

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO. THE CAPTURE OF THE CAPE, 1806.

IT was one glorious morning early in August that we started from Cape Town behind a spanking team of nags to visit the historic battlefield of Blueberg, the spot where the British troops landed on that fateful January morning just a hundred years ago, and various points of interest along the line of Sir David Baird's march on Cape Town. It was still pitchily dark as Esau inspanned, but the brightness was growing over the Hottentots Holland as we reached Maitland, and at Milnerton the first glimpse of the sun was heartily welcomed, for the air had a frosty nip which the thickest of coats could not prevail against. Just beyond Milnerton our track led down to the hard white beach, wreck strewn and solitary. Behind us lay Table Mountain, springing up like a vast island from the sea, an isolated picture, marvellously clear in the pure morning air. From this viewpoint one realises that, after all, the old people who drew such weird sketches of the Mountain were not so far out in their ideas. Those who live continually under the immediate shadow of the Table have little idea of its aspect from the Blueberg beach, ten miles away. Peaks and pinnacles, kloofs and gorges, wear a new aspect, and it was evidently from this coast that the old artists loved to work out their pictures. The drive is glorious. Our horses' feet splash in the last ripples of the great waves which break in everlasting thunder on the strand; the wheels skim lightly over the hard, smooth surface, for it is low tide. High and dry on the beach, embedded deep in the sands, are the timbers of many a fine old ship which has battered to death on this dangerous shore. At Salt River Mouth the boatman, on a clear day, can look down at the wreck of the old "Haarlem," which went down with all her guns and treasure. There the guns lie, slowly rusting away, but some day we may hope they will be hauled up from their watery grave

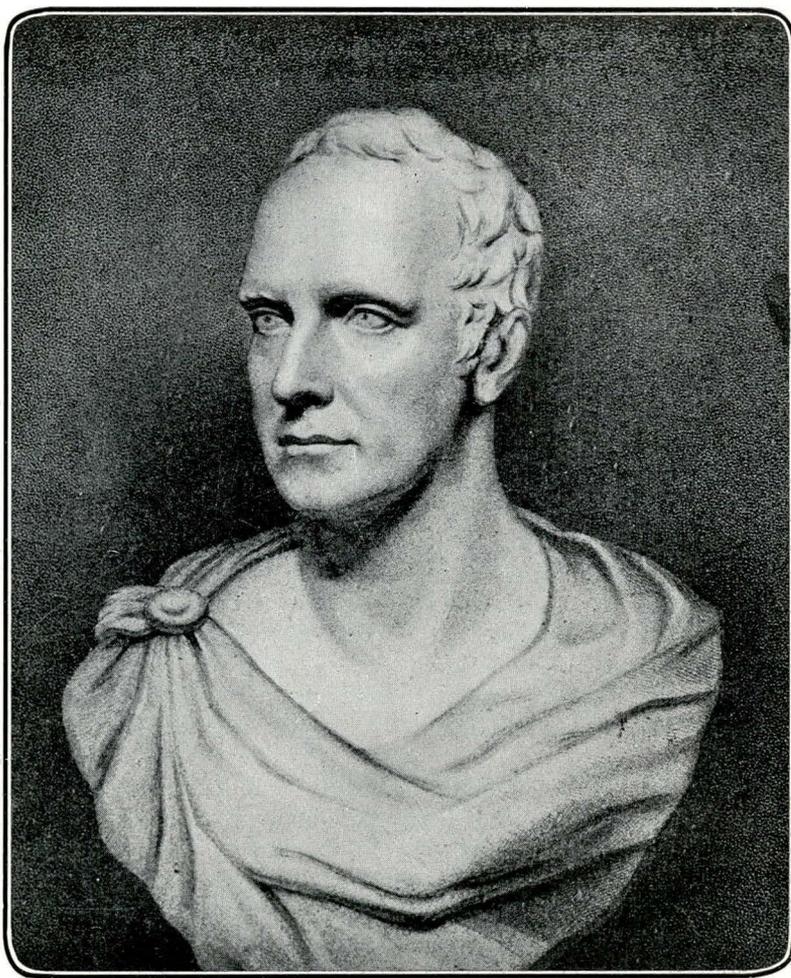
and find a fit resting place in the Museum. In 1647 the "Haarlem" went to the bottom, but we of South Africa owe her a debt of gratitude, for it was, after all, her loss which led to the settlement of the Colony. From Salt River Mouth to Melkbosch Point the curious may count the remains of some forty wrecks, many almost unrecognisable. The "Hermes" is rapidly breaking to pieces. Just beyond her lies the "Akbar," the stump of her main mast alone remaining above water to tell of her whereabouts. They say that from time to time desperate attempts have been made to dig out treasure

from the sand heaps which mark the resting place of many a fine old Dutch East India-man. But no one has ever reaped much profit from such ventures, and those who know say that the treasure seeker would probably sink more gold in the quick-sands than he would ever get out of them.

Leaving the "Hermes" far behind we halted for a moment at Riet Vlei, where Janssens attempted to rally his routed troops after the battle, and still following the tide level we ambled gently through the tiny village of Blueberg Strand. A dozen houses face the Atlantic, some of them dating back almost to the time of the battle. All were empty and silent now save one, for it is only in the summer months that visitors come down for a holiday. The Stadler Brothers, whose grandfather, they say, fought

in the battle, were at home, and provided welcome coffee, pointing out, too, the route to Melkbosch, and soon we were off again once more.

