

fort Bourbon alone excepted, and that there was even a probability that this place would very soon surrender for want of provisions.

The French Engineers were all confident in the success of this plan. Willing, therefore, to shew how ready I was in support of their cause, I ordered the 21st regt. to land on the 14th at Caze Navire, and there took post, which enabled the officer who commanded the royalists to collect all his force in the neighbourhood of St. Pierre; he accordingly moved, and I landed the rest of our forces on the 16th. and joined him at a very strong post within about five milles of St. Pierre.

The British troops consisted of the Grenadiers, Light Infantry, and Marines from the fleet, with the Carolina black corps, amounting in all to about 1100 men: The Corps of Royalists was said to be about 800. This force was thought to be perfectly adequate to the service proposed. We were retarded in our operations by the difficulty of bringing up the six pounders to their stations, where they did not arrive till the 17th in the afternoon, when the enemy made an attack upon one of them, but were very soon driven back by the pickets of the light infantry; but I am sorry to say with the loss of Capt. Dunlop, and three men of the Royal Americans.

The plan we had concerted was the attack of two batteries which defended St. Pierre, the taking of which would immediately put us in possession of that town. The morning of the 18th was the time fixed, and we were to move forward in two columns, the one consisting of the British troops, the other of the royalists: for this purpose the troops were put in motion before day break. But unfortunately some alarm having taken place among the royalists, they began, in a mistake firing on one another; and their commander being severely wounded, on the occasion, his troops were immediately disconcerted, would not submit to the controul of any of the other officers, and instantly retired to the post from which they had marched.

This conduct strongly proved that no dependance could be placed on them, and the attack against St. Pierre must solely have been carried on by the British troops, to which their numbers were not equal; and as they luckily were not yet engaged with the enemy, they were ordered immediately to return to their former post, from which they embarked on the 19th; and the 21st regiment likewise embarked from their post on the 21st, the navy, as usual, giving the most ready assistance.

As the royalists would certainly fall a sacrifice to the implacable malignity of the republican party as soon as we quitted the Island, it became in a manner incumbent on us, in support of the National character, to use our utmost exertions to bring these unhappy people from the shore; and although the necessity of impressing such vessels as could be found, and the purchasing provisions from the Merchant vessels attending the army, will incur a great expence, I have ventured upon it, trusting to the generous and humane disposition exhibited by the nation on all similar occasions and being perfectly assured of finding in you an advocate for rescuing so many unfortunate persons from certain death.

We therefore were employed in embarking these people from the 19th to the 21st, besides whites, there are a number of blacks whose situation was equally