

THE
HISTORY

OF

EGYPT,

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF ITS

Invasion by the French,

Their Principal Operations there,

AND THE LATE

Dispatches from Sir RALPH ABERCROMBIE,
and General Hutchinson,

Containing a Detail of

The Defeat of the French,

UNDER THE COMMAND OF

Generals Bonaparte and Kleber,

TOGETHER WITH

Their Defeat and Expulsion,

UNDER GENERAL MENOÜ.

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HISTORY OF EGYPT.

CHAP. I

IT is generally agreed, that the princes of the line of the Pharaoh's sat on the throne of Egypt, in an uninterrupted succession, till Cambyſes II king of Perſia, conquered the Egyptians, 520 years before the birth of Chriſt: and that in the reign of theſe princes, thoſe wonderful ſtructures, the pyramids, were raiſed, which cannot be viewed without aſtoniſhment. Egypt continued a part of the Perſian empire, till Alexander the Great vanquiſhed Darius, when it fell under the dominion of that prince, who ſoon after built the celebrated city of Alexandria. The conqueſts of Alexander, who died in the prime of life, being ſeized upon by his generals, the province of Egypt fell to the ſhare of Ptolemy, by ſome ſuppoſed to have been a half-brother of Alexander, when it again became an independent kingdom, about 300 years before Chriſt. His ſucceſſors, who ſometimes extended their dominion over great part of Syria, ever after retained the name of Ptolemies, and in that line Egypt continued between two and three hundred years, till the famous Cleopatra, the wife and ſiſter of Ptolemy Dionyſius, the laſt king, aſcended the throne. After the death of Cleopatra, who had been miſtreſs ſucceſſively to Julius Cæſar and Mark Anthony, Egypt became a Roman province, and thus remained till the reign of Omar, the ſecond calif of the ſucceſſors of Mahomet, who expelled the Romans, after it had been in their hands 700 years. The famous library of Alexandria, ſaid to conſiſt of 700 000 volumes, was collected by Ptolemy Philadelphus, ſon of the firſt Ptolemy; and the ſame prince cauſed the Old Teſtament to be tranſlated into Greek: this tranſlation is known by the name of the Septuagint. About the time of the cruſades, between the years 1150 and 1190, Egypt was governed by Norredin, whoſe ſon, the famous Saladine, was ſo dreadful to the Chriſtian adventurers, and retook from them Jeruſalem. He inſtituted the military corps of Mamlouks, who, about the year 1242, advanced one of their own officers to the throne, and ever after choſe their prince out

of their own body. Egypt, for some time, made a figure under those illustrious usurpers, and made a noble stand against the prevailing power of the Turks till under Selim, who, after giving the Mamlouks several bloody defeats, reduced Egypt to its present state of subjection.

While Selim was settling the government of Egypt, great numbers of the ancient inhabitants withdrew into the desert and plains, under one Zinganeus, from whence they attacked the cities and villages of the Nile, and plundered whatever fell in their way. Selim and his officers perceiving that it would be a matter of great difficulty to extirpate those marauders, left them at liberty to quit the country, which they did in great numbers, and their posterity is known all over Europe and Asia, by the name of Gypsies.

An attempt was made a few years since to deprive the Ottoman Porte of its authority over Egypt, by Ali Bey, whose father was a priest of the Greek church. Ali having embraced Mahometan, and being a man of abilities and address, rendered himself extremely popular in Egypt. An accusation having been made against him to the Grand Signior his head was ordered to be sent to Constantinople; but being apprised of the design, he seized and put to death the messengers who brought this order, and he found means to put himself at the head of an army. Being also assisted by the dangerous situation to which the Turkish empire was reduced, in consequence of the war with Russia, he boldly mounted the throne of the ancient Kings of Egypt. But not content with the kingdom of Egypt, he also laid claim to Syria, Palestine, and that part of Arabia, which had belonged to the ancient sultans. While he was engaged in these great enterprizes, he was not less attentive to the establishing of a regular form of government, and of introducing order into a country which had been long the seat of anarchy and confusion. His views were equally extended to commerce; for which purpose he gave great encouragement to the Christian traders, and took off some shameful restraints and indignities, to which they were subjected in that barbarous country. He also wrote a letter to the republic of Venice, in which he gave the greatest assurances of his friendship, and that

