

as Governor of Cadix. This is certainly a just reward for
 preservation of his place by forced marches. but it may be doubted
 whether his post as Commander in Chief is not fully sufficient
 for the abilities of any man, & whether this accumulation
 of honors & authorities rather tend to impede than pro-
 mote the public service. concerning these charges report
 give different account, some do not scruple to say
 that the resignation was merely to save
 of being turned out, & their conduct in too many instances
 justifies this presumption. Admiral Alava is I believe
 our honest man, but he wants that energy & enterprise
 spirit that alone can save the country, & in addition still
 secretly feels indignant at his being taken prisoner &
 the subsequent conduct of the English. Guilty what he may
 conceal but they still rankle in his breast. as for Vaneper
 the I should give to his neglect of the defence was
 an apparent & mismanagement at Matagorda & so evident
 that it may be justly inferred that he was unfit for his
 trust & consequently properly dismissed from it
 a new Governor is also appointed at Cadix in room of
 my old friend De Gand. This unpleasant news is soft-
 ened by the certainty of the English troops being admitted
 into the garrison & having all the defence entrusted to
 the hands of the Garrison. The presidarios were executed
~~the~~ ^{they} attempted to break out of prison & surrounded the
 guard set over them with bayonets which they carried
 & would have succeeded if a strong guard had not come to their
 assistance & overpowered them. The 3 remaining were selected
 to whom were hung & the 3 pardoned at the foot
 of the gallows, but ordered to be whipt round a town
 riding in an Apr. which was done to the great amuse-
 ment of the populace & little injury of the sufferers back
 There is one very great point attending the adminis-
 tration of justice, that is in the first instance collect
 the oldest Spanish of punishment immediately following
 the sentence, so unaccustomed are they to it that