

collected together a very formidable force, for the defence of their main position. They knew, indeed, that on the retention of it almost every thing depended. On his march, the British general was suddenly attacked by a division which had been placed in ambush, and it was not till after a severe struggle that the enemy were driven back. On the 22d of April, the troops reached the neighbourhood of Souffriere, and were led to the assault. The contest continued warmly for seven hours; and, though every exertion was made by the assailants, they were finally compelled to retreat to Vieux Fort, with a loss, in the two engagements, of nearly two hundred men.

This repulse put an end to all hopes of doing more, for the present, than barely retaining a footing in the island, by means of the posts which were yet in our possession. The natural strength of Morne Fortune justified the expectation that the British might make a stand there till reinforcements could arrive.

Two months passed away without the occurrence of any event worthy of notice. Sickness, in the mean time, was making great ravages among the British, one half of whose force was generally unfit for service. Desertion, too, is said to have assisted in thinning the ranks. The enemy, on the other hand, were daily gaining fresh accessions of strength. To the climate