

N. B. Captain Duncan, who brought the dispatches, reports, that, before he left the fleet, the Prudent of 64 guns had joined it; and that an account was just received of Rear-Adm. Digby being upon the coast.

Line of Battle, and List of Killed and Wounded.

Ships.	Commanders.	Guns.	M.	K.	W.
Alfred	Capt. Bayne	74	600	—	—
Belliqueux	— Brine	64	500	—	—
Invincible	— Saxton	74	600	—	—
Barfleur	{ R.-Ad. Hood } Capt. Hood	90	768	—	—
Monarch	— Reynolds	74	600	—	—
Centaur	— Ingfield	74	650	—	—
America	— Thompson	64	500	—	—
Resolution	{ Lord R. } { Manners }	74	600	3	16
Bedford	— Graves	74	600	8	14
London	{ R. Ad. Graves } { Capt. Graves }	98	800	4	18
Royal Oak	— Ardeoisif	74	600	4	5
Modtagu	— Bowen	74	600	8	22
Europe	— Child	64	500	9	18
Terrible	— Fiuch	74	600	4	11
Ajax	— Charrington	74	550	7	16
Princesfa	{ R.-Ad. Drake } { Capt. Knatch- } bull	70	577	6	11
Alcide	— Thompson	74	600	2	18
Intrepid	— Molloy	64	500	11	35
Shrewsbury	— Robinfon	74	600	14	52

Total killed and wounded, 90 236

"Whitehall, Oct. 9. The original letter from Maj. Gen. Campbell, commander of his Majesty's forces in West Florida, to Lord G. Germain, dated at Penfacola, May 12. last, not having come to hand, the following is extract of the duplicate of said letter, lately received.

"When I wrote your Lordship on the 7th instant, although I then foresaw the probable fate of Penfacola, yet I did not apprehend that the decision of the contest was quite so near at hand as it has since proved to have been. An unfortunate shell from the enemy, on the morning of the 8th, precipitated its destiny, and occasioned its falling under the dominion of Spain, at least some days sooner than it otherwise would have happened. On the morning of the 8th a shell that accidentally burst by the door of the magazine of the advanced redoubt, set fire to the powder within, and in an instant the body of the redoubt was a heap of rubbish, depriving no less than 48 military, 27 seamen, and 1 negro, of life by the explosion, besides 24 men wounded, most

of them dangerously. Two flank works, that had been added to the redoubt since the commencement of the siege, still remained entire; the fire from which (owing to the intrepid coolness of the artillery, particularly of Capt. Johnstone, who commanded them) repulsed the enemy in their first attempt to advance to the storm, and gave time to carry off the wounded, 2 five and a half inch howitzers, and 3 field-pieces. But the enemy having by this time brought up their whole army, there was a necessity of abandoning these works, after first spiking up the pieces of artillery in the flank works, viz. 2 ten and 2 eight inch mortars, 3 eight and 1 five and half inch howitzers, and 1 field-piece, a three-pounder, and 1 twenty-four-pounder; 6 twelve-pounders, and 1 nine-pounder, were lost in the redoubt. The enemy at this time assumed a countenance as if they would storm our remaining works; however, on finding us prepared for their attack, and ready to receive them, they dropt their design, but kept up so heavy and incessant a fire from their small arms, under cover of the remaining works of the advanced redoubt, that the seamen could not stand to the guns in the middle redoubt, and several (both soldiers and seamen) were wounded in that redoubt. In this situation, not having the smallest hope of relief, having little or no shot left, (except what the enemy had furnished us with for our 4 twenty-four pounders), sensible that I could only hold out a few days longer, and that many lives, that may hereafter be more usefully employed in the service of their King and country, would be lost in prolonging the defence, without any visible advantage in return, I judged this the time to endeavour procuring an honourable and advantageous capitulation. I accordingly, a little before three o'clock in the afternoon of the 8th, displayed a flag of truce on Fort George, and proposed, by letter, a suspension of hostilities, in order to afford time to draw up articles of capitulation; which being verbally granted, articles were accordingly prepared between his Excellency Governor Chester and me, and sent out by seven o'clock that evening; but, before we could send them out, Gen. Galvez sent in a list of terms and conditions that he could not dispense with in the proposed capitulation; however, they were not at this time taken notice of. In about two hours

