

vessels at Plymouth, to EVAN NEPEAN, Esq. dated January 17, 1797.

His Majesty's sloop Spitfire arrived this morning with the national brig L'Allerger, of 200 tons, laden with ammunition and entrenching tools, being one of the vessels on the expedition to Ireland, which she captured the 12th instant, about thirty leagues to the westward of Ushant, the Spitfire having been driven to that situation by strong gales of northerly wind.

Copy of a Letter from Captain BARLOW, Commander of his Majesty's ship Phoebe, to EVAN NEPEAN, Esq. Secretary of the Admiralty, dated Cawland Bay, January 13, 1797.

SIR,

I HAVE to acquaint you, for their Lordships information, that on the 10th instant, Cape Clear bearing N. N. W. distant about twenty leagues, his Majesty's ship under my command fell in with the French corvette L'Atalante, of 16 guns, manned with 112 men, commanded by Lieutenant Dordelin, which, after a chase of eight hours towards the N. E. quarter, she came up with and captured. The Atalante is a very fine brig coppered, having 80 feet keel, and is only three years old. Should their Lordships think proper to order her to be inspected, she will, I think, be deemed fit for his Majesty's service. As soon as I shall have landed the prisoners, and received the Phoebe's men from the corvette, I purpose proceeding to sea, in further execution of their Lordships order of the 3d inst.

I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

ROB. BARLOW.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, January 21, 1797.

Copy of a Letter from Sir EDW. PELLEW, Bart. Captain of his Majesty's frigate Indefatigable, to EVAN NEPEAN, Esq. dated January 17, 1797.

I HAVE the honour to make known to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that on Friday last the 13th instant, at half past noon, in lat. 47 deg. 30 min. N. Ushant bearing N. E. 50 leagues, we discovered a large ship in the N. W. quarter, steering under easy sail for France—the wind was then at west, blowing hard, with thick hazy weather. I instantly made the signal to the Amazon for a general chase, and followed it by the signal that she was an enemy. At four P. M. the Indefatigable had gained sufficiently upon the chase for me to distinguish very clearly that she had two tier of guns, with her lower deck ports shut, and that she had no poop.

At fifteen minutes before six, we brought the enemy to close action, which continued to be well supported on both sides near an hour, when we unavoidably shot a-head; at this moment, the Amazon appeared a-stern, and gallantly supplied our place; but the eagerness of Captain Reynolds to second his friend had brought him up under a press of sail, and after a well-supported and close fire for a little time, he also unavoidably shot a-head. The enemy, who had nearly effected running me on board, appeared to be much larger than the Indefatigable, and, from her very heavy fire of musketry, I believe was full of men. This fire was continued until the end of the action with great vivacity, although she frequently defended both sides of the ship at the same time.

As soon as we had replaced some necessary rigging, and the Amazon had reduced her sail, we commenced a second attack, placing ourselves, after some raking broadsides, upon each quarter; and this attack, often within pistol-shot, was by both ships unremitting for above five hours: We then sheered off to secure our masts. It would be needless to relate to their Lordships every effort that we made in an attack, which commenced at a quarter before six P. M. and did not cease, excepting at intervals, until half past four A. M. I believe ten hours of more severe fatigue was scarcely ever experienced; the sea was high, the people on the main deck up to their middles in water; some guns broke their breechings four times over, some drew the ring-bolts from the sides, and many of them were repeatedly drawn immediately after loading; all our masts were much wounded, the main top-mast completely unrigged, and saved only by uncommon alacrity.

