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ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, OCTOBER 25, 1808.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Lord COLLINGWOOD, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to the Honourable W. W. POLE, dated on board the Ocean, off Cape Pallas, the 5th of September 1808.

SIR,

I inclose, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, two letters which I have received from Captain Stewart, of his Majesty's ship the Seahorse, dated the 6th and 8th of July, giving an account of his having fallen in with a large Turkish frigate and corvette on the evening of the 5th of that month, off the Island of Scopolo, and, after a severe action, taken the Badere Zaffer, a Turkish frigate, of fifty-two guns and five hundred men:—the corvette was not seen in the morning.

The example which Captain Stewart has given in this action of gallantry and of skill, by which his own ship was so well preserved, while his opponent was ruined, must be highly gratifying to their Lordships, and marks the highest state of discipline of his ship, and the ability of the officers who conducted it.

I inclose also a letter from Captain Hepenstall, of his Majesty's sloop Kingfisher, of the 27th of June, informing me he had captured a French letter of marque, the Hercule, of twelve guns and fifty-seven men, off the coast of Caramania.

I am, &c. COLLINGWOOD.

*His Majesty's Ship Seahorse, off Skyro,
July 6, 1808.*

MY LORD,
I have the honour to inform your Lordship, that yesterday evening we observed two Turkish men of war and a galley coming round the east end of the island of Scopolo, towards which we immediately made sail. On coming near enough to make out that they were both single decked ships, I determined to bring them

to action, having every confidence in the officers and crew of this ship. The action began at half past nine, the Turks going a little off the wind under easy sail, and continually endeavouring to run us on board: indeed I early saw that their chief attention was directed to this object, and as the largest ship appeared of great force and full of men, I kept this ship in a position not to be boarded. At ten o'clock, observing a good opportunity of more particularly attacking the small ship to advantage, we dropped alongside of her, and after a quarter of an hour's hot fire, at half pistol-shot distance, her fire having totally ceased, we left her in a state of the greatest distress and confusion, with her sails mostly down, and just before we had left her she had partially blown up forward. By this time the largest frigate, which, from having fallen a little to leeward, had not been able to assist her consort, had again got pretty close up, and the action between us soon recommenced; still so obstinate was the resistance of the Turks, that it was not till a quarter past one we rendered her a motionless wreck. As they now would neither answer nor fire, I conceived it most prudent, knowing the character of the people, to wait for daylight to send on board her. At daylight, observing her colours upon the stump of the mizen mast, we poured a broadside into her stern, when she struck, and I had the pleasure to take possession of the Badere Zaffer, a very fine frigate of the largest dimensions, carrying fifty-two long brass guns, twenty four pounders, on the main-deck, except two, which are forty-two pounders, and twelve-pounders on the quarter deck and fore-castle. She had a complement of five hundred men, and was commanded by Captain Scanderli Kichuc Alli, who, I am informed, was only prevented by his own people from blowing her up. Her loss in killed and wounded is prodigious, one hundred and

sixty-five killed and one hundred and ninety-five wounded; ours comparatively small, five killed and ten wounded. Our mizen-mast fell soon after the action, which is the greatest injury we have sustained. The other ship was named the Ahs Fezan, carrying twenty-four thirteen-pounders and two mortars, commanded by Captain Daragardi Alli, with a complement of two hundred and thirty men. I understand they took most of the men out of the galley before the action, and sent her away.

Having now, my Lord, given you the details of this affair, there only remains the pleasant office of recommending to you the officers and ship's company, who, during a tedious night action, where much depended upon working the sails as well as the guns, behaved in a manner to command my utmost gratitude. The disparity of force, with the loss in the enemy's ships, will prove the greatness of their exertions, to which I shall add, that thirty men were absent from the ship. Mr. Downie, the first lieutenant, is an officer of merit, ability, and experience; and I beg strongly to recommend him to your Lordship's protection for promotion. Mr. Lester, master's-mate, who has passed, is also very deserving of promotion. Thomas Hully, gunner's-mate, and an excellent man, acted as gunner; and, from his conduct, is very deserving of such a situation.

I am now proceeding with the prize for any port I can get first into amongst the islands, as it is with difficulty we can keep her above water.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) JOHN STEWART.

*The Right Hon. Lord Collingwood, Commander
in Chief, &c.*

*On board his Majesty's Sloop Kingfisher,
off the Coast of Caramania, Cape Blanc
bearing N. W. by N. Ten Leagues,*

MY LORD, June 27, 1808.

It is with great pleasure I have the honour

Price Sixpence.

