

Pedro de Padilhe to tell the commander de Chaste, that he must proceed with his people to Lisbon, where he should be embarked for France, as he had not the power of forwarding him from there, not having a sufficient number of vessels to transport his army back ; with this the commander was obliged to acquiesce, in spite of all dispute to the contrary. However, while waiting from day to day for the departure of the army, he was informed by some of his captains, that the Spaniards endeavoured to seduce them to join them, with their troops, in order to be present at a battle which the king Philip meant to give the Moors at Larache, where Don Sebastian was killed four years before, and lost the day. On the same day the commander being invited to the quarters of Don Pedro de Toledo, where the principal captains of the army were assembled, was repeatedly pressed to be gay, and enjoy himself, on account of his appearing sad and cast down at his bad fortune ; upon which subject Don Lopez de Foulquoual, Maitre de Camp, general of the army, thus expressed himself : " Mons. de Chaste, in my opinion, you have no reason to grieve in the manner you do, seeing that, in this instance, nothing has occurred but what has been advantageous to you. I will refer the statement of your adventures to the judgment of the most experienced warriors in the world ; I am certain, upon explaining every circumstance, that they can form no other idea thereof, than such as is entertained by myself and my companions ; which is, that although you should have had all the good fortune possible against us, you could not appear in a braver or more honourable light, nor better have signalised your renown, than you have done, in having fought with, and kept a whole strong and numerous army employed for an entire day with such a handful of men, who cheerfully exposed themselves in the fight, with fixed arms advancing to give a shock to our soldiers, and meeting their steel with resolution, to bathe their own in the blood of ours ; killing a great number of our bravest men, notwithstanding your being abandoned by the Portuguese, and their chief, with some of your own deserted from you to us, informing us of your distress ; in this position, engaging the marquis de Santa Cruz to enter into terms with you, notwithstanding the information received of your being a prey to thirst and hunger, which were destroying your people, and saving your lives from absolute condemnation ; for my part, I think we were too easy, that it would have been an eternal affront and stain upon the honour of our nation, if we had had the disgrace to have granted beyond what we have done ; and that you have to thank God for the assistance he has afforded you, and that you are at present in the hands of men of honour, from whom you receive every courtesy you can desire." The commander thanked him very humbly for his politeness, and said : " I should be the most ungrateful of beings, if I were not to shew proper sentiments, when opportunity may offer, for the honour and kindness shewn me ; but as the French are incapable of concealing what is uppermost, as in the instance of myself, I shall freely observe, that all the caresses and kind treatment shewn us are done with a design of which I cannot approve ; what, for two days back, has given me greater cause of vexation, is the hearing that your captains were seducing my and their men to go to the battle of Larache, which I gave the more credit to, from the marquis having already begun to break the treaty of capitulation, putting off the embarkation of my men for France, which should have taken place from this island to Lisbon, which is done more to induce us to make a party in this battle, than from any want of vessels, as he says ; or, if this be not the cause, it is for the purpose of playing off some villainy upon me and mine ; breaking his engagements entirely. He is not to conceive, that although I should be forced to go to Lisbon, I shall the more be persuaded, either willingly, or by constraint, to go to the said battle ; for, rather than do so, I would stab myself in fifty places, as would all my companions, except we were ordered to proceed, by the king my master, to whom I shall go to render an account