

Monday 26th Feb. The French at their first approach made
an effort to intimidate the Town, proposing advantageous terms
if the Place was immediately surrendered, an offer indignantly
refused, & accompanied with an avowal that no future flag
of truce would be admitted as they were determined never
to surrender the Place but to perish in its ruins. They on
their commencing the regular attack but found the Spaniards
so well prepared that desisting of effecting their purpose
by a coup de main, they slowly began making their approach
by a camp de main, they slowly began making their approach
of the difficulty of this expedient conceiv'd from my former
account of the defence of Cadiz. by Land (meaning by the
two La Isla de Leon) the approaches can only be made
in 3 points, 1. by the Carracas, the general & dock yard a pl
of great strength ^{separated from the Island by} the river Sancti Petri so broad & deep
that a 74 can lay along the shore, so that the passage over
must be extremely dangerous. (allowing the Carracas to be
well taken, the 2 point the Puente Nuevo is equally
fortified, the only road to it intersected every 200 yard
by batteries that can be attacked only by a point blank fire
which would be returned with equal force. The 3rd is the fort
of Sancti Petri, in this place there is an island well defended
in the middle of the channel & a hill ^{contradictorily} on land
on which strong works are thrown up. From these causes
if the French will then have to pass through a strong town
when ever there is a castle & finally begin a new attack
against the Corte duro it is most probable they will do
it in another part, the only vulnerable point in my
opinion. This is gaining possession of Matagorda castle
& the Caño de Trocadero from whence they can throw
shells to the Corte duro & the entrance of the Town, even
execution ought to have been made to render these places
a strong possibility, but the belly of our Admiral & the
Spanish Government was so great as to blow up the
Saints Wood essential to the preservation of the City