hours after, answers to our original proposals were returned, which, among other things, plainly indicated that we must become prisoners of war, otherwise there could be no capitulation: I therefore immediately drew up the 1st and 17th articles of the present capitulation in the words in which they now stand, which I sent out to Gen. Galvez, with a message, that, unless these were assented to as principal and preliminary articles, the cessation was at an end, and hostilities might begin as soon as he thought proper; but in case these were agreed to, it appeared to me probable that there would be no difficulty in adjusting the other articles the ensuing day: whereupon they were returned conditionally ratified, but which conditions have since been withdrawn. The cessation being thereby continued, I early next morning prepared a new draught of articles of capitulation, in which the stipulations of the preceding day were attended to, and some new clauses that occurred to be necessary, in addition to those of the preceding day, inserted; to which Gov. Chester consenting, they were, on the morning of May 9. sent out to Gen. Galvez by Brig.-Maj. Campbell, who being fully informed of my sentiments upon them collectively and separately, was impowered to clear up and discuss them with his Excellency. Accordingly Gen. Galvez, upon an investigation and discussion of them, article by article, agreed to them verbally, with some insignificant reservations; whereupon he was permitted to take possession of the garrison of Pensacola that evening, with a guard for his person, (he being indisposed), and Maj. Campbell left in his camp, with Gen. Espeleta and Gen. Galvez's secretary, to put down the answers in writing; but they (notwithstanding Gen. Galvez's verbal ratification) started objections to the 14th, 17th, and 24th articles, which however were next day removed by Gen. Galvez himself; and two additional articles, the 27th and 28th, being likewise agreed upon and inserted, the whole, as it now stands, was ratified and exchanged, and possession given that same evening, to the arms of Spain, of Fort George and its adjoining works, and of the royal-navy redoubt the ensuing day. [375.]

It has been my misfortune, my Lord, to be employed in an ill-fated corner of his Majesty's dominions; but I trust that

the calamities that have befallen West Florida will not be imputed to me: My endeavours have unremittingly been exerted for its preservation to the British empire, since I took upon me the military command; and if my labours and exertions to that end shall but find favour with my Sovereign, I shall forget the frowns of fortune, and be happy in the royal approbation.

Since the capitulation we have learnt, from the best authority, that the combined regular land-troops of the enemy on shore did not consist of fewer than 7800 men, besides seamen and marines; to which being added the consideration of 15 ships of the line, and 6 frigates, King's snows, sloops, &c. being to long employed on this service, and the confession of many of their officers, of their having an artillery sufficient to have carried before Gibraltar (their own expression)."

Gen. Campbell concludes with commendations upon all ranks of men in the army and navy for the cheerfulness and zeal with which they underwent the greatest fatigues and dangers. The officers he particularly mentions are, Capt^s Deans and Kelly, Lieut^s Miller of the Mentor; and Hargood of the Port Royal, Lt-Col. De Horn of the Waldeck regiment, Maj. Macdonald of the Maryland Provincial corps, Maj. Pentzell and Capt. Lieut. Holding of the 3d regiment of Waldeck, Capt. Addenbrooke of the 45th regiment, Lieut. H. M. Gordon of the 16th, and Brig.-Maj. Campbell.

By the return of the forces in Fort George, and its adjoining works, on the surrender May 10. the numbers were,

Royal Artillery,	-	36
Civil branch of the ordnance, staff of the field-train, and companies of the King's Packet, transports, &c.	-	73
Royal Navy,	-	149
Staff,	-	28
Infantry, and dismounted dragoons,	-	691
		873

During the siege the loss was, 90 killed, 46 wounded, 83 deserted.

Officers: Lieut^s E. Carroll, of 16th foot, and J. Pinhorn, of West Florida Royal Forresters; Ensl. Theod. Ursall, of 3d Waldeck; Midshipmen D. Christie, of the Mentor, and J. Blair, of the Port Royal, killed.—Capt. A. Forster, of 16th foot, and Lieut. C. Ward, of 3d batt 60th, wounded.

The number of men in the royal-navy redoubt, when delivered up, May 11. was 139.

From the Royal Jamaica Gazette, June 30. 1781.

[The following papers received by the last flag of truce from the Havannah, exhibit, in a striking light, the sufferings of a number of our unfortunate countrymen, prisoners amongst the Spaniards, and merit the attention of every friend to humanity, particularly those in whose power it is to afford them relief.]

“ To his Britannic Majesty’s subjects, prisoners in the city of Havannah.