At half-past ten we were abreast of the Blueberg, which, rising sheer to a height of three hundred feet from the surrounding dunes, is a landmark for many miles. Just beyond it is Melkbosch Point, jutting out a hundred yards into the Atlantic, and forming with the curve of the mainland, a tiny bay, the actual scene of the British debarkation on January 6, 1806. A dangerous



MAJOR-GENERAL SIR DAVID BAIRD, G.C.B.,
Commanding the British Forces at the capture of the Cape, 1806.

reef of low rocks runs far out in a curving line, and even on this calm day, without a breath stirring, the rollers sweeping towards the shore were tremendous. The eye searches for a spot where the landing might safely be carried out, and you find it by a dangerous and tortuous course through the rocks. Small wonder that on that eventful day a hundred years ago a boatload of soldiers should have capsized and thirty-six men been drowned. Round the little bay is a fringe of low sand dunes, thickly covered with prickly gorse. It was along these hills that a few Dutch sharpshooters were placed to observe the British movements and to harass the landing, but they did little execution, only one soldier being killed and three officers and three men wounded.

And here we may branch off from the account of the locality to tell in connected order the events which led to the British expedition and its successful issue. The reader will forgive a brief excursion into history. We promise that it shall be very brief. Originally captured by the British after the little skirmish at Muizenberg in 1795, the Cape Colony was handed back "in full sovereignty" to the Batavian Republic under the Peace of Amiens, and on February 20, 1803, the British flag was hauled down at the Castle. General Janssens, a distinguished Dutch officer, who had seen much service in the Napoleonic wars, was appointed to the command at the Cape, where he speedily became loved and honoured by Dutch and British residents alike. Meanwhile Napoleon's designs on India were assuming more definite shape. While the negotiations for the Peace of Amiens were actually in progress he had despatched General Decaen and Admiral Linois with a powerful fleet, with secret instructions to make use of the Cape or Mauritius as a *point d'appui*. Decaen arrived at the Cape in February 1803, and reported that the Dutch officials were in their usual state of lethargy; the fortifications had not been repaired, and many of the inhabitants, and even of the officials themselves, "were devoted to the English." He left for India three months later. Montigny, his lieutenant, in a despatch which found its way into the hands of the British, wrote to the French Government:—"L'importance de cette Colonie ne peut manquer de fixer l'attention de notre Gouvernement éclairé."

Mr. Holland Rose, the great Napoleonic authority, has asked:—"Is it too much to presume that the despatch of this expedition under the command of a pronounced Anglophobe, decided our Government to thwart Napoleon's plans by an immediate declaration of war? That our Government thenceforth attached the greatest importance to the acquisition of the Cape is clear from our Foreign Office records. There is a draft of a proposed Treaty with Prussia, dated October 27, 1803, the third article of which stipulates that at the end of the present war against Napoleon no question should be raised by our allies as to the retention by Great Britain of Malta and the Cape of Good Hope." "I believe," adds Mr. Rose ("English Historical Review," January 1900), "that this is the earliest indication of our fixed determination to reconquer and to keep that Colony, the importance of which had been so unmistakably pointed out by Decaen's expedition." Napoleon's relations with the Cape should form an interesting bypath of historical research on the lines Mr. Holland Rose has

indicated, and, as a matter of fact, the writer knows of a good deal of valuable material in the Cape Archives bearing on the whole subject, which Mr. Leibrandt has already prepared, and which will no doubt one day see the light.

This by the way. We have now shown the historical reasons which led Great Britain to decide on re-taking the Cape. The rest of our narrative may be devoted to an account of the operations themselves. Considering how close we are to the scene of the battle and how considerable an affair it was, it is astonishing that the general facts are so little known by the public. Let us try and reconstruct the situation as it must have been in Cape Town a hundred years ago, when the good citizens awoke one morning to learn the startling news that a British fleet was on its way to South Africa. Just a year before rumours of a similar expedition had been current, and at that time, in General Janssens' words, "the zeal and loyalty of the armed burghers enabled the Government to bring a corps into the field composed of all sorts and conditions of men, full of good will and moderately well provided with most of the necessaries required. Now," continues the General in his statement to the Batavian Government, "the means were slighter both in men and necessaries . . . his troops were miserably clad. . . . After a year's scarcity of bread a new harvest was at hand, which it was necessary to reap. The very last of the provisions which had been collected for the troops at several points had been consumed, and every day the Government would joyfully congratulate itself if it knew that the capital was sure of its bread on the morrow." Cape Town, in fact, was on the verge of starvation, and at the time of the capitulation there were barely two days' supplies in hand. On Boxing Day, 1805, a Dutch merchantman arrived with European newspapers bringing startling news. A powerful British fleet, it was rumoured, was on its way to attack the Cape. The news spread through the town like wildfire. The peaceful citizens were galvanised into sudden and prodigious activity. The Parade echoed every day to the tramp of soldiers and armed burghers, hastily drilling, exercising, and going through military evolutions under the practised eye of the General. Wives and children were hastily despatched inland to Stellenbosch and other centres. Anxious eyes were turned hourly to the signal station on the Rump. Troops marched hastily to Simonstown, Camp's Bay, Nordhoek and other points. Rusty old muskets were unearthed and polished up. At the laboratory in the Castle men were set to work making cartridges. Guns were mounted and trained. In fact never was there such a polishing up, a refurbishing of old arms, a running to and fro. Some hardy person had the audacity to publish a statement in the "Government Gazette"—how it got there is a mystery—declaring that bets were being freely laid in the Castle that the British flag would be hoisted there by January 1. One wonders whether the printer was prosecuted for treason. So much for the preparations. Janssens knew his task was hopeless, as we shall presently show; but he was not the man to shrink from his duty.

Cape Town was not given a long respite. At eight o'clock on the morning of January 4, only nine days after the first rumours arrived from Europe, the signal-

man on the Rump reported that a large fleet was in sight, bearing for Cape Town. An hour later a scout posted on the summit of the Lion's Head came down in a hurry confirming the news. The alarm guns of the Castle were fired, and from point to point they were answered. Across the Bay the signal was answered from one of the Blueberg Hills. Thence from hill to hill the news was carried by signal gun, just as in the days of the Armada England woke to arms as the beacon fires spread the tidings from Edgumbe to Skiddaw. In response to the signals the burghers left their lonely farms. From Stellenbosch a gallant little squad of cavalry hastened to the capital.