tection. The conduct and views of Ali Bey shewed an extent of thought and ability, that indicated nothing of the barbarian, and he spoke a mind equal to the founding of an empire; but he was not finally successful. He assumed the titles and state of the ancient sultans of Egypt, and was ably supported by Sheik Daher, and some other Arabian princes, who warmly espoused his interests. He also succeeded in almost all his enterprises against the neighbouring Asiatic governors and ba'has, whom he repeatedly defeated; but he was afterwards deprived of the kingdom of Egypt, by the base and ungrateful conduct of his brother-in-law Mahomed Bey Abudahap, his troop being totally defeated on the 7th of March 1773. He was also himself wounded and taken prisoner; and dying of his wounds, was buried honourably at Grand Cairo. Abudahap afterwards governed Egypt as Sheik Bellet, and marched into Palestine to subdue Sheik Daher. After behaving with great cruelty to the inhabitants of the places he took, he was found dead in his bed one morning at Acre, supposed to be strangled. Sheik Daher accepted the Porte's full amnesty, and trusting to their assurances, embraced the captain pasha's invitation to dine on board his ship, when the captain produced his orders, and the brave Daher, Ali Bey's ally, had his head cut off in the 25th year of his age.

From that time Egypt has been torn by a civil war between the adherents of Ali, and other beys or princes who rose on his ruins. Of these the principal are Mora and Ybrahim, who having driven their enemies into banishment, began to quarrel among themselves. Alternately expelled from Cairo, they finally agreed to a compromise, March, 1789. From this time nothing of importance occurs till the late invasion of Egypt by the French: whose views in this expedition have been variously represented; in one of the letters from Bonaparte's army lately published, a very plausible and apparently true object is stated as the motive of this expedition. "To indemnify herself for the loss of her colonies (says the writer) France turned her attention towards Egypt and Syria; countries which by their climate and fertility are capable of being made the storehouse of France.

It is certain, that by seizing and *organizing* these countries, we shall be enabled to extend our views still farther; to annihilate, by degrees, the English East-India trade, enter into it with advantage ourselves, and finally bring into our hands, the whole commerce of Africa and Asia." We shall now give an account of Bonaparte's expedition, and the occurrences since that time.

In the month of May, 1798, Bonaparte, having collected the flower of his army at Toulon, and being joined by 12,000 men from Genoa, and as many from Civita Vecchia, making in all above 40,000 land forces, he set sail, leaving all Europe in anxious doubt and uncertainty against what country such a dreadful plague was sent.

After touching at Malta, and possessing himself of it, he proceeded on to Alexandria, where he arrived in July, and landing 2000 men he easily carried it by storm. The other strengths of Egypt were reduced, but with greater loss and difficulty from the want of necessaries, than from any resistance which the inhabitants could make, who were all equally hostile to him, and zealous in retarding his progress. In a short time the ranks of his army were thinned, that discontent and disaffection became evident, which were freely expressed by clamorous execrations against the framers of the expedition.

The first of August sunk them in despair; on the one hand they saw in the destruction of their fleet the possibility of their return cut off; and on the other, the inhabitants were so exasperated by the cruelties exercised on them, that whenever a French soldier wandered from the main body, if met by any of the natives he was killed.

Admiral Nelson having been detached from Lord St. Vincent with a fleet to watch the motions of Bonaparte, sailed direct for Alexandria, which place he reached before the French fleet, and immediately returned to Syracuse, where having refreshed his fleet, and obtained certain information of his enemies, he proceeded again to Egypt, and found their fleet at anchor in Aboukir Bay.

The admiral made the signal to prepare for battle, and that it was his intention to attack the enemy's van and centre as they lay at anchor, and according to the plan before developed. His idea, in this disposition of his force, was, first to secure the victory, and then to make the mo-

