

at Madrid in Spain, should be delivered up to him, and be reinstated as well as himself in all their possessions; and further, that his majesty would honour him with valuable grants and employments: with respect to the French in the island, he would forgive them also, knowing well that they at all times were willing to adventure wherever a good opportunity presented itself of making their fortune, and that he had in express command from his majesty, to furnish them with three months allowance, and afford them a passage to France, in the ships which brought them; and although he had no doubt of the conquest of the island, he, nevertheless, to shew that his master was a prince both mild and benignant, on his part, made these offers with power in his hands.

As soon as the commander had seen the subject of this letter, he tore it in pieces without communicating its contents to any one, and in the evening the count came to him at Praya with the cavalry, promising to send him sixty horses, which he did not do. Returning to his station, he passed by that of the Maitre de Camp, and the commander du Mayet, who informed him, it was his opinion that the enemy meant to make an attack the next day on Porto Indio, or St. Catherine, where there were not a sufficient number of people to prevent a descent, and beseeching the count to send him the French sailors who were at Angra, to place them: which he promised to do, assuring the Maitre de Camp and du Mayet, that he would proceed thither with four thousand men. So far from acting thus, having met the sailors on the road, he conducted them back to Angra, and no more was heard of him till the succeeding day, in the afternoon, the day of the battle. The same evening the Maitre de Camp and du Mayet ordered captain Baptista to send his company to sleep, to a mountain which was between St. Catherine and Porto Indio, to be ready to succour either, as there might be occasion; which he did not do, but went to sleep at St. Sebastian, a league from the spot.

On the succeeding day, which was Tuesday, an hour before day, three galleys of the Spanish fleet came to La Praya, and fired several balls at a corps de garde, where they saw a fire: in the mean time, the other galleys, with fifteen or twenty large boats accompanying each, approached to the shore of St. Catherine, where captain Bourguignon was posted with two companies of Portuguese, who took to their heels on the first discharge of cannon from the galleys; so that the said Bourguignon remained with only fifty French soldiers belonging to his company. This small force opposed the landing vigorously; thirty-five of his number were killed, with the captain; his lieutenant and his ensign, with the fifteen men who remained, being wounded. The Spaniards landed at once six thousand men, and the rest of the army filed after them, to the number of fifteen thousand, in such excellent discipline, that their order of battle was formed immediately on landing, every one knowing his station. Du Mayet arrived there, and captain La Grave, shortly after the Maitre de Camp beginning a skirmish; but were obliged to retreat for want of men. As soon as day appeared, the commander de Chaste ordered captain la Barre to advance towards the army, expecting it was about to land, and at the instant he heard a cannonade on the side of St. Catherine, which caused him to proceed thence towards with his companies, making them march in sight of each other; and continuing in this order along the sea shore as quick as he could, to the place where the enemy was advancing, in order that, if the enemy were repulsed, he should not have an opportunity of landing with his galleys in another quarter. At the head of his companies he was informed, by a man on horseback, whom he had sent forward, that all the enemy had landed, and that, at a little village