{ *College of St Peter, city of Merida, Nov. 6. 1780.*

Friends and Fellow-Subjects,

WE the subscribers, late inhabitants of the Bay of Honduras, embrace, with peculiar pleasure, the present opportunity which offers for conveying these few lines to you, and flatter ourselves they will meet that attention which our situation requires.

The capture of St George’s Key by the Spaniards, the 15th of September 1779, and the circumstances attending that transaction, must long ere this have been made public, and to which we presume you of course can be no strangers.

We, who are the unfortunate sufferers from that melancholy event, beg leave to represent, that having been made prisoners by the Spaniards, we, with our families, where we at present remain, are allowed only one rial per day for our subsistence, without any distinction in that respect betwixt us and the common mariners, who are lodged in the same prison, deprived of those liberties and indulgences which, from our rank and situation in life, we considered ourselves justly intitled to, and all applications on that head rendered ineffectual.

The hardships to which some of us have been reduced by the loss of our wearing apparel, and that distress which all in general have experienced from the necessity of disposing of the greatest part of what was saved, in order to purchase those necessaries which our scanty allowance would not afford, together with other circumstances equally distressing, are inserted at large in our representation to his Excellency the Governor of the Havannah, which goes by this conveyance, and which we sincerely hope will so far claim his attention, as to obtain for us a speedy removal from hence, where any

further length of confinement (from the advanced price of provisions which prevails, and which seems likely to continue) must render our situation truly wretched and disagreeable. We have already suffered a long and painful imprisonment in this place, without the least tidings or any prospect of relief; and we are likely to remain here during the war, unless some steps are taken by our friends to obtain our deliverance. The measures we have already pursued for that purpose appear to us the most eligible; indeed, they are the only means we have in our power, for all others are withheld from us; and we owe to the friendship and humanity of the bearer the liberty we now exercise in making the present application.

Feeling for your present situation, in like manner as, we presume, you must naturally do for us, permit us, in the most earnest manner, to supplicate the exercise of your good offices in our behalf, either through the channel of your friends, or by petition to the governor, to obtain for us a speedy removal from hence to the Havannah, in order that we may have the satisfaction of joining you, and partaking of the benefit common to all prisoners in time of war, of being exchanged in our turn; but should such application prove ineffectual, we must solicit your further services, in giving the earliest intelligence of our situation to our friends, to the end that they may use their best endeavours to procure for us a speedy enlargement from our present captivity. And we furthermore request, that this application may be made as public as possible, that our fellow-subjects in general may be apprised of our situation, and thereby enabled to use every means in their power for our relief.

We can only further add, that if any humane person can be found, who will undertake the care and delivery of a letter, we shall deem an answer to this as a very singular favour; of which, and the discharge of those friendly offices here requested, we hope ever to retain the most grateful remembrance. — We pray God to preserve your health, and grant you that patience and fortitude necessary to support you under your present afflictions; and beg leave to subscribe ourselves, with respect, your affectionate friends, and unfortunate fellow-subjects,” &c.

{ College of St Peter, Me-
rida, Dec. 23. 1780.

Friends and Fellow-Subjects,

THE foregoing is a copy of what we have already wrote you by two former conveyances; to which we have to add, that about fifteen days ago a flag of truce, with ten Spanish prisoners from the island of Rattan, arrived at Bacallar; but the governor of this province, for reasons best known to himself, refuses to make any exchange, considering that island as a place of refuge, which the remaining Bay inhabitants had fled to, and not as a settlement under the protection of government, (which we are sensible it is); and although we understand the ten prisoners are received by the governor of Bacallar, yet none are permitted to go from hence in return; a circumstance which adds to our afflictions, and leaves us no hopes, but in the humanity and attention of our friends and fellow-subjects, who we trust will not fail to use every means in their power for our release. And in order the more readily to induce them thereto, we must now request, that this letter, and the copy formerly sent to the governor of the Havannah, which is hereby inclosed, may be forwarded by the very first safe conveyance to Kingston in Jamaica, in order to their being published in the Royal Gazette, that the public in general may be informed of our situation, and that our friends in that island may make the necessary application to their Excellencies the Governor and Admiral there, to obtain for us an enlargement from hence.— In full confidence of your friendship and good offices, we remain, very respectfully, your affectionate friends, and unfortunate fellow-subjects," &c.