of it, as circumstances might permit. A bower cable of each ship was immediately got out abaft, and bent forward. The British continued carrying sail and standing in for the enemy's fleet in a close line of battle. As all the officers of the Squadron were totally unacquainted with Aboukir Bay, each ship kept sounding as she stood in. The enemy appeared to be moored in a strong and compact line of battle, close in with the shore, their line describing an obtuse angle in its form, flanked by numerous gun-boats, 4 frigates, and a battery of guns and mortars on an island in their van. This situation of the enemy seemed to secure to them the most decided advantages, as they had nothing to attend to but their artillery, in their superior skill in the use of which the French so much pride themselves, and to which indeed their splendid series of land victories was in general chiefly to be imputed. The position of the enemy presented the most formidable obstacles; but the Admiral viewed these with the eye of a seaman determined on attack; and it instantly struck his eager and penetrating mind, that where there was room for an enemy's ship to swing, there was room for one of ours to anchor. No further signal was necessary than those which had already been made. The Admiral's designs were as fully known to his own Squadron, as was his determination to conquer, or perish in the attempt. The *Goliath* and *Zealous* had the honour to lead insue, and to receive the first fire from the van ships of the enemy, as well as from the batteries and gun-boats with which their van was strengthened. These two ships, with the *Orion*, *Audacious*, and *Theseus*, took their stations inside the enemy's line, and were immediately in close action. The *Vanguard* anchored the first on the outer-side of the enemy, and was opposed within half pistol shot to *Le Spartiate*, the third in the enemy's line. In standing in, our leading ships were unavoidably obliged to receive into their bows the whole fire of the broad-sides of the French line, until they could take their respective stations; and it is but justice to observe, that the enemy received us with great firmness and deliberation, no colours having been hoisted on either side, nor a gun fired, till our van ships were within half gun shot. At this time the necessary number of our men were employed aloft in furling sails,

and on deck, in hauling the braces, &c preparatory to our
 raising anchor. As soon as this took place, a most ani-
 mated fire was opened from the Vanguard, which ship
 covered the approach of those in the rear, which were
 following in a close line. The Minataur, Defence, Bel-
 lerophon, Majestic Swiftsure, and Alexander, came up in
 succession, and, passing within hail of the Vanguard, took
 their respective stations opposite to the enemy's line. All
 our ships anchored by the stern, by which means the Bri-
 tish line became inverted from van to rear. Captain
 Thomson, of the Leander, of 50 guns, with a degree of
 judgment highly honourable to his professional character,
 advanced towards the enemy's line on the outside, and
 most judiciously dropped his anchor athwart hause of Le
 Franklin, raking her with great success, the shot from the
 Leander's broadside which passed that ship all striking
 L'Orient, the flag ship of the French Commander in Chief.
 The action commenced at sunset with an ardour and vi-
 gour which it is impossible to describe. At about 7 o'clock
 total darkness had come on but the whole hemisphere was
 at intervals illuminated with the fire of the hostile fleets.
 Our ships, when darkness came on, had all hoisted their
 distinguishing lights, by a signal from the Admiral. The
 main ship of the enemy, Le Guerrier was dismasted in less
 than 12 minutes; and in 10 minutes after the second ship,
 Le Conquerant and the third Le Spartiate, very nearly at
 the same moment, were also dismasted. L'Aquilon and
 Le Souverain Peuple, the fourth and fifth ships of the
 enemy's line, were taken possession of by the British at half
 past eight in the evening. Captain Berry, at that hour,
 sent Lieutenant Galway, of the Vanguard, with a party
 of marines, to take possession of Le Spartiate, and that of-
 ficer returned by the boat the French captain's sword,
 which captain Berry immediately delivered to the Ad-
 miral, who was then below, in consequence of the severe
 wound which he had received in the head during the heat
 of the attack. At this time it appeared that victory had
 already declared itself in our favour; for, although L'O-
 rient, L'Heureux, and l'onnant, were not taken possession
 of, they were considered as completely in our power, which
 bearing intelligence Captain Berry communicated in
 person to the Admiral. At 10 minutes after nine a fire

was observed on board L'Orient, which increased with great rapidity, presently involving the whole of the after part in flames. The light thrown by the fire of L'Orient upon the surrounding objects, enabled the British to perceive with more certainty, the situation of the two fleets, the colours of both being clearly distinguishable. The cannonading was partially kept up to the leeward of the centre till about 10 o'clock, when the L'Orient blew up with a most tremendous explosion. An awful pause, and silence for about three minutes succeeded, when the wreck of the masts and yards, which had been carried to a vast height, fell down into the water and on board the surrounding ships. After this awful scene the firing recommenced with the ships to the leeward of the centre, till 20 minutes past 10; when there was a total cessation of firing for about 10 minutes, after which it was revived till about 3 in the morning, when it again ceased, and the whole fleet except two ships remained in possession of the British.

During the remainder of this year, Bonaparte employed himself in endeavouring to tranquilize the country, and reduce it to obedience.

In the spring of 1799, he collected the whole of the troops that could be spared from garrisoning Egypt, amounting now only to 13,000, and proceeded to Syria, intending as was generally believed, to proceed by it, recruiting his army by the disaffected in the countries he passed through, and to attempt Constantinople. However, here his progress met an effectual check. After passing the desert, and taking Gaza and Jassa, at which last place three days after it had capitulated, Bonaparte caused the whole of the Turkish garrison to be put to death.