As yet the exact strength of the fleet was uncertain. The signalman on the Lion's Head had announced that there were "twenty on the horizon and as many out of sight." Surely he must have been an Irishman. One who was in Cape Town at the time—long since dead, poor fellow!—has told us of the scene. "Officials and citizens gathered in the squares discussing the news. Those who were young and active at once scrambled up the height of Lion's Hill, and some of the more aged followed, blowing and dragging their stout corpuses up its steep acclivities. The spectacle which met their gaze was novel and astounding. The day was a warm summer one, and the air was as clear as those only who know our South African climate can conceive. Westward, whither all eyes were directed, the expanse of unruffled ocean was at intervals streaked with dazzling sunbeams, beyond which the strained vision of the observers descried a number of vessels, aided by a gentle but favourable breeze, standing in towards them. In a short time the nearest of the vessels were distinctly seen. They were large, heavy ships with threatening broadsides, and their decks crowded with men, and the Union Jack floating from them told their nationality and their character. They were English warships. They approached the port perceptibly every minute, and gradually their number was seen to increase, as another and another came up on the horizon, until a fleet of some sixty sail was in sight and could be plainly counted."

This was the expedition which had sailed from Cork on September 2, under the supreme command of Major-General Sir David Baird. It consisted of the 24th, 38th and 83rd regiments, commanded by Brigadier-General Beresford; the 71st, 72nd and 93rd, under Brigadier-General Ferguson; three companies of the Royal Artillery, under General Yorke; and two squadrons of the 20th Light Dragoons. At Madeira it was joined by the 59th regiment. The Naval force, under that harum-scarum fellow, Sir Home Popham—one of the last of the old school of British seamen—included two sixty-four gun ships, one of fifty guns, two frigates, a sloop of war, and two gun-brigs. In all there were some seventy sail. From Madeira the fleet had crossed over to the Brazil coast, taking on board some horses at San Salvador, and thence made direct for the Cape, anchoring between Robben Island and the Blueberg, as we have already seen, on the evening of January 4.

So much for the voyage. We may now take up the official narrative, and briefly tell how the landing was effected. A stiff westerly gale was blowing, and the surge was so heavy that there seemed little prospect of effecting a landing that night. General Baird detached

a portion of the fleet with the frigate "Leda" to make a demonstration of landing at Camp's Bay, and General Janssens hastily despatched a small force to harass any such operations. However, nothing was actually done until the early morning of the 5th, when General Beresford's brigade made an attempt to land. The sea, however, was found to break with such violence that it was thought prudent to desist, and General Baird, in his anxiety to effect a landing without delay, sent Beresford up to Saldanha Bay, intending to follow with the rest of the fleet next day. The General feared that at any moment reinforcements for the Cape might arrive in one of the French fleets which had been fitted up for the purpose in Europe, and so delay was extremely dangerous. Happily, the westerly wind began to abate very shortly after Beresford had left for Saldanha, and on the morning of the 6th of January Sir Home Popham was able to report that a landing might be effected at Lospard's Bay—by the way the little inlet has lost its



GENERAL SIR MICHAEL CREAGH, K.H.

name by this time, and is known as Melkbosch—without any great danger. A light brig was accordingly run ashore to act as a breakwater, and at half-past twelve the signal to land was given. "The joy that was manifested in the countenance of every officer," says Home Popham in his despatch, "heightened the characteristic ardour of the troops, and under an anxiety probably to be first on shore, induced them to urge the boats to extend their line of beach further than was prudent, and occasioned the loss of one boat with a party of the 93rd regiment." It was over set on a bank of shore weed and every soul was lost, thirty-six men in all.

Viewing the scene on a calm morning in August one marvels that the landing could have been effected with so slight a loss. The neighbouring country seems specially favourable to a fairly determined resistance. Yet the guns of the fleet seem to have driven off the sharpshooters despatched by General Janssens to the scene, with the greatest possible ease, and as we have already seen, the loss they inflicted on the British was trifling.

At eight o'clock in the evening the surf had increased once more, and the landing was suspended, but the following morning the remainder of the troops were landed, "when," says Sir David Baird, "the extraordinary obstacles to all intercourse with the fleet, which nothing but the courage and perseverance of British seamen could surmount, barely enabled us to obtain the indispensable supplies of water and provisions for immediate subsistence." A brief rest on the shore enabled the men to recover a little from their exertions, which all accounts agree were prodigious; and early the following morning, January 8, the troops moved off exultantly across the sand hills to the inland shoulder of the Blueberg. Five hundred marines, drawn from the various ships of war, cheerfully undertook to drag the guns across the difficult country. Heavy sand, interspersed with dense, prickly bush and deep gorse, impeded the march at every step, but the troops were in splendid spirits, and showed the greatest dash in spite of their slackness after a long sea voyage. Perhaps our purpose will best be served if we proceed to give a narrative of the battle from two points of view. General Baird's description is a little pompous, and is inclined to exaggerate the strength of the Dutch forces. A better account is given by Captain Carmichael, of the 72nd Regiment, who took part in the action, and has told the story in very graphic language.

