



THE

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FROM FRIDAY, MAY 11. TO TUESDAY, MAY 15. 1798.

At the Court at *St James's*, the 9th May 1798,
P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

THIS day, his Majesty in Council having ordered the Council book to be laid before him, the name of the Honourable Charles James Fox was erased from the list of Privy Counsellors.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, *May 12.*

Copy of a letter from Capt. HOTHAM, of his Majesty's ship *Adamant*, to EVAN NEPEAN, Esq. dated at anchor off the islands of *St Marcou*, the 8th of May 1798.

S I R,

I have the satisfaction of inclosing, for the information of my Lords-Commissioners of the Admiralty, a letter I yesterday received from Lieutenant Price, commanding officer on the islands of *St Marcou*, in which it will be found, that, by his firm and steady resistance, against a very considerable force, those islands have been saved falling into the hands of the enemy.

The calm weather had for some days prevented his Majesty's ships under my orders from checking the progress which the flotilla from *La Hogue* might attempt to make, and, judging from the information I received from Lieut. Price on the morning of the 6th, that it was on its way to the islands, I necessarily approached them as near as the state of the weather would permit me to do: On the same afternoon, however, I was obliged to anchor, but, taking advantage of a light breeze in the evening, I again weighed and stood in. At ten o'clock that night, it again falling quite calm, and fearing the flood-tide would carry us too far to the eastward, the ship once more anchored; the islands bearing W. by S. six miles.

A little before the dawn of day the enemy com-

menced the attack, and the boats were soon afterwards seen placed, and keeping up a constant fire. A light breeze springing up at that time from the N. N. W. with an ebb tide, the signal was made to weigh, and Captains Talbot, of the *Eurydice*, and Haggatt, of the *Orestes*, were directed by me to stand in as fast as possible, and attack the enemy in the manner they should judge most effectual towards destroying them, on arriving up. While going down, however, it was perceived the enemy was making his retreat in a very hasty and confused manner, and I am not altogether without hope; that the near approach of his Majesty's ships in some measure confirmed the enemy in his inclination of abandoning an enterprize, which, from the very able conduct, and well-directed fire of Lieutenant Price, he would, at all events, have been ultimately obliged to do. It again falling calm, and the ships not having steerage way, rendered pursuit on our side impossible, and enabled them to make their retreat to *La Hogue*.

It would be great injustice in not joining with him in his very well bestowed commendation on the conduct of the several officers and men under his command.

It may not be deemed improper to mention, that I this morning saw some pieces of paper taken from the vessel which has been towed in, and that amongst them there is a sort of return of the crew, by which it appears that it consisted of 144 men; the total force, therefore, may have been very considerable, and there is every reason to believe has suffered great loss.

I have the honour to be &c.

W. HOTHAM,

S I R,
Badger, Isles *St Marcou*, May 7. 1798.

I beg leave to represent to you, that in consequence

(R.)

[Price 6d.]