ACRE, anciently called Ptolemais, a small sea-port Town in Syria, without any regular fortifications, or artillery, depending solely on the genius, skill, persevering intrepidity and unshaken bravery of Sir Sidney Smith and the handful of brave seamen under his command, arrested Bonaparte's progress, baffled his endeavours, and sent him back to Egypt, loaded with crimes and disgrace.— We shall give the account in Sir Sidney's own words, in his Letters to Lord Nelson, at that memorable period.

MY LORD,

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

The constant fire of the besiegers was suddenly increased a fold, our flanking fire from afloat was, as usual, plied to the utmost; but with less effect than heretofore, as the enemy had thrown up epaulments and traversers of sufficient thickness to protect him from it. The guns that could be worked to the greatest advantage were a French six eighteen-pounder in the Light house castle, manned from the *Theseus* under the direction of Mr Scroder, Waller's mate, and the last mounted twenty four pounder in the North Ravelin, manned from the *Tigre*, under the direction of Mr. Jones, midshipman. These guns being

added to the Turkish musquetry, did great execution; and I take this opportunity of recommending these two officers, whose indefatigable vigilance and zeal merit my warmest praise. The *Tigre's* two 68 pound carronades, mounted in two gorges lying in the mole; and worked under the direction of Mr Bray, carpenter of the *Tigre* (one of the bravest and most intelligent men I have served with,) threw shells into the centre of this column with evident effect, and checked it considerably. Still, however, the enemy gained ground, and made a lodgement in the second story of the North-east tower; the upper part being entirely battered down and the ruins in the ditch forming the ascent by which they mounted. Day-light shewed us the French standard on the outer angle of the tower. A number of the enemy ascended to the assault, while the heap of ruins between the two parties served as a breast-work for both, the muzzies of their muskets touching, and the spear heads of the standards locked. Gezza Pacha, hearing the English were on the breach, quitted his station, where, according to the ancient Turkish custom, he was sitting, to reward such as should bring him the heads of the enemy, and distributing musket cartridges with his own hands. The energetic old man coming behind us, pulled us down with violence, saying, if any harm happened to his English friends, all was lost. This amicable contest, as to who should defend the breach, occasioned a rush of Turks to the spot, and thus time was gained for the arrival of the first body of Hassan Bey's troops. I had now to combat the Pacha's repugnance to admitting any troops but his Albanians into the garden of his seraglio, became a very important post, as occupying the *terre plain* of the rampart. There was not above 200 of the original 1000 Albanians left alive. This was no time for debate, and I over-ruled his objections by introducing the Chifflick regiment 1000 men, armed with bayonets, disciplined after the European method under Sultan Selim's own eye, and placed by his Imperial Majesty's express commands at my disposal. The garrison animated by the appearance of such a reinforcement, was now all on foot, and there being consequently enough to defend the breach, I proposed to the Pacha to get rid of the objects of his jealousy, by opening his gates to let them make a

ally and take the assailants in flank: He readily complied and I gave directions to the Colonel to get possession of the enemy's third parallel or nearest trench, and there fortify himself by thrusting the parapet outwards. This order being clearly understood, the gates were opened; and the Turks rushed out; but they were not equal to such a movement, and were driven back to the town with loss. Mr Bray, however, as usual, protected the town-gate efficaciously with grape from the sixty-eight pounders. The enemy afterwards began a new breach by an incessant fire directed to the southward of the lodgement, every shot knocking down whole sheets of a wall much less solid than that of the tower on which they had expended so much time and ammunition. The group of Generals and Aid du camp which the shells from the sixty-eight pounders had frequently dispersed, was now re-assembled in Richard Cœur de Lion's Mount. Bonaparte was distinguishable in the centre of a semicircle; his gesticulations indicated a renewal of attack, and his dispatching an Aid du camp to the camp, shewed that he waited only for a reinforcement. I gave directions for Hassan Bey's ships to take their stations in the shoal water to the southward, and made the Tigre's signal to weigh, and join the Thebus to the northward. A little before sunset, a massive column appeared advancing to the breach with a solemn step. The Pacha's idea was not to defend the brink this time, but rather to let a certain number of the enemy in, and then close with them, according to the Turkish mode of war. The column thus mounted the breach unmolested, and descended from the rampart into Pacha's garden, where in a few minutes, the bravest and most advanced among them lay headless corpses; the rest retreated precipitately. General Rambaud was killed. Much confusion arose in the town from the actual entry of the enemy, all having been impossible, nay impolitic, to give previous information to every body of the mode of defence adopted, lest the enemy should come at a knowledge of it by means of their spies. Bonaparte will, no doubt renew the attack, the breach being, as above described, perfectly practicable for fifty men a breast; indeed the town is not, nor ever has been defensive according to the rules of art, but, according to every other rule, it must and shall be defended, not

