

plished in a few days' time, with very slight loss to the British forces, the Spanish commander, who had only 150 men under his command, considering it advisable to capitulate. From that time Gibraltar has continued in the hands of the British nation, to whom it has proved a most valuable acquisition. It has stood several severe sieges at various periods since the British occupation, particularly the celebrated siege of 1779-82, when General Eliot, afterwards Lord Heathfield, with a garrison of 5382 men, held it for three years against an overwhelming force of Frenchmen and Spaniards, and finally remained master of the situation.

The town of Gibraltar, which lies on the north-west side of the promontory, contains a population of some 15,000 inhabitants; the whole colony is governed by the military commander for the time being. A valuable depôt has been established here by British traders, and thus Gibraltar is found useful for commercial purposes while it is of the utmost importance as a military and naval station to Great Britain.

HELIGOLAND.

This is a small island, less than two miles and a half in circumference, situated in the North Sea, in $50^{\circ} 11'$ N. lat., $7^{\circ} 51'$ E. long., not many miles from the mouths of the Elbe and Weser. It has an eminence some two hundred feet in height, on which is situated the upper