

PAGES OF BRITISH HISTORY.

Historical Battles—Noteworthy Events in the Story of the Creation of the British Empire.

GIBRALTAR, 1781.

Concluded from last issue.

Prior to the grand attack a most brilliant sortie was made from Gibraltar on the night of 27th of November, 1781, under General Ross. The following are the heads of the Garrison Orders issued for this occasion:—

"Gibraltar, Nov. 26th, 1781. Countersign, STEADY.

"All the grenadiers and light infantry of the garrison, and all the men of the 12th and Hardenberg's Regiments, and non-commissioned officers now on duty, to be immediately relieved, and to join their regiments, to form a detachment consisting of the 12th and Hardenberg's Regiments complete, the grenadiers and light infantry of all other regiments (which are to be completed to their full establishment from the battalion companies), one captain, three lieutenants, ten non-commissioned officers, and 100 artillery, and three engineers, seven officers, and twelve non-commissioned officers, overseers, with 146 workmen from the Line, and forty from the artificer company. Each man to have thirty-six rounds of ammunition, with a good flint in his piece, and another in his pocket. No drums to go out, except two with each regiment. No volunteers will be allowed. The whole to be commanded by Brigadier-General Ross; and to assemble on the Red Sands at twelve o'clock to-night, to make a sortie upon the enemy's batteries. The 39th and 58th Regiments to parade under the command of Brigadier-General Picton, to sustain the sortie if necessary."

At midnight the detailed troops were under arms in deep silence; and, on being joined by 100 seamen under Lieutenants Muckle and Campbell, were formed in three columns, the right being under Lieutenant-Colonel Triggs, the left under Lieutenant-Colonel Hugo, and the centre under Lieutenant-Colonel Dachenhausen. The whole sortie party were only 2,225 of all ranks.

The right column was to march against the extremity of the enemy's parallels; the centre to follow, through the Bay Side Barrier, to destroy the mortar batteries; the left to bring up the rear, and advance upon the gun-batteries, all observing the most profound silence.

By the time all was arranged the morning of the 27th was far advanced, and as the moon had then nearly finished her nightly course, her light was waning on the hills and sea. At a quarter before three the sortie began to issue by files from the right of the rear line; but, notwithstanding the profound silence observed, the Spanish advanced sentries detected them amid the gloom of the hour and the sound of the waves upon the beach, and, after challenging, fired upon them.

"Forward!" was the immediate response; and Colonel Hugo, on finding that an alarm had been given, pushed forward his column at a rush for the extremity of the parallels, where he found no opposition, and the pioneers at once fell to the work of filling up, overturning, and dismantling, with shovel and pickaxe. Part of Hardenberg's Regiment, which was under Hugo, mistook the route of the grenadiers, owing to the darkness of the morning, and suddenly found themselves in front of the San Carlos Battery. In this dilemma they had no alternative but to assault it, which they did gallantly, after receiving the fire of the trench-guard. They storm-

ed the great earthen parapet, driving back the enemy; but now Colonel Dachenhausen, with the flank companies of the 39th, finding them in the battery, supposed them, in the gloom, to be the enemy. They were thus fired upon by their own comrades, and many fell severely wounded, the countersign, "Steady," alone preventing further mischief.

The flank companies of the Macleod Highlanders were equally successful, and stormed the gun-batteries with an ardour that was irresistible; the trench-guards gave way on every side, abandoning those works which had cost so much expense and so many months of perilous labour. The woodwork of the batteries, the fascines and platforms, were set in flames, and columns of fire and smoke rolled through the grey sky of the early morning. Trains were laid to the magazines, which were blown up, the greatest exploding with a crash that shook the waters of the bay, and threw into the air masses of blazing timber.

In his anxiety General Elliot came out in person to aid General Ross; and

in one hour, with the loss of only four killed, Lieutenant Tweedie, of the 12th Foot, and twenty-four others wounded, the sortie was complete, and the detachment returned, after demolishing the works and spiking ten thirteen-inch mortars and eighteen twenty-six-pounders, effecting destruction to the value of £2,000,000 sterling.

National pride, no less than national interest, were now enlisted in the desire to reduce a place which baffled every attack.