“ To his Excellency Don Diego Joseph Navarro, Captain-General, and Governor of the city of Havannah.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, the subjects of his Britannic Majesty, prisoners in the college of St Peter, in the city of Merida, beg leave, with the utmost humility and respect, to represent to your Excellency, that having settled in the Bay of Honduras, by virtue of the last treaty of peace, in that defenceless, unprovided state which the 17th article of the said treaty prescribes, without the least advice or intelligence of

war being proclaimed betwixt the two crowns, St George's Key being the principal place of our residence in said Bay, were, on Sept. 15. 1779, at daylight in the morning, surrounded by a considerable armed force, commanded by Don Joseph Rosado, Governor of Bacallar, to whom we surrendered ourselves, prisoners of war, without making the least resistance, delivering up our negroes, our money and plate, agreeable to the stipulation made by him for that purpose; and, in consequence of this solemn promise to the magistrates, that the inhabitants, with their wearing apparel, should be sent to Bacallar without plunderage or molestation. That so far from this promise being complied with, the officers who had the charge of conducting us and our families thither, on our arrival at the lookout of St Antonio in the Rio Honda, refused to furnish the crafts necessary to carry us and our baggage from thence to Bacallar; by which means some of us were compelled to proceed thither, leaving behind our chests, containing wearing apparel, to be forwarded after us so soon as crafts could be procured for that purpose. That so far from the officers complying with that part of their duty, they, in violation of Don Joseph Rosado's solemn promise to the proprietors, permitted the chests to be broke open, and the effects to be taken from thence, and distributed amongst those who were most active in committing the robbery. That notwithstanding we made application to the commanding officer at Bacallar, complaining of the cruelty and injustice of such proceedings, which had reduced many of us to the utmost distress, no redress could be obtained. Under these disagreeable circumstances, and after tarrying a few days at Bacallar, we were sent off for Merida, in the most inclement season of the year, where we arrived after a journey of thirty days; the first part of it being through a mere wilderness of forty leagues, and in roads that were almost impassable, many of the women and children were much hurt by frequent falls from the mules, and the lives of the whole at times greatly endangered. On our arrival in this city, we were lodged in the college of St Peter, allowed only one rial per day for our subsistence, and notwithstanding all the necessaries of life are risen considerably in price, no alteration hath been

made therein, and we are at this time struggling against poverty and distress; for such of us as were so fortunate as to save our wearing apparel, have naturally been induced, from a sense of humanity, to spare a part thereof to our suffering fellow-subjects, as well as dispose of such as could be spared from immediate use, in order to purchase those necessaries of life which our scanty allowance would not afford. That the whole is now nearly worn out, without the least prospect of getting a fresh supply, it being impossible, from the allowance of one rial per day, that any part thereof can be saved to appropriate to that purpose.

We beg leave to represent, that amongst the number of us prisoners in this city, which is ninety-five, there are fourteen women, twenty-four children, and twelve infirm men, so that the residue form but a very inconsiderable number of effective people, and which, we think, can never be deemed a sufficient object for keeping us in captivity, so much beyond all reasonable expectation, and so contrary to the usage and custom of all other nations, who, for the ease and benefit of their subjects, have established those modes of exchange, which so strongly contribute towards mitigating the hardships and miseries of war. We beg leave further to assure your Excellency, that many of us are men of rank and character in life, and deserving of that respect and indulgence which, for reasons unknown, hath hitherto been, and still continues to be, withheld from us: That no distinction has been made between us and the common mariners, who are lodged in the same prison, and allowed one rial per day equally with ourselves. We trust that our situation will appear to your Excellency to be truly disagreeable, when it is considered, that, from the circumstances of Gov. Rosado's quitting St George's Key in the precipitate manner he did, bringing away some of the inhabitants prisoners, and leaving the rest at liberty, husbands are separated from their wives, wives from their husbands, and children from their parents, whose great distress and natural feelings, on so melancholy an occasion, are sufficient to excite pity and compassion in the most obdurate heart: That, deprived of those slaves who hitherto were accustomed to work for them, they are reduced to the necessity of performing, in the prison, every hard

