



Edinburgh Gazette.

Published by Authority.

FROM *FRIDAY*, FEBRUARY 28. TO *TUESDAY*, MARCH 4. 1806.

An Extraordinary Gazette, received this day, contains dispatches from Sir DAVID BAIRD and Sir HOME POPHAM, announcing the capture of the Cape of Good Hope on the 10th January last by capitulation.

ADMIRALTY OFFICE, *March 1. 1806.*

Copy of a letter from Captain Sir HOME POPHAM, of his Majesty's ship *Diadem*, to WILLIAM MARSDEN, Esq. dated in Table Bay, Jan. 13. 1806.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit you copies of two letters, which I yesterday received from Captain Donnelly, who had been detached to procure intelligence; and, in justice to an officer of such merit, I cannot omit expressing my regret that I was deprived of the benefit of his exertions in the various duties which have been lately carried on at this place.—I have the honour to be, &c.

HOME POPHAM.

His Majesty's ship *Narcissus*, Cape Mount, coast of Africa, N. E. five leagues, October 30, 1805.

SIR,

Proceeding on the secret service which you did me the honour of charging me with, I fell in with the *Columbus* Guinea ship yesterday, the master of which, Mr Callow, informed me a brig and schooner, French privateers, were infesting this coast, and had captured the *Horatio Nelson*, the stoutest ship coming out this season, after a severe action.

I immediately disguised the ship I command, and edged in shore, in the hope of meeting them, directing the *Columbus* to proceed on her voyage down the coast. At ten o'clock this morning we descried the abovementioned privateers and the *Horatio Nelson* in chace of the *Columbus*; and, as we perceived them coming fast up with her, we stood towards them completely disguised, and cut them off from her. In passing, I directed her master still to keep running away.

[Price 6d.]

When the privateers saw us separate they wore, and stood towards us. When we approached within pistol-shot, they commenced a fire, assisted by the *Horatio Nelson*, which carried twenty nine-pounders, and two twelve-pounders. We were obliged to fire upon them, and did them much damage, before the largest struck.—When we got possession, we immediately pursued the *Horatio Nelson*, in preference to the schooner.

In the mean time the *Columbus* wore, and stood towards the *Horatio Nelson*, and exchanged broadsides as they passed; and she afterwards wore, and kept firing at her, until we arrived up with her, when she struck.

I have given her in possession of Mr Callow, master of the *Columbus*, who behaved very well on the occasion, in order to her being sent to Cape Massarida, where her late master and part of the crew are; and I rejoice this nest of thieves (for they have plundered from all nations) is destroyed, particularly as we spoke many valuable vessels just coming on the coast. The schooner escaped with only a few men on board, as her crew were sent on board the *Horatio Nelson*, which was fitted for cruising.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ROSS DONNELLY.

Commodore Sir Home Popham, K. M.
&c. &c. &c.

P. S. The brig we captured is named *Le Prudent*, of four twelve-pounders, eight six pounders, and seventy men.

His Majesty's ship *Narcissus*, off the Cape of Good Hope, Christmas Day 1805.

SIR,

Yesterday afternoon, while we were anxiously looking out in the ship I command, for the squadron and convoy under your orders, we discovered a ship coming from the land about Table-

bay, in chace, steering down before the wind; she approached within eight or nine miles, and then hauled her wind from us. We instantly pursued, and kept her in view until half-past nine at night, when the weather became so thick we lost sight of her.

Judging, however, from her fast sailing, she was a ship of war, and would most likely push back for the Cape Town to give intelligence of our being on the coast, I plyed to windward all night to cut her off, and at day-light had the pleasure of seeing her at a considerable distance to windward; at nine o'clock we neared her fast, and fearing she would make in for the shore, I used every endeavour to prevent it, but without effect, as she was still to windward of us, and after various manœuvres to escape close to the surf along shore, and both keeping up a partial fire, we compelled her to run a ground.

Soon after we observed her three masts and bowsprit go by the board, and her boats went adrift.

In such a distressed situation, with a heavy swell and surf setting on the beach, we forbore firing at her, although she vauntingly displayed the colour, which (considering her force) she deprived herself of the power of protecting, and I very much fear the greatest part of her crew will be lost.

Immediately after this event we captured a Dutch sloop, bound with naval stores from the Cape Town to a line of battle ship lying at Simon's Bay.

The people on board informed us the vessel we ran on shore was a French ship of two and thirty 32-pounders (short guns) and 250 men, and had just sailed from Table Bay; that she had on board the ordnance, &c. of *L'Atalante* French frigate lately lost there, and was bound

