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ADMIRALTY OFFICE, APRIL 7.

Copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral Duckworth, Commandr in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels at the Leeward Islands, to Evan Nepean, Esq. dated Martinique, 16th February, 1801.

SIR,

Having learnt, from the arrival of the Calcutta on the 12th ult. that a convoy might be soon expected, I dispatched all the squadron within my reach to cruise to windward of Barbadoes for its protection, which has eventually proved fortunate; for the particulars respecting it I shall refer you to Captain Bradby's letter of the 6th inst. herewith transmitted; as also to the letters of Capt. Manby, of the Bourdelois, the 16th January and 2d of this month, on which he writes most fully. I must beg you to call the attention of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to the meritorious conduct of Mr Burrowes, Commander of the ship Jupiter, bound to Jamaica, who, after he had lost convoy, collected more than sixty sail, and made such a disposition of the largest ships for the protection of the whole, as evidently deterred the small squadron afterwards brought to action by the Bourdelois, from attacking them; and by that judicious and public spirited step, all but those which branched off for Surinam, &c. arrived safe at Barbadoes. I am, &c.

J. T. DUCKWORTH

Extract of a letter from Captain Bradby, Commander of his Majesty's ship Andromeda, to Rear-Admiral Duckworth, dated Martinique, the 6th of February, 1801.

Inclosed are two letters from Captain Manby to me, from which the service he has rendered to the different islands, by destroying a squadron sent out by Victor

Hughes, for the interception of the outward-bound convoy, speaks for itself.

His Majesty's sloop Bourdelois, January 16. 1801, off Teneriffe.

On the 8th inst. off Palma, in a calm, I dispatched two boats under the orders of Lieutenant Barrie, in pursuit of a strange sail in the S. E. After a fatiguing row of fourteen hours, Lieutenant Barrie, at two P. M. with only one boat, being up with the chase, boarded her with great gallantry, although opposed by ten Frenchmen, who kept up a smart fire from 4 four pounders: she proved to be the Adventure of London, one of the convoy which had parted company in the first gale of wind; the French prize-master was wounded by a cutlass, which was the only blood spilt on the occasion.

Gaining information from the Adventure, that on the same day she was captured by the Mouche privateer, of Bourdeaux, the Mouche likewise captured a valuable copper-bottomed ship, bound to Barbadoes; and as both vessels had orders to proceed to Santa Cruz, in Teneriffe, I considered it my duty to push for that port, and by plying hard with the sweeps all the 9th, I arrived off Santa Cruz on the morning of the 10th, when I had the pleasing satisfaction of rescuing the above-mentioned British ship from the hands of the enemy; she proved to be the Aurora of London.

I have the honour to be, &c.  
T. MANBY.

Captain Bradby, Andromeda.

His Majesty's ship Bourdelois, Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes, Feb. 1. 1801.

Three days ago, being on the station you ordered me to cruise for the protection of

our scattered convoy, I acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that at noon three sail were descried to windward, evidently in chase of us, which I soon discovered to be an enemy's squadron, consisting of two large brigs and a schooner:—having shortened sail, enabled them to be well up with us at sun-set, when I wore round to give them battle; at six, I had the honour of bringing the largest brig to close action, at about ten yards distance, but was not so fortunate with the other vessels, who fought very shy, on the occasion, on observing we were enabled to fight both sides at once; thirty minutes of close cannonade with my near opponent completely silenced him, when he hailed that he had struck, and lowered his topmasts, when his companions made sail from us; but I think I can safely aver they are sufficiently damaged to spoil their cruise. My First Lieutenant, Mr Robert Barrie, on taking possession of the prize, found her to be a remarkable fine French National corvette, called La Curieuse, pierced for 20 guns, 18 long 9-pounders mounted, 168 men, and commanded by Captain G. Radelet; sent out from Cayenne twenty-eight days ago by Victor Hughes with this squadron, to intercept the outward-bound West-India fleet. With real concern I acquaint you, that we had one man killed and seven wounded in the action; but from the abilities and attention of Mr G. Roddam, my surgeon, I trust the latter are likely to do well: Lieutenant Barrie forms one of the number, but declined to quit his quarters. Mr J. Jones, Master's Mate, and M. J. Lions, midshipman, are included in this list. The killed and wounded in the corvette