"When we arrived on the crest of the hill (Blueberg)," he writes, "we perceived the enemy drawn up on the other side. Our disposition was soon made. We were formed in echelons of brigades; the left or Highland brigade being about two hundred yards in advance of the other. In this relative position we advanced, sometimes in line, at others in file from the heads of companies, according to the nature of the ground. We no sooner arrived within range of the enemy's artillery than he opened his fire upon us from twenty field-pieces, which were advanced considerably in front of his line. The action on our side was begun by the grenadiers of the 24th regiment, sent to dislodge a body of mounted riflemen, which occupied a rising ground on our right flank. This duty the grenadiers performed with great intrepidity, but not without serious loss—Captain Foster being killed on the spot, and fifteen men either killed or wounded. The line in the meantime continued to advance over a tract of ground where we were buried up to the middle in heath and prickly shrub. Owing to some misconception of orders we began firing before we had arrived within killing distance of the enemy; but this error was speedily corrected by the rapidity of our movements, which alarmed him so much that by the time we came within a hundred yards of his position he began to retreat. This he effected in very good order, for, to tell the truth, we were in no condition to molest him. Fresh from the cool, bracing climate of Ireland, then cooped up for five months on board of crowded transports, a march of six hours across the scorching sands of Africa exhausted us to such a degree that even the exhilarating sight of a flying enemy could not prevent immense numbers escaping to the rear. Our force of every description in this action was about five thousand men, that of the enemy three thousand. The loss was nearly equal, being about three hundred in killed and wounded. After the engagement we advanced

as far as Riet Valley, where we received from the fleet a supply of provisions and water. Next morning we marched on towards Cape Town, and had approached within a few miles of it when we were met by a flag of truce, demanding a cessation of hostilities for forty-eight hours in order to arrange terms of capitulation. Sir David Baird returned for answer that they should have six hours only, and that if the place was not surrendered by the end of that period he should enter it by storm in the course of the night. This menace had the desired effect, and the 59th regiment marched in that evening and took possession of the lines. The rest of the troops lay on their arms at the mouth of the Salt River until three o'clock p.m. next day, at which hour the British flag was hoisted on the Castle, a Royal salute was fired by the ships of war, and the Highland brigade marched to Wynberg. We thus without much difficulty got possession of the capital, but Janssens was still unsubdued. After the action of Blueberg he had retired with his whole force to the pass of Hottentot's Holland Kloof, where he designed to establish himself in such a manner as should cut off the communication of Cape Town with the interior. With a view to dislodge him from this stronghold the Highland brigade and the 59th regiment marched on the 13th to Stellenbosch, and were followed in a few days by Sir David Baird in person. After some preliminary overtures between the two Generals a negotiation was set on foot which terminated in the formal cession of the whole Colony to the British arms."

We may supplement this account with a sentence or two from General Baird's despatch to the Government. "It is utterly impossible," he wrote, "to convey to your Lordship any adequate idea of the obstacles which opposed this advance, and retarded the success of our army; but it is my duty to inform your Lordship that the nature of the country—a deep, heavy and arid land, covered with shrubs scarcely pervious to light infantry, and, above all, the total privation of water under the effects of a burning sun, had nearly exhausted our gallant fellows in the moment of victory, and with the utmost difficulty were we able to reach the Riet Vlei, where we took our position for the night. A considerable portion of the provisions and accessories with which we started had been lost during the action, and we occupied our ground under an apprehension that even the great exertions of Sir Home Popham and the Navy could not relieve us from starvation."

Turn we now to the very full and complete narrative penned by General Janssens himself, and forwarded to the authorities in Holland through the courtesy of General Baird. For the translation I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. H. C. V. Leibrandt, Keeper of the Cape Archives. After some preliminary observations on the composition of his force, &c., General Janssens writes:—

"On the 7th the army commenced its march towards the enemy at six o'clock. The left wing in the Downs consisted of two companies of Hottentot light infantry, the two other companies having been detached to Muizenberg and Simon's Bay; the light battalion of light cavalry, a detachment of burgher cavalry under Wium; a portion of the light dragoons. The centre, on the right side of the downs in the plain, to consist of

the 22nd battalion of infantry, the 5th battalion of Waldeck, the French marines, and the whole of the artillery. The right wing, further in the plain, consisted of a squadron of light dragoons, the mounted artillery, the light cavalry of Waldeck, and the burgher cavalry of Schoeman, whilst that under Linden had been sent forward to Blueberg in order to observe the enemy. At nine o'clock a halt was made. The General and his staff went to reconnoitre the enemy as near as they could approach, and found various regiments encamped in the downs between Blueberg and the sea under cover of the batteries of their ships. They estimated the number to be already fully 600 (?6,000). From Lieutenant Klapp at Saldanha Bay news had also been received that a hostile fleet had entered that bay too, and was making preparations for landing. He received orders to retire on Stellenbosch, should it be necessary, but as much as possible to observe the enemy with the detachment under him, consisting of fifteen men.

"At three o'clock p.m. the army made a forward movement towards the Blueberg valley plain, and there took up a position with the necessary precautions. The General had irrevocably decided in his own mind to attack the enemy whatever its strength might be, but in the position in which it was this was not very practicable because of the downs between the sea and the Blueberg, for the troops would for a short distance and for a long while be exposed to the fire of the hostile ships before they could approach the enemy, who was at the same time in the position of being able to refuse to fight and leave us exposed to the fire of his ships in a wide low kloof, with Blueberg on the left and a lower hill on the right. However, it did not appear impossible to attack him, although we could not avoid the fire from the ships before reaching him, or prevent that portion that had landed, should it refuse to fight, from retiring to the left, and so frustrating our enterprise and turning it completely against those who had undertaken it. However, having been informed that more than a thousand men had landed at Saldanha Bay, and it being possible that the same thing might have occurred elsewhere also, any delay in making the attack could bring with it no other than dishonouring results.

"The General was fully convinced in his own mind that victory was impossible, but the honour of the Fatherland required him to fight, whatever the result must be, and for this he fixed the following morning, instructing the commanding officers regarding the movements to be made, concealing from all excepting two persons, of whom one was the French Colonel, ex-Commandant of the frigate 'Atalante,' the hopeless condition of affairs, and endeavouring to instil into all that confidence without which no battle can ever be fought successfully.

