

stood the equally strong and imposing fort of Santa Barbara. The whole was constructed at an enormous expense, about the year 1730, and was always maintained in high preservation.

During the late revolutionary war, when a French army overran this neighbourhood, and was daily expected at the lines (where they soon after arrived), General Castañas, commanding at Algeziras, consented to the destruction of these strong forts and works, to prevent the French establishing themselves in this quarter. The opportunity was gladly availed of by the governor of the garrison; and being mined under the direction of Col. Harding, now commanding royal engineer in Gibraltar, the fort San Felipe first ascended into the air to come down nearly in its present state, and was immediately followed by that of Santa Barbara. The explosion made little noise, and scarcely