Under the direction of d'Arcon, a celebrated French engineer, the floating batteries already referred to were constructed. They were ten in number, and deemed invulnerable. Their bottoms were of thick timber, their sides of wood and cork, which had been soaked in water, with a hollow space between, filled with wet sand; and to prevent them from being burned by red-hot shot, numerous ducts of water went through them. A sloping roof, formed of strong rope netting, covered with wet skins, preserved the men on board from the falling shells; and each of these batteries, which carried from ten to twenty-eight pieces of cannon, was manned by picked crews of resolute Spaniards. Guns to the number of 1,000, and 12,000 of the finest infantry of France, came to second their efforts, under the Duke de Crillon.

"It appeared," says Drinkwater, "that they meant, previous to their final efforts, to strike, if possible, a terror through their opponents, by displaying an armament more powerful than had ever been brought before any fortress. . . . On the land side were most stupendous batteries and works, mounting 200 pieces of heavy ordnance, managed by an army of nearly 40,000 men, commanded by an active and hitherto victorious general, and animated by the immediate presence of two princes of the blood-royal of France (the Count d'Artois and Duke de Bourbon), with other dignified personages, and many of their own nobility. In their certainty of success, however, the enemy seems entirely to have overlooked the nature of that force which was opposed to them; for though the garrison scarcely consisted of more than 7,000 effective men, including the marine brigade, they forgot they were now veterans in this service, had long been habituated to the effects of artillery, and were, by degrees, prepared for the arduous conflict that awaited them."

After weeks of incessant but minor cannonading, the grand attack was made on the 13th of September, 1782, under the floating-batteries, under Buenaventura de Moreno, a distinguished Spanish officer, were brought into the requisite position to act in unison with the guns of the ships and shore batteries; and at a quarter to ten the firing began on all sides, exhibiting a scene of which neither pen nor pencil can give the slightest idea. Suffice it to say that 400 pieces of the heaviest artillery were thundering at once against Gibraltar, the defenders of which found the floating-batteries quite as formidable as they had been represented.

The heaviest bombs rolled from their flexible roofs, and thirty-two-pound shot failed to make any impression on their hulls. They were frequently on fire, but the flames were speedily extinguished. Artillery salvos more tremendous, if possible, than ever were now directed from Gibraltar; incessant showers of red-hot balls of every calibre, of flaming carcasses, and shells of every species, flew from all quarters; and as the great masts of the stately ships went crashing by the board, and their riggings became cut and torn, the consequent confusion in the fleets gave fresh hope to the garrison.

By evening the ship cannonade began to slacken; rockets, as signals of distress, were seen soaring into the air, while boats were rowed around the disabled men-of-war, in which our artillery must have made the most dreadful havoc, for, during the short intervals of cessation, a strong, indistinct clamour, the mingled sound of groans, and cries, and shrieks, came floating upward to the ears of the garrison.

By midnight one great battering ship was in flames from stem to stern. The light thus thrown around enabled our artillery to point their guns with the utmost precision, while the giant Rock, with all its grim batteries, was brilliantly illuminated, and the ships and floating wreckage in the bay were distinctly visible. From the depressed guns the red-hot globes of iron seemed to streak the air with red lines as they went on their errand of destruction; and by four in the morning six other battering ships were also in flames, adding to the sublimity and terror of the scene.

The magazines began to explode, and men were heard shrieking amid the

flames for pity and assistance; others were seen imploring relief, with gestures of despair. Of these crews only 400 men (out of 5,260) were saved by the humane efforts of the garrison, and chiefly by those of Captain (afterwards Sir Roger) Curtis, of the Royal Navy.

To reply to all the batteries of the enemy, the garrison had only eighty pieces of cannon, with some mortars and nine howitzers. Upwards of 8,000 rounds (more than half of which were red-hot shot) and 716 barrels of powder, were expended by our artillery. What quantity of ammunition the enemy expended could never be ascertained.

Notwithstanding their defeat, they recommenced their cannonade from the isthmus, expending during the remainder of the month from one to two thousand rounds every twenty-four hours, and shelling all night.

The captured prisoners were sent to their own camp, and a captain of the marines (rescued from a battering ship) who died of his wounds, was honorably interred by the grenadiers of the 39th, who fired three rounds over his grave.