"In the evening, between eight and ten o'clock, the hostile fleet opened a heavy fire behind us on the Riet Vlei, where our ammunition and ambulance had been placed, but the burgher cavalry Captain, van Reenen, had those removed in such a manner that no real damage was done. The sound sense of some officers, both burgher and military, who were at the advanced posts, afforded the General the assurance that he would at once and without delay be informed in plain language of any hostile movements, and hence the slight rest enjoyed

by the main battalion of the army was not disturbed, although at twelve o'clock at night a false alarm was heard in the downs and a heavy musket fire followed, while at the same time confused reports were heard about the enemy approaching through the downs, although there was no probability that he would do so. The General having already evidence of the intrepidity and intelligence of the Second Burgher Cavalry, Captain Linde, and the lieutenant of the Light Cavalry, Albertus, sent them with some burghers and dragoons to reconnoitre. By good management, but not without danger, they restored order. The Captain had been called by a European sergeant, who had with some Hottentot soldiers under him become intoxicated at the important furthest outpost on the beach.

"On the 8th, the day fixed for the battle, the troops were in arms at three o'clock in the morning. The European corps consisted of persons of all languages and nationalities from the other hemisphere brought together here, and not less mutually unlike, for they commenced with the most respectable children of the Colony, and included even Eastern and Mozambique slaves. The General called the commanding officers together and ordered them, if it could be done without danger, to proceed together in company with the French Colonel and naval Captain, Gaudin Bouchier, to the spots where on the previous day he had been able so clearly to observe the hostile force, that they might acquaint themselves with the position of the enemy and the character of the ground; whilst the French sea captain was to judge of what the hostile fleet might or might not be able to execute. In the meanwhile the little army, its battalions commanded by the officers second in command, was to be placed in the position it was required to occupy before the attack, where it would be rejoined by its commanding officers, who would then be fully cognisant of everything.

"This arrangement having been agreed to, reports were received from burgher Captain Linden before it was even possible to give effect to it, that the enemy was advancing. This made no other difference than that we on our side also advanced towards the enemy, without having effected the intended reconnoitre. At four o'clock we saw the enemy before our right wing commencing to form their order of battle. Whatever his object might have been on that side it was clear that he did not intend to abandon the protection of or communication with his ships, and would therefore occupy the whole space as far as the sea. To appear as if covering the whole hostile front it was necessary to change ours by an eighth of a circle, which was effected in the best order. In our order of battle the following positions were taken. The major portion of the squadron of light dragoons and artillery was stationed on the right wing, and likewise intended if possible to attack the left flank of the enemy. The 9th battalion light cavalry with two howitzers and three six-pounders, the 22nd battalion infantry, the French Marines, and the 5th Battalion Hottentot Light Infantry, three six-pounders and six one-pounder guns of the Javanese artillery; the light Waldeck cavalry and further the burgher company of Linde and Human, and the division of Wium. As circumstances required, the pieces were taken from the line and placed where they were necessary. From the

sea to the downs as far as the mountains not more than fifty men could be stationed, namely, twenty light cavalry and thirty Hottentots, who, placed far apart from each other, could only form a chain of videttes. Captain Linden and Human had set off with a small portion of hardy burghers, and occupied the height itself. Had we drawn up in battle array properly and closely we should only have made one point before an extended line. The cavalry therefore stood right and left in a single row, a wide space being left between the men. The infantry were drawn up in two lines, and a space was likewise made between the men, whilst the gaps between these small corps, for the reasons given, and because the enemy could not bring a large number of cavalry against us, remained very large.

“At five o'clock the enemy attacked the left wing in order to be able to penetrate through and along the downs into the mountains. They had more horses than we could expect. These had been taken on board at San Salvador. Six guns were brought to bear against us, and at first their howitzers were exclusively directed against our centre, where the General and his staff had taken their position a few paces before the line. The French Captain Ricard, who happened to be here from the Isle of France, had at his own request been joined to it. The first howitzer struck his horse, and the General had the satisfaction to perceive that this did not in the slightest degree intimidate either him or any other officers of the staff or others who surrounded him at the time or afterwards at the following throws. Colonel Henry was almost always at his side; the adjutant, Rancke, likewise, or wherever duty called that zealous officer. All the officers, in fact, displayed a coolness and calm which I believe cannot be surpassed among any troops. All received the orders as on parade and conveyed them quickly and distinctly. When the General observed that by standing around him so closely their danger was unnecessarily increased and that this might act injuriously on what was still to be done, they retired with reluctance, because not one of them would even dare the sentence of having lessened the danger or being desirous of doing so.

“One of the first howitzers struck the right wing of Waldecks, and created more sensation there than he, the General, expected. More howitzers fell in that corps, but the soldiers did not appear to answer the opinion which their brave conduct, especially in the campaign of 1794, had earned for them. Before the firing commenced, but after the enemy had plainly revealed itself to all eyes, the General rode along the line and addressed each company in the manner he believed would be most effectual for each. All cried out with enthusiasm, ‘huzza,’ but the soldiers of Waldeck cheered with less warmth. He had, however, great expectations of the troops in general, and many fully realised them, for without showing any kind of fear they beheld an overwhelming force before them much larger than the number estimated the day before, as all had not then been visible. Beside a large corps of cavalry, although not yet mounted, and the artillery, there were the 24th, 38th, 59th, 71st, 72nd, 83rd, and 93rd regiments of infantry (one, however, was not in the battle, but in Saldanha Bay). These troops were the picked men of the English Army, and many of the regiments were far above their usual complement of

men, but as if that were not enough, there were some hundreds of marines and a thousand sailors armed with pikes, a part of whom were employed in dragging the guns.

