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ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, SEPTEMBER 20, 1808.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Sir JAMES SAUMAREZ, K. B. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Baltic, to the Hon. W. W. POLE, dated on board the Victory, off Rogerswick, the 30th of August 1808.

SIR,

You will please to inform the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty, of my arriving off Oro yesterday evening, pursuant to my intentions, to effect a junction with the Swedish fleet, which I had received an account from Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff was blockaded by the Russian fleet, consisting of thirteen sail of the line of battle ships besides frigates. It was not before this morning that I was informed by the commander of the Swedish frigate Champan, that the Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff, after being joined by Sir Samuel Hood in the Centaur and Implacable, had sailed from Oro road on the 5th, in pursuit of the Russian fleet; and on the day following, had succeeded in capturing and destroying the Russian line of battle ship Sewolod, off Rogerswick, and in which port the remainder of the enemy's ships had been compelled to shelter themselves. I immediately made sail for Rogerswick, where I arrived this afternoon, and had the satisfaction to find the Swedish fleet, with the Centaur and Implacable, at anchor, watching the Russian fleet in the harbour.

I inclose to you, for their Lordships information, the duplicate of a letter which I have had the pleasure to receive from Rear-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, detailing the account of his proceedings with his Majesty's ships under his orders, and the squadron of his Swedish Majesty, under Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff, and of the meritorious conduct of Captain Martin of

the Implacable; in bringing the enemy's sternmost ship to action, and which struck her colours to the Implacable, but was afterwards rescued by the approach of the enemy's whole force, which had obliged Sir Samuel Hood to recal her. I also inclose the copy of a letter from Captain Martin to the rear-admiral, in which he gives due credit to Lieutenant Baldwin, and Mr. Moore the master, and the other officers and men of the Implacable.

The Russian admiral having sent a frigate to take the disabled ship in tow, she was again attacked by the Implacable; and the Centaur laying her on board in the most gallant manner, and by the exertions of Captain Webley and Lieutenant Lawless, and Mr. Strode, master of the Centaur, her bowsprit was lashed to that ship, and there was every prospect of her being got off; but she having unfortunately grounded, rendered it impossible, and she was set on fire, after the prisoners and wounded men were taken from her.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed on Rear-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, for the gallantry he displayed with the two ships under his orders in his pursuit of the enemy's fleet, when the bad sailing of the squadron of his Majesty's ally prevented their coming up with them, and bringing on a general action. The brave and highly meritorious exertions of Captain Martin and Captain Webley, with the officers and men under their orders, entitle them to the highest commendation in my power to bestow, and excited the amazement and admiration of the gallant Swedes who witnessed their heroic bravery and perseverance.

The present position of the Russian fleet within the batteries at the entrance of the harbour, leave but slender hopes of their being attacked with any probability of success. Admiral Nauckhoff has requested a body of land forces to

be sent from Finland, with a view of taking possession of the island East Raga, which would effectually command the harbour; but as the enemy have been occupied in placing it in the best state of defence, it is very doubtful if a descent upon the island could be effected. I beg to assure their Lordships, that every endeavour will be practised with the force under my orders, jointly with the Swedish squadron, that can tend to the further defeat of the enemy.

I propose to detach a small squadron, under the orders of Captain Martin, towards Cronstadt; and I shall order the Africa to repair to her station off the Malmo channel, calling off Carlscrona for the convoy appointed to sail from that port for England.

I am, Sir, &c.
JAS. SAUMAREZ.

Centaur, off Rogerswick,
Aug. 27, 1808.

SIR,

It is with pleasure I acquaint you the Russian squadron, under the command of Vice-Admiral Hanickoff, after being chased thirty-four hours by his Swedish Majesty's squadron, under Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff, accompanied by this ship and the Implacable, under my orders, have been forced to take shelter in the port of Rogerswick, with the loss of one ship of seventy-four guns. I shall have great satisfaction in detailing to you the services of the captains, officers, seamen, and marines, under my command; and have also to state, that in no instance have I seen more energy displayed than that by his Swedish Majesty's squadron, which although from the inferiority of their sailing were prevented from getting into action, Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff, and the captains under his command, from their perseverance and judicious conduct, were enabled to give confidence to his Majesty's ships; and could we have forced the enemy to a general action, the whole of their squadron must have fallen to the superior bravery

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