

this purpose they spiked all the guns, and destroyed all the ammunition and military stores that could not be carried off. They even locked the gates of the fort, after which they embarked without the loss of a single man.

All this was performed in defiance of the large force that besieged them, and when duly considered, was not less a matter of astonishment, than the very extraordinary manner in which the fort had been taken. The officer who conducted this remarkable defence and evacuation, was Captain Hulke of the navy.

While the honour of the British arms was so effectually supported on the continent of Spanish America, it was no less vigorously maintained in the West Indies, by the bravery and vigilance of the naval commanders on that station. Admiral Hyde Parker, assisted by Admiral Rowley, kept the enemy in continual alarm, and intercepted the trade of the French islands in the most distressing manner. They took three large frigates dispatched by Count D'Estaing to the West Indies, after his failure in America. They seized or destroyed great part of a convoy, in sight of the squadron at Port Royal in Martinico, under Monsieur De la Motte Piquet, who narrowly escaped being taken. He had sailed out of that harbour, in order to favour the escape of that convoy, by engaging the British squadron. Having partly effected his purpose, he withdrew; but was pursued so closely that he was compelled to take shelter under the batteries ashore. It was in this pursuit, that Captain Griffith of the Conqueror, an officer of great merit, was unfortunately slain. These successes happened towards the close of seventy-nine, and the commencement of the ensuing year.

The tardy arrival of the convoy with the supplies of recruits and provisions, under Admiral Arbuthnot,