The harbour, which is called St. Saladore, is very spacious, but not calculated for the royal residence, the coast being too open and the town much exposed. You may consequently expect us soon, as the Prince will shortly leave this place for Rio de Janeiro."

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The preceding extract, it is hoped, will not be thought irrelevant; as it exhibits some facts which are not, I believe, generally known; while it evinces that grati-

tude and humanity can exist in a part of the world which we have hitherto been led to regard, as being in an almost savage state.

March 5, on board the London. This morning, a signal was made from the heights for five sail of the line. At twelve, came in sight the Prince Royal, Ilfonza, La Rein of Portugal, Count Henrick, and Bedford. His Royal Highness led the line with his standard flying at the main. Signal being given from the Marlborough, Commodore Moore, to prepare for a general salute; at one we saluted, which was returned by the forts. The Commodore and Captains then proceeded in their boats to congratulate his Royal Highness and family on their safe

arrival. The Viceroy came off in the state barge to tender his resignation, when an officer of the London was sent on board to offer his assistance, and was with the Regent when the Commodore and Captains waited on him. His Highness expressed with tears in his eyes, the satisfaction he felt in the kind attentions he received from every one in this part of the world. Yet, though *he* was out of the power of the Usurper, he felt sensibly for his faithful subjects whom he had left behind.

Commodore Moore was most graciously received; a circumstance that must afford infinite satisfaction to every one who has the honor of being known to an officer whose character is held in such

high estimation in his Majesty's service: the Captains were also received with every demonstration of respect. Immediately after, his Royal Highness waited on her Majesty and Princesses on board the *Il-fonza*, and thence proceeded in the state barge on shore, under a royal salute from the ships and batteries. On his landing, he was welcomed by the troops with three *feux de joie*; the principal magistrates and gentlemen of the town of St. Sebastian conducted him to the palace prepared for his reception: and after his Royal Highness had given audience to his officers and every person of distinction in the city, he proceeded to the Cathedral to return the Omnipotent thanks for his bountiful mercy, in facilitating his escape, and for his safe arrival. He

remained in meditation for a considerable time, and then exclaimed in a tone of voice which every one distinctly understood, " Here I return my sincere thanks to God for my preservation, and also to my faithful English friends, and finally to my affectionate subjects for their kind reception!" The scene was truly affecting; almost every eye was bedewed with tears of compassion; and at that instant the sacred music commenced, which added to its solemnity. His Royal Highness returned in the midst of a most splendid procession, and re-embarked, greeted by all the inhabitants and troops. Every ship's yards was manned; a salute was fired from all; and in the evening superb fire-works, were displayed, and the whole city illuminated.

March 6th.—This day, the whole of the royal family disembarked, under a usual salute from the ships and batteries. On their landing, the pavement was covered with crimson velvet, and a superb canopy was supported by four officers; her Majesty was perfectly composed, and with a graceful dignity, paid every attention to her dutiful subjects, while tears plenteously bedewed her aged cheeks.

The sight of fallen Majesty is at all times calculated to awaken the tenderest sympathies; nor can we withhold our compassion, even though its fall should have been produced by the errors or the crimes of its possessor. In the present instance, however, all these sympathies were aroused to the highest degree; for



surely no feeling mind can, unmoved, contemplate an amiable and benevolent Sovereign, with an aged mother, a beloved wife, and five small children,—driven from their lawful dominions, and obliged to seek refuge in a distant part of the globe, almost entirely secluded from intercourse with the Continent of Europe !

The inhabitants of Santa Sebastian received the illustrious fugitives with open arms ; every thing which zeal and loyalty could prompt them to do had been effected ; and the royal family took up their residence at the palace usually occupied by the Viceroy,—a building, which for magnificence far surpasses any that Europeans would expect, when it is considered, that the different Viceroys had been al-

most entirely precluded from intercourse with any other nation.

St. Sebastian is a very large town, with a vast number of fine streets; its churches are superbly decorated; and the change that took place in one year, (a change from indolence to industry) can only be conceived by those, who were in the country from the time the royal family arrived, till the period the London quitted Rio de Janeiro on the 5th of March, 1809. Indeed, were it not foreign from the design of this little Work, I could give a copious and interesting description of the country, for several hundred miles round Rio de Janeiro.