“Returning to that portion of the narrative which mentions the commencement of the battle, we now add that the fire of the cannon became general. Our artillery burghers and light cavalry caused the enemy great loss, and even compelled some companies to adopt other movements. A very fine and numerous Scotch corps approached in front of our infantry, and discharged a full round, but at too great a distance, so that the musket balls hardly hit anyone. As regards the result which the General had pictured to himself from the commencement, this was the most fortunate thing that could have happened, as his object was to let them approach to within a few yards in order to fire into them a murderous general volley, from our side, but the Waldeck battalion began to give way in disorder. Thereupon the General threw himself among them, conjuring them by their former renown, the honour of Germany and of Waldeck, their beloved Prince, and whatever more he was able to adduce, to remain firm, and to show that they were soldiers worthy of the name. But neither this nor the request of their officers availed the least. They did not retreat but fled shamefully, and had he, the General, remained a longer time amongst them they might have dragged him along with them for a while in their flight. He therefore left the cowards and joined the braver French, who were still maintaining their ground. Seeing, to his soul's distress, that the left wing of the 22nd battalion was giving way, he called on them also to stand firm, and they both heard and obeyed him. But the disorder had become too general to enable us to restore the line, and the French, deserted right and left, were finally also compelled to retreat with heavy loss. Colonel Gaudin Bouchier and the officer Du Belloy, a nephew of the Archbishop of Paris, held their ground the longest, and the last named was severely wounded. Riding further straight along the line the General found the Grenadiers and Chasseurs also retreating, but not flying. The dragoons had formed together, and upon his order marched off. He sent the Adjutant-General Rancke, and later Colonel Henry, in advance to the Riet Vlei in order to rally the retreating troops and to form a new position there, whilst with the officers who were around him, and who were joined by the Director and Chief of the hospitals, R. de Klerk Dibbetz, he kept in the rear of the retreating columns.

“The cool, calm bravery of those who belonged to the staff was the same as when the battle commenced. His aide-de-camp, the meritorious cavalry Captain Verkouteren, had a bullet through the side; the Commandant of Artillery, Staffens, was also wounded, but less seriously; the French Captain Ricard had two horses shot under him. A ball hit the General on his side, but struck against something which he had in his waistcoat pocket. He was therefore not wounded. The officers of the staff begged him not to expose himself further unnecessarily, as they believed that his presence might effectually promote the restoration of order among the troops.

“Our artillery had been most remarkably brave. Only one piece of those in charge of Second Lieutenant

K A A P S C H E C O U R A N T.

DEEL IV. SATURDAG DEN 11 JANUARY 1806. No. 3.

ARTICLES of CAPITULATION.

propoed by the Lieut. Colonel Hieronimus Cajmirus von Prophalow, Commandant of the Town, Castle & circumjacent Fortifications of the Cape of Good Hope.

The Major General in the service of His Britannick Majesty, Sir David Baird K. C., Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces, and Commodore Sir Home Popham K. M. Commander in Chief of His Britannick Majesty's Naval Forces in Table Bay.

ART. 1.
The Capitulation being signed, the Cape Town, Castle & circumjacent Fortifications shall be immediately surrendered to the Troops of His Britannick Majesty. — The fortifications of the King's Block-House, Craig's Tower, and all the Batteries within that circuit — and on the other side of Camps Bay.

The garrison shall at the surrender, march out with all the honours of war, — and shall then lay down their arms, and become Prisoners of war; but such Officers as are natives of the Colony, or married with natives, or in possession of sufficient Landed property to become regularly, & Bona-fide domiciliated, shall be at liberty to continue here so long as they behave themselves as becometh good Subjects & Citizens; or proceed to Great Britain with regular passports, & having previously passed their parole not to serve until regularly exchanged.

All Officers who, according to the previous article must go to Europe, shall be provided with passages at the expense of His Britannick Majesty, and shall have leave to realize their Property previous to their Departure, and receive the same Pay as they did in their own service, till the day of their embarkation.

The French Subjects who, belonging to the stranded Frigate *l'Atalante*, and the stranded Privateer *le Napoleon*, were casually here and comprehended in the Capitulation, shall be treated on the same footing as the Garrison; but they must all be embarked for Europe, as well as every other French Subject in the Colony.

The Inhabitants of the Town, who have borne arms, to be considered as belonging to the Town, and may immediately return to their former occupations. But the distinction between the Burghers and other Inhabitants is to remain the same, and Subject to the same restrictions as under the Dutch Laws.

All Bona-fide private property whether belonging to the Civil or Military Servants of the Government, to the Burghers and Inhabitants, to Churches, Orphans, and other public Institutions of that kind, shall remain free and untouched.

Publick property of every description, whether consisting of Treasure, or Naval or Military Stores, Buildings, Estates or Merchandizes belonging to the Batavian Republick or the Government of France, shall be faithfully delivered up, and proper Inventories given of them as soon as possible.

The Burghers and Inhabitants shall preserve all their Rights and Privileges which they have enjoyed hitherto, publick Worship as at present in use, shall also be maintained without alteration.

The Paper-Money, actually in circulation, shall continue current as heretofore, until the pleasure of His Britannick Majesty is known.

The Lands and Houses, the Property of the Batavian Republick, which must be delivered up in consequence of the present Capitulation, shall remain as security for that part of the Paper-Money which is not already secured by Mortgages upon the Estates of individuals, by it having been put to them. This is however to be without prejudice to the free use to be made of the said Lands and Houses for publick purposes.

Prisoners of war comprehended in the present Capitulation, shall not be pressed into His Britannick Majesty's service, or engaged against their own free will, and consent. With respect to other Persons, they are provided for in Article 11th of this Capitulation.

The Inhabitants of Cape Town shall be exempted from having Troops quartered on them.

Two Ships having been sunk in Table Bay, to the great detriment of the Roadstead — either after the Batavian Republick had sent out a Flag of Truce, or whilst it was in contemplation to do so, they are to be raised again, and delivered over in an entire state of repair; this having been done without the sanction of the Commandant, the raising of the said Ships, shall be incumbent on those who sunk them.

This Capitulation shall be signed at four o'clock this afternoon, when the Castle of the Cape Town, and all the adjacent Forts previously mentioned, shall be surrendered to His Britannick Majesty's Troops.