that it is in itself worth defending, but we feel that it is by this breach Bonaparte means to march to farther conquests. It is on the issue of this conflict that depends the opinion of the multitude of spectators on the surrounding hills, who wait only to join the victor, and with such a reinforcement for the execution of his known projects, Constantinople and even Vienna must feel the shock. Be assured, my Lord, the magnitude of our difficulties does but increase the energy of our efforts in the attempt to discharge our duty, and though we may, and probably shall be overpowered, I can venture to say that the French will be so much farther weakened before it prevails, as to be little able to profit by its dear bought victory.

I have the honour to be, &c

W. SIDNEY SMITH.

MY LORD,

The providence of Almighty God has been wonderfully manifested in the defeat and precipitate retreat of the French army, the means we had of opposing its gigantic efforts against us being totally inadequate of themselves to the production of such a result. The measure of their iniquities seems to have been filled by the massacre of the Turkish prisoners at Jassa, in cool blood, three days after their capture; and the plain of Nazareth has been the boundary of Bonaparte's extraordinary career. He raised the siege of Acre on the 20th May, leaving all his heavy artillery behind him, either buried or thrown into the sea, where, however, it is visible, and can easily be weighed. The circumstances which lead to this event, subsequent to my last dispatch on the 9th instant, are as follows:—Conceiving that the idea of the Syrians, as to the supposed irresistible prowess of these invaders, must be changed, since they had witnessed the checks which the besieging army daily met with in their operations before the town of Acre, I wrote a circular letter to the Princes and Chiefs of the Christians of Mount Lebanon, and also to the Sheiks of the Druses, recalling them to a sense of their duty, and engaging them to cut off the supplies from the French camp. I sent them at the same time, a copy of Bonaparte's impious Proclamation, in which he boasts of having over-

sole exhortation, calling upon them to choose between the friendship of a Christian knight and that of an unprincipled renegade. This letter had all the effect I could desire. They immediately sent me two Ambassadors, professing not only friendship, but obedience; assuring me, that in proof of the latter, they had sent out parties to arrest such of the mountaineers as should be found carrying wine and gun-powder to the French camp, and placing eighty prisoners of this description at my disposal. I had thus the satisfaction to find Bonaparte's career farther northward effectually stopped by a warlike people inhabiting an impenetrable country. General Kleber's division was sent eastward, towards the ford of the Jordan, to oppose the Damascus army; it was recalled from thence to take its turn in the daily efforts to mount the breach at Acre, in which every other division in succession had failed, with the loss of their brave men, and above three fourths of their officers.

The Turkish Chiffick Regiment having been censured for the ill success of their sally, and their unsteadiness in the attack of the garden, made a fresh sally the next night. Holiman Aga the Lieutenant-Colonel, being determined to retrieve the honour of the regiment by the punctual execution of the orders I had given him to make himself master of the enemy's third parallel, and this he did most effectually; but the impetuosity of a few carried them on to the second trench where they lost some of their standards. Though they spiked four guns before their retreat. Kleber's division, instead of mounting the breach according to Bonaparte's intention, was thus obliged to spend his time and strength in recovering these works, in which it succeeded, after a conflict of three hours, leaving every thing in *statu quo*, except the loss of men, which was very considerable on both sides. After this failure, the French Grenadiers absolutely refused to mount the breach any more over the putrid bodies of their unburied companions, sacrificed in former attacks. Subordination was now at an end, and all hopes of success had now vanished, the enemy had no alternative left but a precipitate retreat, which was put in execution in the night between the 20th and 21st inst. I have above said, that the battering train of artillery (except the carriages, which were burnt) is now

The utmost disorder has been manifested in the retreat, and the whole track between Acre and Gaza is strewn with the dead bodies of those who had sunk under their fatigue, or the effect of slight wounds; such as could walk, unfortunately for them, not having been embarked. The rowing gun-boats annoyed the van column of the retreating army in its march along the beach, and the Arabs harassed its rear when it turned inland to avoid their fire. The heaps of unburied Frenchmen lying on the bodies of those whom they massacred two months ago, afford another proof of Divine Justice, which has caused these murderers to perish by the infection arising from their own atrocious act — W. S. Smith.

