

Cochrane to Croker

17 September 1814 (cont)

was defended by commanding heights upon which was constructed a chain of Redoubts, connected by a Breast Work with a ditch in front, an extensive train of Artillery and a show of Force that was reported to be from fifteen to twenty thousand Men. The entrance by Sea, within which the Town is retired, nearly three miles, was entirely obstructed by a barrier of Vessels sunk at the mouth of the Harbor, defended inside by Gun Boats, flanked on the right by a strong and regular fortification and on the left by a battery of several heavy Guns. These preparations rendering it impracticable to afford any essential cooperation by Sea, I considered that an attack on the Enemy's strong position by the Army only, with such disparity of force, tho' confident of success, might risk a greater loss than the possession of the Town would compensate for, while holding in view the ulterior operations of the Force in the contemplation of His Maj.^y Government, and therefore, as the primary object of our movement had been already fully accomplished, I communicated my observations to Col. Brooke, who coinciding with me in opinion, it was instantly agreed that we should withdraw. ~~The~~

The next morning the army began leisurely to retire and so salutary was the effect produce on the Enemy by the defeat he had experienced, that notwithstanding every opportunity was offered for his repeating the conflict, with an infinite superiority, our Troops re-embarked without molestation: the Ships of War having dropped down as the army retired.

The result of this demonstration has been the defeat of the Army of the Enemy, the destruction by themselves of a quantity of Shipping, the burning of an extensive Rope Walk and other Public erections: the causing of them to withdraw their