Given under our Hands & Seals this tenth day of January in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & six, at Papendorp, near Fort Knokke.
(Signed)
H. C. Baron von PROPHALOW.
(L.S.)
D BAIRD, Major Gen.
(L.S.)
HOME POPHAM.
(L.S.)
Executed in the presence of
(Signed) J. A. TRUTER.
J. PALMER.

ARTICULEN VAN CAPITULATIE

voorgesteld door den Lieutenant Colonel Hieronimus Cajmirus von Prophalow, Commandant van de Stad, Citadel en daarom liggende Sterkten van de Kaap de Goede Hoop.

Aan den Major Generaal in dienst van Zyne Groot Brittanische Majesteit, Sir David Baird, Commandant in Chief van Zyne Groot Brittanische Majesteits Troepen, en den Commodore, Sir Home Popham, Commandant en Chef van Zyne Groot Brittanische Majesteits Navale Macht in de Tafelbaai.

Personen na het tekenen der Capitulatie, zal de Kaapstad, Citadel en omliggende Sterkten, aan de Troepen van Zyne Groot Brittanische Majesteit worden overgegeven; de Fortificatien van 's Konings Blokhuys, Craig's Toren en alle de Batterien in dien omstreken en aan de andere zyde der Kaapstadsbaai.

Het Garnizoen zal by de overgaaf met alle Krygs Eer uitrukken, hünne Wapenen alstien nederleggen en Krygsgevangenen zyn; doch zodanige Officieren als Inboortlingen der Colonie, of met Inboortlingen genouwd, dan wel in bezit van goeozzaam Land-Eigendom zyn, om behoortlyk en ter goeder trouw Ingezetenen te worden, zullen vryhejd hebben zo langa zhierte verblyven als zy zich, gelyk goede Onderdaanen en Burzers b'staamt, gedragen zullen, of met behoortlyke Passpoorten naar Groot Brittanien te vertrekken, na vooraf hun woord van eere hebben gegeven van niet te zullen dienen tot dat zy behoortlyk zullen uitgewisseld zyn.

Aan alle Officieren, die, volgens het voorgaande Articel, naar Europa moeten vertrekken, zal passage worden bezorgd ten koste van Zyne Groot Brittanische Majesteit, met vryheid om hünne Eigendommen voor hun vertrek te realiseren, en zullen dezelve soldy als in hünne eigen dienst, tot den dag van hünne embarkatie ontvagen.

De Fransche Onderdaanen, die van het gestrande Fregat *l'Atalante*, en den gestranden Kaper *le Napoleon*, zich toevallig alhier hebben bevonden, en onder deze Capitulatie begrepen zyn, zullen op gelyken voet als het Garnizoen worden behandeld, doch zy moeten alle na Europa worden geëmbarqueerd, zo wel als elke Fransche Onderdaan in de Colonie.

De Ingezetenen der Stad die Wapenen hebben gedragen, zullen worden geconsidereerd als tot de Stad te behooren, en kunnen terstond tot hünne vorige bezigheden terugkeeren; doch het onderscheid tusshen de Burzers en andere Ingezetenen zal hetzelfde, en onderworpen aan dezelve bepalingen als onder de Hollandische Weten blyven.

Alle ter goeder trouwe particuliere Eigendommen, zo aan Civile en Militaire Diensz van 't Guoye hünne, als aan Burzers of Ingezetenen, gelyk mede aan Kerken, Moesdijcken en andere publieke Gelycken, van gheen aart behoorende, zullen vry en ongehoort blyven.

Daarentegen zullen alle publieke Eigendommen, het zy dezelve in geld, dan wel in Schoeps- of Krygsbehoefens, of in Gebouwen, Landeryen of Koophandelschappen bestaan, toebehoorende aan de Batavische Republiek, of het Gouvernement van Frankryk, ter goeder trouwe worden overgeleverd, en behoortlyke Inventarisen daar van zo dra als mooglyk worden afgegeven.

De Burzers en Ingezetenen zullen alle hünne Rechten en Voorrechten, welke zy tot hien toe hebben genoten, blyven behouden, de Godsdienst, zo als dezelve thans in gebruik is, zal insgelyk zonder verandering gemantneerd worden.

Het Papiere Geld, thans in circulatie, zal, zo als te voren, gangbaar blyven, tot dat het welbehagen van Zyne Groot-Brittanische Majesteit bekend zal zyn.

De Landeryen en Gebouwen, toebehoorende aan de Batavische Republiek, en ingevolge deze Capitulatie over te geven, zullen verboden blyven voor het Papiere Geld, het welk niet reeds by de Bank van Leening door Hypotheken op vaste Goederen verzekert is, onvermindert nochtans het onbelermd gebruik dier Landeryen en Gebouwen tot publieke einden.

De Krygsgevangenen, onder deze Capitulatie begrepen, zullen niet tot den dienst van Zyne Groot-Brittanische Majesteit worden geprest of tegen hünnen eigen vryen wil worden g'ëngeeert; omtrent andere Personen is 'er voorziening in het 5 Art. dezer Capitulatie gedaan.

De Ingezetenen van de Kaapstad zullen vry zyn van het inkuartieren van Troepen.

Twee Schepen in de Tafelbaai, tot groot nadeel der Rhode gezonken geworden zyn, na dat de Batavische Republiek een Parlementair, of reeds had uitgezonden, of bedagt was uit te zenden, moeten dezelve wederom geligt en in eenen compleeten goeden staat overgeleverd worden; en vernis zulks zonder orders van den Commandant is geschied, zo moeten dezelve Schepen worden geligt, ten koste van die geenen, door wien dezelve gezonken geworden zyn.

Deze Capitulatie zal worden getekend te vier uren dezer namiddag, als wanneer de Citadel der Kaapstad, en alle de voorsz. omliggende Sterkten zullen worden overgegeven aan Zyne Groot-Brittanische Majesteits Troepen. Gegeven onder onze handtekeningen en Zegels, dezer tienden dag van January, in het jaar onzes Heeren een duizend acht hond en zes, te Papendorp, by Fort Kookke.