CHAP. II.

Operations of Sir RALPH ABERCROMBIE in Egypt FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

THE fleet sailed from Marmorice on the 22d February, and anchored in Aboukir Bay on the 2d March. From that day to the 7th, the weather was so boisterous, and the swell so great, that it was impracticable to disembark. This circumstance gave the enemy full leisure to collect troops and artillery, and to make every necessary preparation to oppose us. The whole infantry of the garrison of Alexandria, three hundred cavalry, and fourteen or fifteen pieces of cannon were placed on a space of little more than two miles, from near the castle of Aboukir to the narrow Isthmus, which forms the boundary of the Lake. Such was the situation in which we found things on the morning of the 8th, when the descent was made. Nothing, I believe, ever exceeded the boldness and perseverance with which the boats continued to approach the shore, under a shower of bullets, shells and grape. Every discharge was answered by a shout from the seamen, and all seemed totally insensible of danger. The reserve on the right formed as if on the Parade, and in a moment carried a height nearly equal to, and very like to, that of Camperdown. The left were charged by the cavalry the moment they got out of the boats. However, they drove every thing before them; and in the course of three quarters of an hour, the enemy was completely beaten, with the loss of half his artillery. After a halt of two or three hours, in

ate's brigade, which had not been landed, the army advanced about four miles, where we remained till the 12th: the landing of provisions and stores being much impeded by the boisterous weather.

On the 12th, we again marched about five miles, constantly skirmishing with the advanced guard of the enemy, who had received a reinforcement of two half brigades of infantry, and one regiment of cavalry, from Cairo. We encamped for the night, about 3 miles from the enemy's position, which seemed and proved very advantageous.

Next morning the army moved to attack the right of it, marching by lines from the left, the reserve covering the movement and moving parallel with the fire. As the columns advanced into the plain, the enemy attacked the flanks of both with all his cavalry, supported by a considerable body of infantry, and ten or twelve pieces of cannon.

This attack was repulsed by the advanced guard (the 90th and 92d,) both of which behaved most nobly. The force the enemy opposed to us appeared about five thousand infantry, six hundred cavalry, and a large proportion of artillery; the ground being particularly favourable to the two last. The movements though under a constant cannonade, were regular and accurate; the General, in his last action, had his horse shot under him.

The castle of Aboukir has surrendered, and our position cuts off communication between Alexandria and the Nile.

On the 21st of March, the enemy attacked us with all his force, the action commenced an hour before day light, a false attack on our left, which was under Major-General Craddock's command, where they were soon repulsed. The most vigorous efforts of the enemy were never directed against our right which they used every possible exertion to turn.—The attack on that point was begun with great impetuosity by the French infantry supported by a strong body of cavalry, who charged in columns: they were received by our troops with equal ardour, and the utmost steadiness and discipline: the contest was unusually obstinate; the enemy were twice repulsed, and their cavalry were repeatedly mixed with our infantry. They at length retired, leaving a prodigious

We have taken about two hundred prisoners not wounded; but it was impossible to pursue our victory on account of our inferiority in cavalry, and because the French had lined the opposite hills with cannon, under which they retired. We also have suffered considerably in a few more severe actions have ever been fought, considering the numbers on both sides. We have sustained an irreparable loss in the person of our never sufficiently to be lamented Commander in Chief, Sir Ralph Abercromby, who was mortally wounded in the action, and died on the 28th of March. I believe he was wounded early, but he concealed his situation from those about him, and continued in the field, giving his orders with that coolness and perspicuity which had ever marked his character, till long after the action was over, when he fainted through weakness and loss of blood. As his life was honourable, so was his death glorious. His memory will be recorded in the annals of his country—will be sacred to every British soldier, and embalmed in the recollection of grateful posterity.

After the battle of the 21st of March, our army, under the command of General Hutchinson, was employed in reducing several places in the possession of the enemy while at the same time, the town of Alexandria was kept under a close blockade. The French army suffered considerably from the want of provisions, and other necessaries. Attempts were repeatedly made by a Squadron under the command of Admiral Gantheume, to disembark a number of troops to their assistance, which were continually frustrated by the vigilance of our fleets. So that the enemy daily losing ground, and seeing all hopes of assistance gone, were obliged, first by the surrender of Grand Cairo, and afterwards of Alexandria, (which surrendered about the latter end of August, but not before the British had got possession of some of the out-posts,) to evacuate Egypt, and accordingly it is again given up to the Ottoman Porte.