

CHAP. X. to himself the possession of great wealth from the capture; and justly concluded that his share of the prize money would augment or diminish in an inverse proportion to the number of captors.

THE belief that Port au Prince would be the first object of attack, was well founded; and the road of Arcahaye was fixed on as the place of rendezvous for the men of war and transports. Accordingly, General Whyte, having landed his sick at Cape St. Nicholas, and taken one hundred and fifty of the garrison in their room, proceeded on the 23d to the place appointed, to concert measures with Commodore Ford, and receive on board such of the colonial troops as were to co-operate with the British in this enterprize. On the 30th the squadron sailed from Arcahaye, and cast anchor off Port au Prince on the evening of the same day. It was composed of four ships of the line, the Europa, the Belliqueux, the Irrefistible and the Sceptre, three frigates, and four or five smaller vessels; the whole under the immediate command of Commodore Ford; and the land forces, under the orders of General Whyte, consisted of 1,465 rank and file fit for duty.

THE whole force being thus collected, and the necessary preparations made, a flag was sent, early the next morning, to demand the surrender of the place; but the officer charged with the dispatch, was informed that no flag would be admitted, and the letter was returned unopened. It was now determined to commence operations by the cannonade of Fort Bizotton, a fortress situated on a commanding eminence, well adapted to guard the approach to the harbour, and defended by five hundred