

to the general's consideration, whether it would not be best to proceed to Basseterre: Whereupon the general was of opinion, that it would be best to proceed to the said place forthwith; which was put in execution accordingly.

On the 22d of January, his majesty's fleet appeared off the island of Guadalupe; and though the town of Basseterre, which is the metropolis of the said island of Guadalupe, was very formidably fortified to the sea, and the fort was thought by the chief engineer, on his reconnoitring it, to be impregnable to the ships, on the 23d, commodore Moore made a disposition for the attack of the said place, with the ships under his command, which was prosecuted with the utmost vigour and resolution, and, after a most severe cannonading, which continued from between nine and ten in the morning till night, all the batteries and the fort were silenced by the ships. It was intended to land the troops the same evening; but it being dark before they were ready, they did not land till the next day, when commodore Moore put the land-forces in possession of the said town and fort, without their being annoyed by even one of the enemy; the governor, principal inhabitants, and armed Negroes, having retired into the mountains. The bombs, which had been ordered to play upon the town, having set it on fire, occasioned, from the quantity of rum and sugar, which was in it, great destruction of houses, with goods and treasure to a very great value.

General Hopson concurs with commodore Moore in giving the greatest commendations to the bravery of the officers and men of his majesty's navy, the general taking notice, in his letter, that the very great resolution and perseverance of the men of war was so remarkable that it would be an injustice not to mention it.