(Gen.) H. C. BARON v. PROPHALOW
(L.S.)
D. BAIRD, Major Gen.
(L.S.)
HOME POPHAM.
(L.S.)
Gedaan in presentie van
(Gen.) J. A. TRUTER.
J. PALMER.

PUBLICATIE.

President en Raaden van Justitie over de Volkplanting de Kaap de Goede Hoop, doen te weeten: Dat, alzo Maria Elizabeth Buys, Wed. van wylen Petrus Johannes Heesters, zich per Requeste aan ons heeft geadresseerd, daar by te kennen gevende, hoe zy Supplicante, gaarne aan den inhoud van 't Testament, door haar en wylen gem. haaren Man opgericht, wenschte te voldoen, daarin nochtans verhindert word, door de onzekerheid van de op dezelve liggende schulden; dewelke dies sijnste redening zouden kunnen obsteeren; diervolven verzoekende, Billietten te doen afgeeren, om alle en een iegelyk op te roepen, die eenige actie of

FACSIMILE OF THE "CAPE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE" CONTAINING THE TERMS OF CAPITULATION, THE FIRST NUMBER PRINTED IN ENGLISH.

MEN OF THE TIMES.

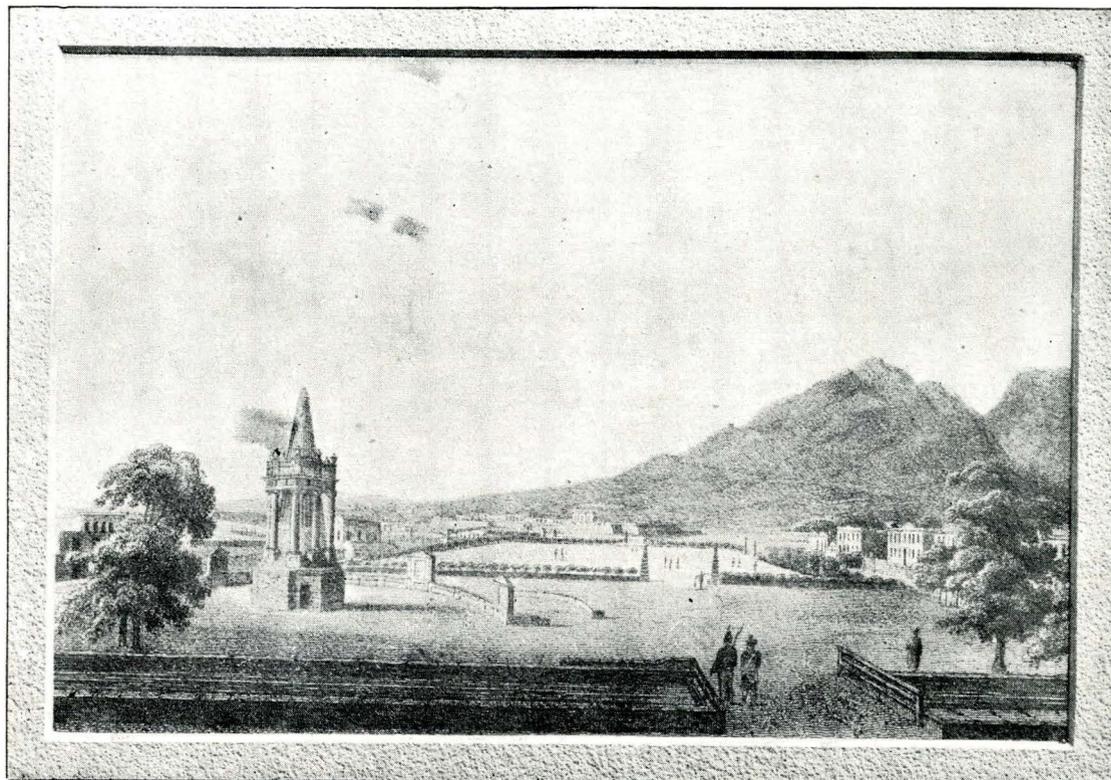
Dibbetz was lost, but only after six horses of the team had been shot and some artillery men and riders killed or wounded, but for all that the piece was spiked before it was abandoned. Still hearing a continuous and brisk artillery fire, the General saw, when he reached a little higher ground—and with as much satisfaction as one could be susceptible to in such moments—the red plumes of our mounted artillery. They alone were busy in the battlefield, pouring forth most briskly and calmly a heavy fire from their guns, and when he came among them he found order, judgment, and activity. He expressed to them his satisfaction, and mentioned to their Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Pellegrino, personally, that he might still require his services, and that they were not without the certainty of a good result to expose themselves to the risk of being lost, and that therefore they were to follow the troops. But the corps, considering this more in the light of advice than an order, continued firing a number of well-directed shots till the General positively ordered the officer to leave the battlefield and cover the retreat as much as possible,

appointing him at the same time, in the name of the Sovereign of the Fatherland, Captain of Dragoons.”

So ends Janssens' narrative so far as it deals with the battle itself. At Riet Vlei he made an effort to rally the troops, but the Waldeck corps had already trekked off to Cape Town, where they arrived the same night, and made the place hideous with their drunken orgies. Under the circumstances the General decided to withdraw into the Hottentot Holland Mountains, and there he established himself with the remnant of his army, until at last the obvious difficulties of his position, and, above all, his sincere affection for the country and his desire to spare its citizens the horrors of a protracted campaign, impelled him to surrender.

It remains to state the losses on either side, so far as known. The British losses, apart from the casualties incurred in landing at Lospard's Bay, amounted to one officer and fourteen rank and file killed, nine officers and 180 men wounded, and eight men missing. The Dutch losses appear to have amounted in all to about 347 men killed and wounded.

“*Cape Times*” Christmas Number, 1905.



OLD CAPE TOWN.