For the preceding circumstance, I am indebted to the manuscript of a Portuguese naval officer, with which I was favoured. It commenced with the sudden flight of the royal family from Lisbon; and from this communication I further learned, that the number of persons who followed the fortune of their royal protectors was so great, and every ship was crowded to such a degree, that there was scarcely room for them to lie down on the deck, the ladies being (as already intimated) destitute of any apparel but what they wore. As the ships had but a small proportion of provisions, it was soon found necessary to apply to the British Admiral to admit a number on board his squadron; and fortunate it was for the individuals who were sent, as

those who remained were truly objects of pity, from Lisbon to Baha. The greater part slept on deck without a bed or any covering. Water was the principal article that claimed our attention; but our allowance of it was small, our provisions were of the worst quality, and so scanty was our allowance, that life itself became burthensome. Our situation was so distressing, that I hope none will ever witness or experience. Men, women, and children all exhibited a most wretched spectacle: yet Providence, in the midst of our distress granted us one blessing,—a few felt the effects of illness, and some died.

The following particulars respecting the sufferings of the females on board the Portuguese men of war, were furnished

to me by the manuscript of an officer in the Portuguese artillery. The Prince Royal had on board sixteen hundred people, destitute of every comfort: the whole who came out in her of men, women, and children, amounted to fourteen hundred; the ladies could not land until clothes had been sent to them; in the Queen of Portugal were fifteen hundred; in the Count Henrick, thirteen hundred; in the Ilfonza, twelve hundred; in the Martin de Freats, one thousand; and in the Prince of Brazil, sixteen hundred,—all of whom were in the greatest distress; but the humanity of the Prince, so far as his abilities could admit, rendered them every assistance in his power. Providence, he observed, is all-sufficient, and he entertained a hope that the Supreme

Being, whose wisdom decides all things, would speedily interpose, and scourge the author of such accumulated scenes of misery.

March 12th. News came that a squadron of French ships was on the coast; the Commodore put to sea in the Marlborough, accompanied by the London, Bedford, and Monarch, together with a Portuguese brig; and stood for St. Salvador. We arrived there on the 7th of April, but did not receive any intelligence respecting them. I found the harbour as my friend represented; the view from the sea is delightful; a strong fort is situated on the eastern side of the harbour, and there are several forts up to the town.

The buildings are magnificent: but this port is by no means calculated for the capital, the coast not being fortified, and affording an easy access for an enemy to land. Our stay here was eleven days, during which time the *London* was full of visitors, she being the first English three-decker that ever crossed the equinoctial line. The Commodore put to sea, and arrived at Rio de Janeiro the 12th of May, where we found that several merchant ships had arrived, whose Captains informed us of the conduct of Bonaparte to the Spanish Monarch and family.

May 17th.—A signal was made, for two sail being in sight, which proved to be Admiral Sir Sidney Smith in the *Fou-*

droyant, and the Agamemnon, Captain Jonas Rose: the Admiral was received by all the officers with the greatest joy. His Royal Highness the Prince Regent particularly expressed the satisfaction he felt at his joining us, well knowing the meritorious character of that gallant officer.

May 24th. Orders came on board the London, from the Commander in chief, to employ every artificer in the fleet to prepare the ship for the reception of the royal family, who had been invited by him to dine on board, the 4th of June, in commemoration of his Britannic Majesty's birth-day, and which invitation they had condescendingly accepted; accordingly all the guns from the middle deck and upper cabin, as also from the



quarter-deck, were removed. The cabins were decorated with the English, Portuguese, and Spanish colours, and a picture containing the likenesses of all our naval heroes; and in honor of the royal visitors, the deck was covered with French flags. The royal table was placed in front of the upper cabin, and tables for the reception of the nobles attending the royal family, were set the full length of each side the quarter deck. A platform was raised from the main to the foremast, the railing of which was ornamented with English, Portuguese, and Spanish colours. In the centre, a table was placed with one hundred and sixty covers, the awnings the full length of the ship were lined with English and Portuguese designs united, the borders

of which were festooned with different coloured signal flags,—the sides of the ship on the quarter deck were covered with royal standards of England, in the front of which was his Britannic Majesty's arms over the royal table. On the poop, was raised a marquee for the reception of the attendants of the illustrious visitors, and no pains were spared to render the appearance of the ship most magnificent.

On the 4th of June, the standard of England, in conjunction with that of Spain were hoisted. At two o'clock, the Regent and his family embarked under a royal salute from the ships and batteries, and upon his Highness's arrival on board, the standard of Portugal was hoisted at the fore, when they were re-

ceived with every demonstration of respect. His Highness remarked, that the decks were covered with the colours of the French nation. The Admiral answered in the affirmative; and the Prince replied he was indebted to his faithful ally, and his brave subjects which enabled him to trample them under his feet. A reply which evinced the feelings of his own misfortunes, and British friendship.

