



THE
Edinburgh Gazette.

Published by Authority.

FROM FRIDAY, APRIL 27. TO TUESDAY, MAY 1. 1798.

At the Court at *St James's*, the 25th April 1798,
 P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

His Majesty having been pleased to appoint the Right Hon. George Edward Henry Arthur Earl of Powis to be Lord Lieutenant of the county of Salop, his Lordship this day took the oaths appointed to be taken thereupon, instead of the oaths of allegiance and supremacy.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, *April 28.*

Copy of a letter from the Right Hon. Admiral Lord BRIDPORT, K.B. to EVAN NEPEAN, Esq. dated on board his Majesty's ship *Royal George*, at sea, the 22d inst.

SIR,

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, for their Lordships information, that *L'Hercule*, of 74 guns, was taken by his Majesty's ship *Mars* last night.

The inclosed copy of a letter from Lieutenant Butterfield will best show to their Lordships the spirit and judgment manifested upon this occasion. No praise of mine can add one ray of brilliancy to the distinguished valour of Capt. Alexander Hood, who carried his ship nobly into battle, and who died of the wounds he received in supporting the just cause of his country. It is impossible for me not to sincerely lament his loss, as he was an honour to the service, and universally beloved; he has fallen gloriously, as well as all those who are so handsomely spoken of by Lieutenant Butterfield. I have appointed him to the command of *L'Hercule*, to carry her into port, and I have given a temporary appointment to Captain James George Shirley to command the *Mars*, and Lieutenant George White, First of the *Royal George*, to command the *Megæra*.

[Price 6d.]

Lieutenant Henry Combe, the Second, will deliver to you this dispatch.

I have the honour to be, &c.

BRIDPORT.

MY LORD,

Mars, at sea, April 22.

I beg leave to acquaint your Lordship, that the ship chased by his Majesty's ship *Mars* yesterday, per signal, endeavoured to escape through the Passage du Raz, but the tide proving contrary, and the wind easterly, obliged her to anchor at the mouth of that passage, which afforded Captain Hood the opportunity of attacking her, by laying her so close alongside as to unhinge some of the lower deck ports, continuing a very bloody action for an hour and a half, when she surrendered.

I lament being under the necessity of informing your Lordship, that his Majesty has, on this occasion, lost that truly brave man, Captain Hood, who was wounded in the thigh late in the conflict, and expired just as the enemy's ship had struck her colours. This ship proves to be *L'Hercule*, of 74 guns and 700 men, her first time at sea; from *L'Orient*, to join the *Brest* fleet.

I cannot sufficiently commend the bravery and good conduct of the surviving Officers and men, who merit my warmest thanks: I must particularly recommend to your Lordship's notice Mr Southey, the signal Midshipman.

Lieutenants Argles and Ford are the only Officers wounded. Captain Hood and Captain White of the *Marines*, are killed. Lieutenant Argles, though badly wounded, never quitted the deck.

From a number of the people being with Lieutenant Bowker, in charge of the prize, I cannot at present in-

(R.)