Hourly now bodies were cast ashore from the burned wrecks and shattered pinnaces, and many of them were horribly mutilated and scorched. The combined fleets still remained in the bay, being determined to oppose any relief of the garrison; while additional works were raised on shore, and the fighting continued almost without cessation, till the long blockade was terminated by the announcement of the signature of the preliminaries of a general peace, on the 2nd of February, 1783. The men in the Spanish boat who brought these joyful tidings made their appearance with ecstasy in their countenances, exclaiming, as they went ashore—

"We are all friends! We are all friends!"

It was not, however, till the 10th of March that free intercourse was re-established by the arrival from England of the official intelligence that peace had been concluded; and thus ended the great siege of Gibraltar, which lasted three years, seven months and twelve days from the commencement of the blockade till the cessation of hostilities.

During these long and terrible operations, the garrison lost 1,231 men of all ranks, expended 8,000 barrels of powder, and 205,328 cannon balls.

On the 18th of March the Duke de Crillon presented General Elliot with a beautiful grey Andalusian horse; and some days after, attended by a brilliant staff, paid him a visit. He was received by a salute of seventeen guns; and our soldiers, with that fine spirit which is so truly British, received him with three hearty cheers. This is said to have greatly perplexed him, till the spirit in which it was done was explained, and then he seemed highly pleased.

He was much impressed by the ruined aspect of the town. The officers of the garrison were introduced to him by corps.

"Gentlemen," said he, to those of the artillery, "I would rather see you here as friends than on your batteries as enemies, where you never spared me."

He was greatly impressed with the strength and nature of the works, and particularly by a gallery six hundred feet long, above Farrington's Battery. "Those works," he exclaimed to his suite, "are worthy of the Romans!"

After dining with the officers of the garrison, he passed through the camp to Europa, each regiment turning out in succession without arms, and giving him again three cheers. The extreme youth and good appearance of our troops excited his surprise and admiration. To General Elliot he said—

"You have exerted yourself to the utmost of your abilities in your noble defence; and though I have not been successful, yet I am also happy in having my sovereign's approbation of my conduct."

On his return to England General Elliot was created, in 1787, Lord Heathfield and Baron Gibraltar, and died thirteen years after, at the ripe age of seventy-seven, when on a visit to the baths at Aix-la-Chapelle.

Sir Roger Curtis, who brought home his dispatches after the siege, was knighted by the king, and subsequently made a baronet.

After the peace which followed the independence of America and the successful defence of Gibraltar, all our troops were disbanded to the 73rd, now styled the Perthshire Regiment.

In 1887 Levi estimated that the English agricultural laborers earnings were £75,000,000 per annum; of those engaged in textile manufactures, £47,000,000; building trades, £43,000,000; metals, £32,000,000; ships and railways, £38,000,000; servants, £30,000,000; showing that agriculture was still the most remunerative business for the laborer.

THE "ANGLO-SAXON" is published in the interest of English men in Canada—particularly the members of the Sons of England.

AT \$1.00 A YEAR.

POSTAL ADDRESS: ANGLO-SAXON, P. O. Box 296 OTTAWA, ONT., CANADA.

SUPREME GRAND LODGE DISTRICT DEPUTIES.

"We are instructed by the S. Grand President, to state that twenty-five or more extra copies of the ANGLO-SAXON will be supplied to DISTRICT DEPUTIES, for distribution among those of our countrymen who do not belong to our Society. Application should be made to Bro. John W. Carter, the S. G. Secretary, at Toronto, in good time before each issue. It is to be hoped that the D. D.'s will take advantage of this arrangement."

District Deputies.

ONTARIO.

- Bro. H. H. Wright—Aylmer. Bro. G. Twining—Belleville. Bro. A. C. Bacon—Brockville. Bro. Capt. Thos. Rawson—Sherbrooke. Bro. Thos. Jackson—Clinton. Bro. C. F. Chanter—Chatham. Bro. John Nettleton—Collingwood. Bro. F. H. Herbert—Centre Toronto. Bro. G. S. Booth—Centre Toronto. Bro. E. J. Cashmore—East York and Toronto.