At about twenty minutes past four, the moon opening rather brighter than before, showed to Lieutenant George Bell, who was watchfully looking out on the fore-castle, a glimpse of the land; he had scarcely reached me to report it, when we saw the breakers. We were then close under the enemy's starboard-bow, and the Amazon as near her on the larboard; not an instant could be lost, and every life depended upon the prompt execution of my orders; and here is with heartfelt pleasure I acknowledge the full value of

my officers and ship's company, who, with incredible alacrity, hauled the tacks on board, and made fail to the southward. The land could not be ascertained, but we took it to be Ushant, and in the bay of Brest; crippled as we were, I had no particular fears; but before day we again saw breakers upon the lee-bow; the ship was instantly wore to the northward, and being then satisfied that the land we had before seen was not Ushant, the lingering approach of daylight was most anxiously looked for by all, and soon after it opened, seeing the land very close ahead, we again wore to the southward, in twenty fathoms water, and a few minutes after discovered the enemy, who had so bravely defended herself, lying on her broadside, and a tremendous surf beating over her. The miserable fate of her brave but unhappy crew was perhaps the more sincerely lamented by us, from the apprehension of suffering a similar misfortune. We passed her within a mile, in a very bad condition, having at that time four feet water in our hold, a great sea, and the wind dead on the shore; but we had ascertained, beyond a doubt, our situation to be that of Hodiern Bay, and that our fate depended upon the possible chance of weathering the Penmark Rocks. Exhausted as we were with fatigue, every exertion was made, and every inch of canvas set that could be carried, and at eleven A. M. we made the breakers, and, by the blessing of God, weathered the Penmark Rocks about half a mile.

The Amazon had hauled her wind to the northward, when we stood to the southward; her condition I think was better than ours, and I knew that her activity and exertions were fully equal to any thing that could be effected under similar circumstances;—the judgment with which she was managed during so long an action, and the gallantry of her attacks, could not but merit the highest commendation, and to the heart of a friend it was peculiarly gratifying.—I have full as much pleasure to speak highly of my own officers and men, to whom I owe infinite obligations. The Lieutenants Thomson, Norway, and Bell; Lieutenants O'Connor and Wilson of the marines, and Mr Thomson the master, have abundant claims upon my gratitude, as well as every inferior officer in the ship. The sufferings of the Amazon are unknown to me; and I am singularly happy to see that my own are inconsiderable. The First Lieutenant, Mr Thomson, a brave and worthy Officer, is the only one of that description wounded, with eighteen men, twelve of which number have wounds of no serious consequence, consisting chiefly of violent contusions from splinters.

I am, &c. &c. &c.

ED. PELLEW.

Extract of a Letter from Admiral-LORD BRIDPORT to Mr NEPEAN, dated at sea, the 16th of January 1797:

CAPTAIN COUNTESS, of the Dædalus, informs me, that on the 8th instant, off Ushant, in company with the Majestic and Incendiaire, he captured Le Suffrein, a French transport, which had been taken by the Jason, and recaptured by Le Tortu frigate, and was going to Brest. She had two mortars, a quantity of small arms, powder, shells, and some intrenching tools on board; which he sunk to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy.

Extract of a Letter from Captain Sir THOMAS WILLIAMS, of his Majesty's ship Unicorn, to Mr NEPEAN, dated Cawland Bay, January 18, 1797:

In the evening of the 10th instant the wind changed to the N. W. when I shaped a course which I calculated would fall in with Lord Bridport. The following afternoon I took a private ship of war, L'Eclair, of eighteen guns and one hundred and twenty men, and the same evening joined the British fleet.

ST JAMES'S, Jan. 18.

This day being appointed for the celebration of the anniversary of the Queen's Birth-day, there was a very splendid and numerous appearance of the Nobility, Foreign Ministers, and other persons of distinction, to compliment their Majesties upon the occasion. The guns at the Tower were fired at one o'clock. There was a ball at the Court in the evening, and illuminations and other public demonstrations of joy in London and Westminster.

BERLIN, December 31, 1796.

His Royal Highness Prince Louis, second son of his Prussian Majesty, died here on Wednesday the 28th instant, in his twenty-fourth year.

WAR-OFFICE, Jan. 21, 1797.

Royal Regiment of Horse Guards—Thomas Ellis to be Cornet, by purchase, vice Walker, who retires.
2d Regiment of Dragoon Guards—John Denham Saunderson to be Cornet, by purchase, vice Adam, promoted.