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ADMIRALTY OFFICE, January 13, 1807.

Copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Lord COLLINGWOOD, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to WILLIAM MARSDEN, Esq. dated on board the Ocean, off Cadiz, the 20th of December 1806.

SIR—I inclose to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a letter from Captain Pearse, Commander of His Majesty's Sloop the Halcyon, informing me of his having fallen in with a ship, a brig, and zebeck of the enemy's cruizers, on the 13th inst. off Capt. St. Martin's; and, after an action highly creditable to this officer and his ship's company, succeeded in capturing the Spanish ship the Neptuno dios de los Mares, of fourteen guns and seventy-two men, the brig and zebeck making their escape after their fire was silenced.

I am glad of this opportunity of giving to their Lordships my testimony of the spirited and skilful conduct of Captain Pearse in all the duties on which he is employed. The present instance of his having attacked and succeeded against an enemy so very superior, demonstrates what his ability is when there is opportunity to exhibit it. I am, &c.
COLLINGWOOD.

His Majesty's Ship Halcyon, Gibraltar Bay, December 18. 1806.

MY LORD—I beg leave to inform your Lordship, that on the 13th instant at eight in the morning, Cape St. Martin's S. S. W. six leagues, I perceived three sail standing out from the land towards me, being on contrary tacks, we closed fast; when within four or five miles, I discovered they were vessels of war, (a ship, a brig, and a zebeck,) and shortly after steered directly for me; seeing they were superior, and
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five settees seen from the tops coming from the same quarter, I judged it prudent (as they seemed determined to bring me to action) to close with them as soon as possible, and decide the contest before any assistance could be given from the other five; at half-past ten (being nearly within musket-shot) they hoisted Spanish colours, and commenced action; as soon as I got a-breast of the second vessel, I got on the other tack, and brought them to closer action, which lasted till twelve o'clock, when their fire slackened; at half-past, being nearly a calm, the brig and zebeck hauled away to the southward, assisted by their boats and sweeps, the ship then nearest us endeavouring to do the same to the northward; we swept after her, and in an hour got close alongside, when she struck her colours; she proved to be a Spanish polacre ship (privateer), the Neptuno dios de los Mares, of fourteen guns and seventy-two men, from Denia; going on a cruize between Minorca and the coast of Africa, with the other two in company; who, I am sorry to say, made their escape, but not before their fire had been silenced. The five settees, when within three miles, seeing the ship deserted, returned to the shore, and went into the port of Denia. Though extraordinary, I am happy to say we have none killed, and only three wounded, Lieutenant Brigs, my first, by a splinter in the arm, whom I beg leave to recommend to your Lordship's notice; Lieutenant Pearse, who has been acting three years and a half in this vessel; and one seaman. The loss of the enemy must be great. The wounded from the ship are doing well, nine in all. I give your Lordship the full particulars of this event, and trust my attacking so very superior a force (seeing they were resolutely determined to bring me to action) will meet your

Lordship's approbation, knowing I could depend upon my officers and ship's company, whose cool, brave and steady conduct on this as on former occasions, almost ensured me success before the action commenced—they merit my warmest acknowledgments.

I cannot omit mentioning my having four passengers, Captain Sullivan of the 81st regiment, who commanded the small arms; Messrs Purvis, Crockat, and a Neapolitan messenger, were all of great service, as we were sixteen short of complement. The object of the enemy's fire was mostly directed at our Masts and rigging, in which I am sorry to say we have suffered very materially.

The force opposed to the Halcyon was Neptuno dios de los Mares, fourteen twelve pounders, and seventy-two men; La Vergin di Solidad, fourteen twelve and eight-pounders, and seventy-eight men; El Vives, twelve eight and six-pounders, and sixty-five men.

I have, &c. H. W. PEARSE.
The Right Hon. C. Lord Collingwood.

Copy of a letter from Capt. JAMES BRISBANE, to the Right Hon. Lord GARDNER.
Alcmena, at Sea, Jan. 6. 1807.

MY LORD—I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that His Majesty's ship under my command, on the 4th inst. in latitude 50 deg. N. long, 11 deg. W. fell in with, and captured Le Courier, French cutter privateer, (formerly His Majesty's hired cutter Alert,) pierced for fourteen guns, but now mounting seven, of different calibres, forty-two and twenty-four-pound brass carronades, and seventy men; four days from Morlaix, without making a capture. I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES BRISBANE
The Rt. Hon. Admiral Lord Gardner, &c.