and laborious service, which their distressed situation requires, and which of course falls very heavy upon them. That in all other countries, the practice of keeping women and children close prisoners is neither known nor permitted; nor is it customary to debar men of rank and character (whose only crime is that of being unfortunate) the liberty of walking at large, on condition of their good and peaceable behaviour, and of repairing to the place of their confinement every evening at a seasonable hour. This indulgence is granted to prisoners in the island of Jamaica, as well as in all other islands in the West Indies belonging to his Britannic Majesty; an indulgence which we conceived to be due to us as men of credit and character, which we have made repeated applications for to Don Robert Ribas, governor of this province, as well as for an additional daily allowance; or of being sent to the Havannah, where there is a probability of our profiting from the exchange of prisoners, which we understand has already taken place: all which has constantly been refused; and we are now given to understand, that the cause of our detention here, proceeds from the packet which carried the first account of our captivity being taken by the English on her passage to Old Spain, and in consequence thereof it is become necessary to forward thither a fresh list of our names, and that until an answer is received from thence, we must remain prisoners here. This is a very melancholy reflection to men who have already undergone one twelvemonth's disagreeable imprisonment, and who are still left to struggle against every difficulty and distress which must naturally attend a further confinement; for, notwithstanding the loss of our property is great, it must be, and is considered by us as nothing, in comparison of the loss of our liberty, which threatens the destruction of what little effects may yet be preserved in the hands of our fellow-subjects, and on which alone the future welfare of us and our helpless families depends. We further beg leave to represent to your Excellency, that in addition to the circumstance of only one rial per day for our allowance, we have to add the melancholy prospect of an approaching famine, which this province is now threatened with; for the scarcity of corn is already become so great, that it is with the ut-

most difficulty we can procure any for our money; and even in that case, not a sufficiency for our subsistence; a circumstance which naturally leads us to reflect on the cruel and hard fate which is still likely to attend us, and which requires all the patience and fortitude which the human mind can possibly exert. We therefore earnestly entreat your Excellency, to give the necessary orders to the Governor of Merida to forward us as soon as possible to the Havannah, where we will be indulged with the liberty common to all prisoners in the time of war, of being exchanged in our turn.

Signed for and in behalf of his Britannic Majesty's subjects, prisoners in the city of Merida, October 20. 1780.

PATRICK OGILVY.
THOMAS POTTS."

An account of the figure and formation of the earth — Of subterraneous fires, and its effects — Of the deluge — Of the origin of mountains, continents, &c.

[From Whitehurst's Inquiry into the original state of the earth.]

HAVING premised the general laws or principles bestowed upon matter, let us endeavour to trace their operations in forming the chaotic mass into an habitable world.

The first operation which presents itself to our conception is the figure of the earth; for the fluid mass no sooner began to revolve upon its axis, than its component parts began to recede from their axis of motion, and thus continued till the two forces were equally balanced, and the earth had acquired its present oblate spheroidal form.

The component parts being now arrived at a state of rest, with respect to the general laws of motion, began a second operation by means of their affinities; for particles of a similar nature attract each other more powerfully than those of a contrary affinity or quality.

Hence particles of air united with those of air; those of water with water; and those of earth with earth; and with their union commenced their specific gravities.

The uniform suspension of the component parts being thus destroyed by the union of similar particles, those bodies

which were the most dense began their approach towards the centre of gravity, and the others towards the surface.

Thus commenced the separation of the chaotic mass into air, water, earth, &c.

Now, as air is eight hundred times lighter than water, it seems to follow, by the laws of statics, that it became freed from the general mass in a like proportion of time sooner than water, and formed a muddy impure atmosphere.

The process of separation still goes on, and the earth consolidates every day more and more towards its centre, and its surface becomes gradually covered with water, until one universal sea prevailed over the globe, perfectly pure and fit for animal life.

Thus, by the union of similar particles, the component parts of the atmosphere and the ocean, seem to have been separated from the general mass, assembled together, and surrounded the terraqueous globe.

To the peculiar laws of attraction may likewise be ascribed that sameness of quality which prevails in strata of different denominations, as calcareous, argillaceous, &c. and also the assemblage of all other particles into select bodies, of metals, minerals, salts, talks, spars, fluors, crystals, diamonds, rubies, amethysts, &c. and many other phenomena in the natural world.

Having thus defined the general laws or principles by which the component parts of the chaos were separated and arranged into the different classes of air, water, &c. it may not be improper to remark, that as the sun is the common centre of gravity, or the governing principle in the planetary system, the presumption is great that the governing body was at least coeval with the bodies governed.

Therefore, as the chaos revolved upon its axis during the separation of its component parts, may we not thence infer, that as the atmosphere was progressively freed from its gross matter, light and heat must have gradually increased, until the sun became visible in the firmament, and shone with its full lustre and brightness on the face of the new-formed globe?

Hence it appears, that several days and nights preceded the sun's appearance in the heavens. How far the result of this reasoning may illustrate the Mosaic account, of the sun being created,