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ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, Nov. 15.

Copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Lord KEITH, K. B. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean, to EVAN NEPEAN, Esq. dated on board the Foudroyant, at Gibraltar, the 29th ult.

SIR,

I have just received a letter, of which the inclosed is a copy, from Captain Morris, acquainting me with the capture of a Spanish vessel of war by the boats of the Phaeton, under circumstances very highly creditable to Lieutenant Beaufort, and the officers and people who were employed on the occasion. I regret with him the loss and injury which has been sustained in the attack, but I anticipate with equal satisfaction the approbation with which I am sure their Lordships will regard the gallantry that has been evinced in the execution of the enterprize.

I have the honour to be, &c. KEITH.

MY LORD, Phaeton off Malaga, Oct. 28.

I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that on the 25th inst. his Majesty's ship under my command chased a ship polacre, which shewed Spanish colours, ensign and pendant, to an anchor under the fortrefs of Fangerolle, where a French privateer brig also took refuge; as the wind was on shore, and they were close into the surf, and directly under a battery of five heavy guns, there was no prospect of bringing them off then; the following night the brig escaped to the westward, and the ship made two attempts for Malaga, but was driven back; last night the land breeze appearing favourable, I sent the boats under the command of Lieut. Francis Beaufort, who at five o'clock this morning, in opposition to a very obstinate resistance on first boarding at the hatchways with musketry, and from the ringing quarter deck with sabres, got possession and

brought her out; she proves his Most Catholic Majesty's armed ship the San Josef, alias L'Aglies, mounting two twenty-four pounders iron ordnance in the bow, two brass eighteens for stern chase, four brass twelves, and six four-pounders, and most completely found in small arms of all kinds, commanded by an auxiliary officer of the navy, and manned with forty-nine seamen (of which fifteen were absent in her boat), and twenty-two soldiers as marines, employed as a packet, and carrying provisions between Malaga and Melila: From the force of the ship, her state of preparation, and situation with respect to the fort, also the unfortunate circumstance of the launch, from whose carronade much was expected in the plan for the attack, having not been able to keep up with the other boats, and being distant when they were discovered and fired on by a French privateer schooner that had come in unseen by us in the night, and was placed to flank the ship, and gave the alarm, on which the barge and two cutters immediately pulled to the ship and boarded; I am convinced more determined bravery could not have been displayed than has been shewn by Lieutenants Beaufort and Huish, Lieutenant Duncan Campbell of the marines; Mess. Hamilton and Stanton, Midshipmen; and Mr Deagon, the gunner, and the boat's crew employed upon the service; and it is with extreme concern I add, that one seaman was killed on coming alongside, and that their very gallant leader (in whom I have ever found a most capable and zealous assistant) was first wounded in the head, and afterwards received several flugs through his left arm and body; Lieut. Campbell received several slight sabre wounds; Mr Augustus Barrington Hamilton was shot, while in the boat, through the thigh, notwithstanding

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which he boarded, and his conduct is highly spoken of; and John Wells, a seaman, also shot through the thigh: The loss of the enemy appears to have been thirteen wounded, six badly; and some are supposed to have been wounded and driven overboard.

I give your Lordship the detail of this service, feeling it incumbent on me to do so, to do justice to the parties employed upon it, humbly hoping that Mr Beaufort's conduct and wounds will entitle him to the protection given in the present war to officers of distinguished merit; and I regret exceedingly that Mr Hamilton wants some considerable part of his servitude, as he is of an age and in all other respects well qualified for a Lieutenant.

Towards day-light, the signal being made to me that our people were in full possession of the prize, I chased a vessel that had passed us an hour before, and brought her to, under a battery, in Cape Moleno. She proves a light polacre, from Ceuta bound to Malaga. Afterwards, running down to pick up our boats and people, we were carried so far to leeward, that the French schooner (which we had not seen from the ship) passed to windward along shore to Malaga, quite out of our reach.

I have the honour, &c.

JAMES N. MORRIS.

Vice-Admiral Lord Keith, K. B. &c.

Copy of a letter from the Earl of ST VINCENT, K. B. Admiral of the White, &c. to EVAN NEPEAN, Esq. dated Torbay, the 12th instant.

SIR,

I inclose, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a letter which I have received from Captain Crawford, of his