At four o'clock, the royal family seated themselves at table, the Admiral superintending until commanded by his Highness to sit at the table, which was placed at his right hand, with Mr. Hill the British minister, the nobility taking their places according to their rank

and the royal family were attended by British naval officers. In front of the table was placed the memorable standard which the Prince had flying on board the Prince Pe Real, when he was compelled to quit his native country, the arms of Portugal and Spain were suspended over the royal guests, and when the English and Portuguese officers were seated, nothing could exceed the happiness his Highness and family manifested, and the whole of their misfortunes seem to be forgotten.

On this festive occasion, various appropriate toasts were given, which the indulgent reader may perhaps not be displeased to peruse, as they serve to convey, more accurately than descrip-

tion could effect, the grateful sentiments of the royal visitors. His Highness the Prince Regent, the Princess, and Princes severally gave—“ *The King, and may he live till time shall be no more!*” The Prince of Spain,—“ *Prosperity to the British arms who are fighting for my family’s cause.*” The Infantas,—“ *May our father and family ever retain the good esteem of all his British Majesty’s officers!*” These were returned with royal salutes. At sun set, his Royal Highness requested that the royal standard which had been flying on board the London, might be brought before him, supported by six seamen. This request being complied with, his Royal Highness commanded that the standard should be laid on the

deck, and then addressed the Admiral in the following impressive manner:

“ Admiral, the honor that you and the British officers have this day conferred on me and my family, is more than we ever expected, when so short a period has elapsed, and I had the gloomy prospect before me of being surrounded by my enemies; to prevent which, and procure my neutrality, I was constrained to shut my ports against the British nation, with a hope that it would satisfy the exorbitant demands of the French Emperor; yet my compliance did not secure my country from being invaded!

— “ Such extremity was to my mind, a source of the most poignant sorrow, — that

I should be forced to break off an alliance which had so long subsisted between my mother's court and that of his Britannic Majesty, but the snares of Bonaparte compelled me, as his perfidious conduct gave me reason to suppose, in the event of my refusal he would invade my mother's kingdom. On the part of Great Britain, I had not anything to fear, the honor of that nation being unquestionable; and my mother's court of Berlin was in the hands of the French. Admiral, your advice, which I received by dispatch, gave me information that Portugal had in part been taken possession of by the French,—such intelligence convinced me I was betrayed.

But to you, Admiral, I and my family owe our liberty, and my mother her

crown and dignity. We are this day come on board the London to celebrate his British Majesty's birth-day ; and on this joyful occasion my royal standard has had the honor to fly at the mast-head of the London, in conjunction with that of England. It now lies on the deck ; and permit me to return you and the officers thanks for all the services which you and they have conferred on myself and family, and on my faithful subjects. As a mark of my respect, accept this standard from me ; and from henceforth, quarter the arms of my house with those of your own : it will remain as a memorial for your posterity, that your exertions preserved us from falling into the snare

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which Bonaparte had laid for our destruction.

This royal address was honoured with a salute from all his Majesty's ships. It was most truly affecting to see the Princes, Princesses, and Prince Regent, with the Prince of Spain, while his Royal Highness was addressing the Admiral; and although the entertainment was the most magnificent that was ever given on board any of his Majesty's ships, yet, when a Sovereign addressed the British Admiral in such terms of respect, it was sufficient to change the scene of mirth into sorrow. But the Admiral revived it, and recommended the British officers to drink prosperity to his Royal High-

ness's dominions, which was received most graciously by the Royal visitors.

At eight in the evening, these illustrious personages left the ship, and invited the Admiral, Captains, and officers to attend them to the Opera ; which had been previously commanded on the occasion in honor of the day, boxes having been prepared for their reception. An address, by way of prelude was delivered on the occasion ; of which, the following translation will, it is hoped, be found to exhibit a tolerably accurate idea.

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“ This day has been a joyful one. Our Sovereign has cordially united in celebra-

ting the birth-day of George III. the Sovereign of the British Isles,—the father of us,—and the protector of the House of Braganza! May his sceptre always continue to sway over the heads of his enemies! The laws of Britons are just; their Sovereign governs with justice and with humanity. All ranks of men address him whose views are just; and those whose designs are base and dishonourable, his arms can scourge, and cause their fleets and armies to dread the name of a Briton. Don John, Prince Regent, enjoys his liberty, which he owes to the arms of England. May it never be annihilated by any power of the universe! May *they* live in unity until time shall be no more! and may the ill-acquired power of the

usurper meet its rapid fall, and the united powers avenge their countries' wrongs !

