



Edinburgh Gazette.

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FROM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, to TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1808.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, DECEMBER 17, 1808.

Copy of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Sir EDWARD PELLEW, Bart., Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the East Indies, to the Honourable WILLIAM WELLESLEY POLE, dated on board his Majesty's Ship Culloden, in Bombay Harbour, the 7th of April 1808.

SIR,

I request you will submit to the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the inclosed letter from Lieutenant William Dawson, acting in the command of his Majesty's ship St. Fiorenzo, stating the particulars of the capture of La Piedmontaise French frigate, mounting fifty guns, on the 8th ultimo, in the Gulph of Manaar.

In making this communication to their Lordships I am desirous of expressing those mingled sentiments of admiration and concern which I experience in the loss of Captain George Nicholas Hardinge, who fell in the moment of victory, after having exerted, during three successive days, the most remarkable zeal, gallantry, and judgment in the conduct of this very brilliant action. His Majesty's service has been thus deprived of a most excellent and distinguished officer; of whom the highest expectations have been justly formed, from a knowledge of his many great and excellent qualities.

The merit of Lieutenant William Dawson, upon whom the command devolved after the death of Captain Hardinge, is already well known to the board by his gallant behaviour on a former occasion, when he was severely wounded at the capture of the Psyche frigate by the St. Fiorenzo, in which nearly the whole of her present officers and crew had the honour to share.

The manner in which he continued the ac-

tion, which had been so nearly concluded by his lamented captain, and finally conducted it to a successful issue, will, doubtless, secure to him the high approbation and recompence of their Lordships.

The undaunted bravery, the animated and persevering exertions of every officer, seaman, and marine on board the St. Fiorenzo, have been truly worthy of the beloved country in whose cause they have been so nobly engaged;—the public gratitude will be commensurate with their eminent services.

I learn that the St. Fiorenzo had arrived with her prize in safety at Colombo; from whence she may shortly be expected at this port.

I have the honour to be, &c.

EDWARD PELLEW.

His Majesty's Ship St. Fiorenzo, at Sea, 9th March 1808.

SIR,

It is with great regret I have to inform you of the death of Captain Hardinge, late of his Majesty's ship St. Fiorenzo, who fell gloriously in the early part of an action on the 8th instant between his Majesty's ship St. Fiorenzo and the French national frigate La Piedmontaise.

The St. Fiorenzo sailed from Point de Galle on Friday the 4th instant at half past eleven A. M. On the 6th, at seven A. M. passed three Indiamen, and, shortly after, saw a frigate bearing N. E. We immediately hauled our wind in chase, and made all sail, being at that time in latitude 7° 32' longitude 77° 58'. We made the private signal, which was not answered; and at five shewed our colours, which the enemy took no notice of. At forty minutes past eleven P. M. we ranged alongside of him on the larboard tack and received his broadside: After engaging till fifty minutes past eleven P. M. within a cable's length, the enemy made sail a-head, out of the range of our shot; we

ceased firing, and made all sail after him; continuing to come up with him till daylight, when finding he could not avoid an action, he wore, as did we also. At twenty-five minutes past six recommenced the action at the distance of half a mile, gradually closing with him to a quarter of a mile. The fire was constant, and well directed on both sides, though that of the enemy slackened towards the latter part of the action. At a quarter past eight P. M. the enemy made all sail away; our main-top-sail-yard being shot through, the main royal-mast, and both main-topmast-stays, the mainspring-stay, and most of the standing and running rigging, and all our sails shot to pieces, and most of our cartridges fired away, (as our guns were directed at his hull he was not much disabled about his rigging), we ceased firing, and employed all hands in repairing the damages sustained, and fitting the ship again for action. From the great injury our masts, yards, and sails had received, I am sorry to observe that it was not in our power to chase to renew the action immediately; we, however, succeeded in keeping sight of him during the night; and at nine A. M. on the 8th, the ship being perfectly prepared for action, we bore down upon the enemy under all sail; he did not endeavour to avoid us till we hauled athwart his stern, for the purpose of gaining the weather gage, and bringing him to close fight, when he hauled up also, and made all sail; but perceiving that we came fast up with him, and that an action was inevitable, he tacked, and at three we passed each other on opposite tacks, and recommenced action within a quarter of a cable's length. With grief I have to observe that our brave captain was killed by a grape-shot the second broadside. When the enemy was abaft our beam he wore, and, after an hour and twenty minutes close action, struck their colours, and waved their

Price Sixpence.