- Bro. Geo. Clark—Fort William. Bro. John Skitch—Gravenhurst. Bro. J. Taylor—Guelph. Bro. R. Hannaford—Hamilton. Bro. Jos. Hook—London. Bro. Ed. Ackroyd—Ottawa. Bro. A. Collier—Orangeville. Bro. J. B. White—Port Hope. Bro. F. J. R. Mitchell—Peterboro. Bro. H. Bliss—St. Catharines. Bro. E. Blundell—Toronto Junction.

QUEBEC.

- (CITY OF MONTREAL.) Bro. R. H. Bartholomew. Bro. E. Lowe. (CITY OF QUEBEC.) Bro. T. Teakle.

NOVA SCOTIA.

- Bro. A. S. Dodson—New Glasgow. PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. Bro. J. H. Bell—Charlottetown.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

- Bro. A. D. Thomas—Fredericton. MANITOBA. Bro. Rev. Canon Coombs—Winnipeg.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

- (ASSINIBOIA DISTRICT.) Bro. Reginald J. Steel, D.D., S.G.P.—Regina, Assa. Bro. Dr. G. P. Bell—Qu'Appelle S'tion (ALBERTA DISTRICT.) Bro. G. C. King—Calgary. BRITISH COLUMBIA. (VICTORIA DISTRICT.) Bro. Capt. G. W. Robertson—Victoria (VANCOUVER DISTRICT.) Bro. W. B. Townsend—Vancouver.

ENGLAND.

- Bro. A. J. Craston—Nichol's Building, Playhouse Yard, Golden Lane, Barbican, London, E.C.

SONS OF ENGLAND!

We hereby solicit your patronage and request you to call at the

VICTORIA BAKERY AND CONFECTIONERY

Cor. Queen & O'Connor Sts., (Opposite the Y. M. C. A.)

Where we have opened a branch store and where we will manufacture DAILY our own.

Pure Candy & Confectionery

SPECIALTIES: Weddings, Balls, Parties, Breakfasts and Suppers supplied on the shortest notice and the best of style.

VIENNA AND HOME-MADE BREAD

guaranteed the best.

Hotels, Boarding Houses, Institutions, etc., supplied at wholesale prices.

SLINN BROS.

FOOTWEAR

It will pay you to give me a call, as my prices are much lower than shoe dealers on Sparks street.

- Ladies' Walking Shoes. Misses' Walking Shoes. Gentlemen's Walking Shoes. Gentlemen's Boots.

Good choice. None better. Prices Lower than Centre Town.

Order Work a Specialty. Satisfaction certain. T. Force 130 Bank Street.

H. PARKS, FLORIST

38 Sparks Street, Russell Block. Telephone No. 61.

Roses a Specialty.

All Kinds of Cut Flowers, Bouquets, Funeral Designs, and Wreaths.

BRO. W. C. STUART,

VOCAL HUMORIST, MIMIC, VENTRILOQUIST, ELOCUTIONIST AND

Declarator of 15 Characters.

Can be engaged for Societies, etc., for part or full programme.

TERMS LOW.

G.A. COOK, Manager

4 Churchill, Ave., Toronto.

JOHN WILLIAMS,

Cab Proprietor, 219 Maria St., Ottawa.

Double and Single Carriages. Special facilities for Wedding and other parties. Prompt attention given to all orders.

BOARDING STABLES. Cabs 182 and 127. Bell Telephone No. 14

PRITCHARD & ANDREWS

173 & 175 Sparks Street OTTAWA.

RUBBER STAMP MANUFACTURERS GENERAL ENGRAVERS.

Stencil Brands, Ink Brushes for Marking boxes, bags, etc.

Brass, Aluminum and Copper Checks for Bakers, Milkmen and hotels.

Useful for companies in place of money. Seals, Presses, Brass Signs, etc., etc

SEND FOR SAMPLES.

KIMPTON & CO.,

172 Rideau Street, Ottawa.

PORK BUTCHERS, PACKERS AND PRESERVERS OF

MEATS

All Goods Our Own Curing and Manufacture and Strictly First Class

SAMANTHA THE WORLD'S FAIR

Agents Wanted

Over One Hundred Illustrations, by C. De Gramont

that show a series of the most interesting and instructive productions of the fair, and which will be found in every household.

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted

Agents Wanted