“ Unhappy Spain, thou hast been deceived ! Thy country has been robbed of its Sovereign, the family of thy Sovereign have been dragged from their faithful subjects, and doomed to ignominious imprisonment,—for what end the Omnipotent can only decide.

“ Don Carlos, Infanta of Spain ! should ever Providence restore you to your country, and place you on the throne of your ancestors, remember the protection of Britain. Her amicable connections will insure your country's happiness ;—your commerce will flourish ; your arms by

land and sea will regain their original power;—and the brave Spaniards will then remember their ancient dignity.

“ Illustrious Princess,\* descended from a long line of Spanish Sovereigns, and you the descendants† of the royal House of Braganza ! May your offspring learn ever to venerate the royal House of Brunswick !

“ And now on the evening of this 4th of June,—a day of joy,—a day of grateful respect,—as our royal Master and family have honoured us with their illustrious presence,—may our performances

\* The consort of the Prince Regent.

† The Infantas of Portugal.

afford to this august audience equal pleasure, and be crowned with equal success with the British flag, which has hitherto protected and preserved to us our royal master !”

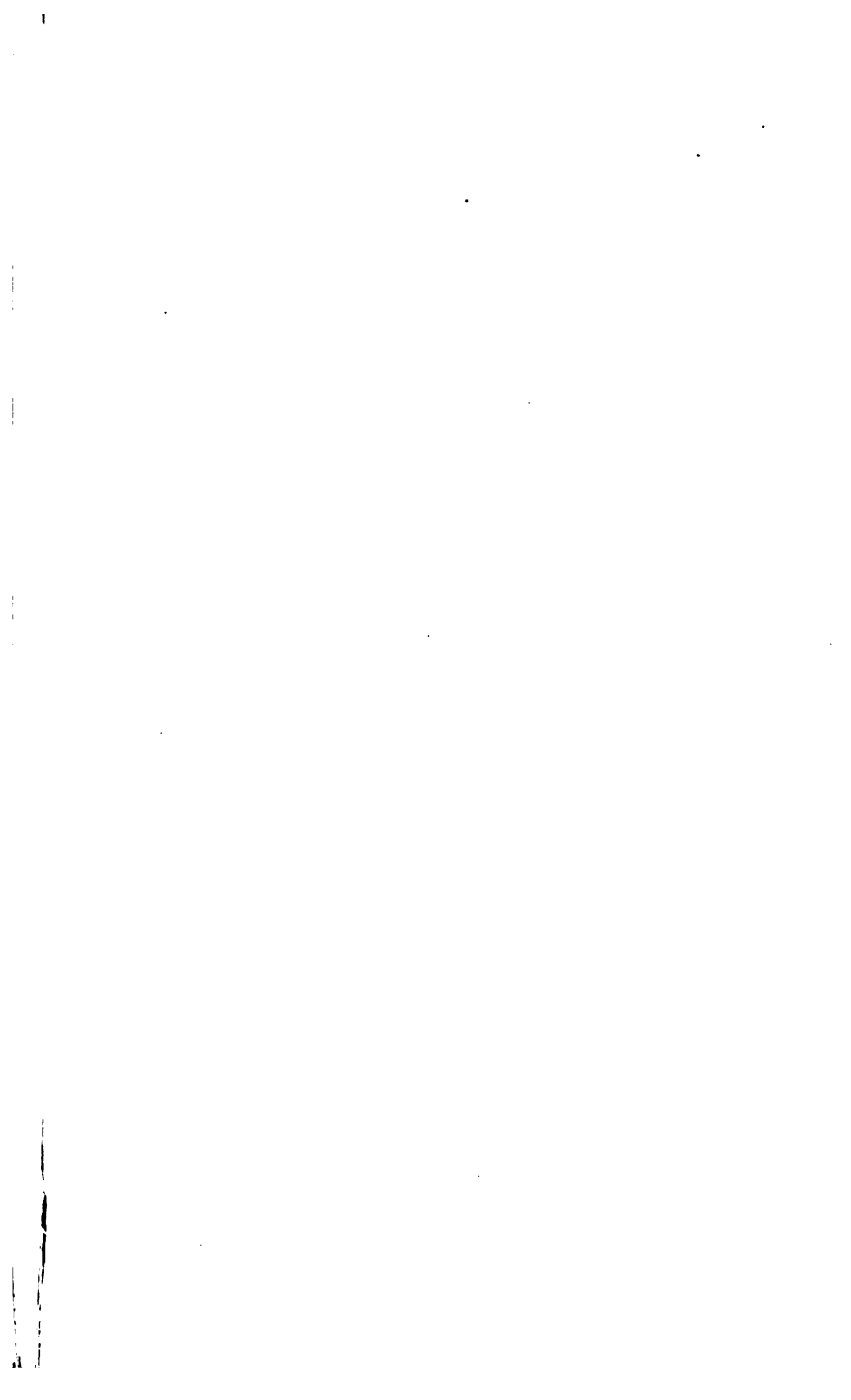
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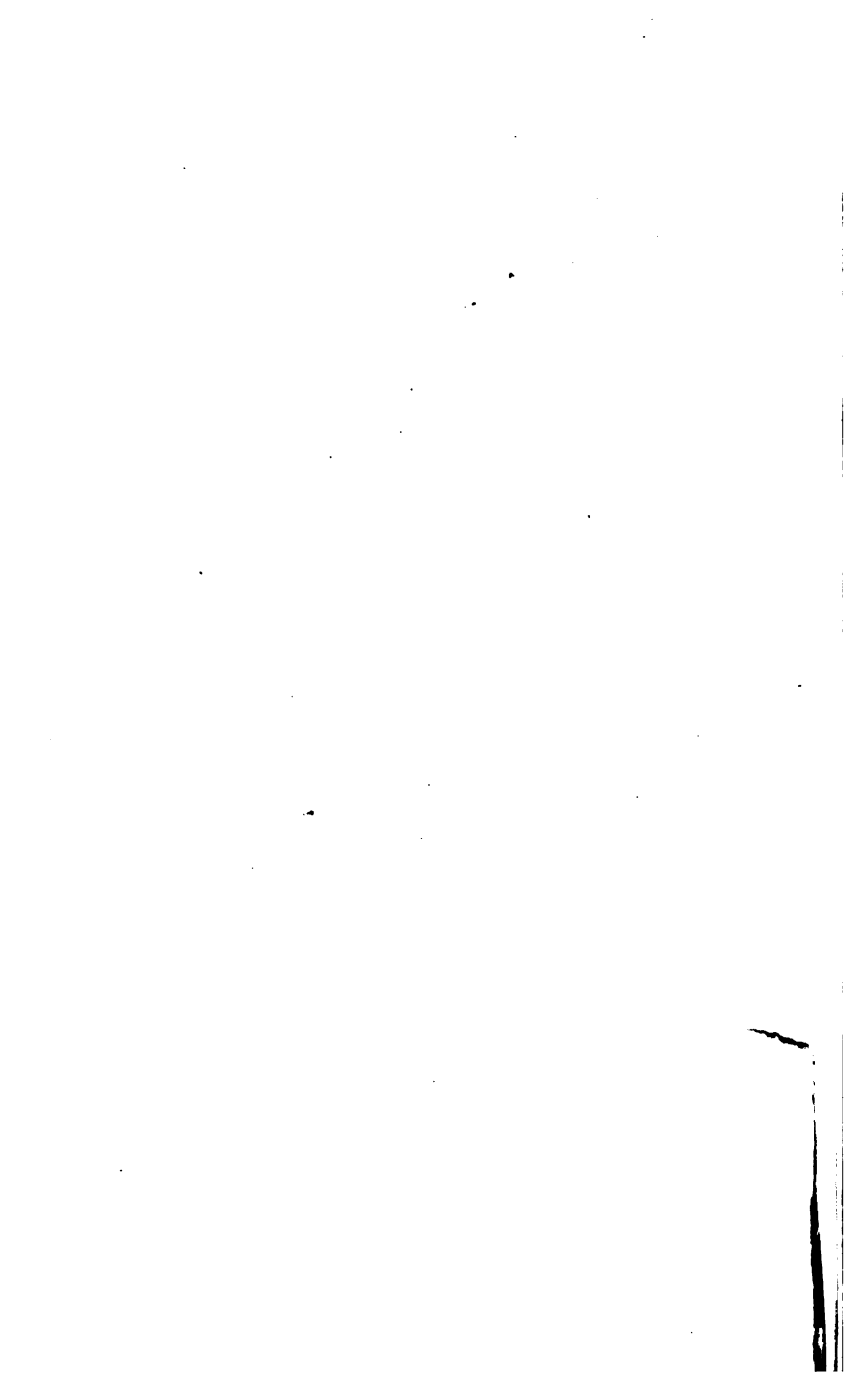
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