



THE

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ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, Nov. 8.

Copy of a letter from Vice Admiral Lord HUGH SEYMOUR to EVAN NEPEAN, Esq. dated on board the *Abergavenny*, Port-Royal, Jamaica, the 31st Augst.

SIR,

I have very sincere pleasure in forwarding to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a letter which I have received from Captain Milne, of his Majesty's ship *Seine*, describing an action which does great honour to him, his officers, and ship's company, and which ended in the capture of the French Republican frigate the *Vengeance*, a ship of very superior force to that which he commanded.

Captain Milne has done so much justice to his officers and men by his report of their conduct on that occasion, that I have only to offer my congratulations to their Lordships upon the success which attended their exertions, and to express my hope that it will receive marks of their Lordships' favour proportioned to the satisfaction which they must derive from the event, which has brought forward the merit of those engaged in it. I am, Sir, &c.

H. SEYMOUR.

His Majesty's ship *Seine*, off St Domingo,  
My Lord, August 22. 1800.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship, that on the morning of the 20th instant, I observed a ship on the starboard tack standing to the northward through the Mona Passage; I soon perceived she was an enemy, and made all sail in chase, with very light breezes; the wind

having come to the northward obliged her to tack, as she could not weather Cape Raphael on the St Domingo shore; she then stood E.S.E. and made all sail; by this time it was near sunset, and I could perceive she was a large frigate; it was near midnight before I could bring her to action, and then not so close as I could wish, as she always bore up and kept at long shot; she however did us considerable damage in our rigging and sails, but to appearance he suffered equally; we separated for some time, and I took that opportunity to get our rigging, &c. again in complete repair.

On the morning of the 21st I had the pleasure of bringing him to close action; and after about an hour and a half hard fighting, an officer came out on her bowsprit (the only place he could be seen from, owing to the masts of confusion, by the loss of her foremast, mizenmast, and main-topmast having fallen on board), and said they had struck to the British flag. She was immediately taken possession of, and proved to be the French frigate the *Vengeance*, Citizen Pitot, Capitaine de Vaisseau, Commander, mounting twenty-eight 18-pounders on her main-deck, sixteen 12-pounders, and eight 42-pounders carronades on her quarter-deck and fore-castle, and brass swivels on the gunwale, with shifting guns on the main and quarter decks. The weight of metal I have mentioned in French-pounds. The behaviour of the officers and ship's company was such as has always characterized the British sea-

men. To my First Lieutenant, Mr Cheetham, I am greatly indebted for his cool and steady behaviour, and for the amazing fire kept up from the main deck, which nothing could surpass.— My Second Lieutenant, Mr George Milne, fell fighting nobly about the middle of the action. In him his Majesty has lost a valuable and as zealous an officer as any in the service. To my Third Lieutenant, Mr Edveair (whom I mentioned on a former occasion when gunner of the *Pique*), I am equally indebted for his services; as likewise Mr Barclay, the Master, and Mr M'Donald, Lieutenant of Marines, who was taken down wounded, and came up again when dressed, but was obliged from a second wound to be taken below: But, I am happy to state, the life of this valuable officer will be saved to render further services to his Majesty. The behaviour of the petty officers, seamen, and marines, was such as does them the highest credit. The *Vengeance* is a very large frigate, five years old, and exactly the dimensions of the *Fisgard*; in his Majesty's service, and is the ship which had the action some time since with the American frigate the *Constellation*. Previous to her leaving Curacoa she had a large supply of seamen from Guadaloupe, and was every way completely sound, and bound to France.

His Majesty's ship under my command has suffered much in her masts and hull; sails and rigging entirely cut to pieces. Your Lordship will perceive the *Vengeance* is superior in size,

(R.)

[Price 6d.]

