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From Saturday August 28, to Tuesday August 31, 1779.

AT the Court at St. James's, the 20th of August, 1779,

P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Time limited by His Majesty's Order in Council of the 21st of May last, for prohibiting the Exportation out of this Kingdom, or carrying Coastwise, Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, will expire on the 23d of this instant August: And whereas it is judged expedient that the said Prohibition should be continued for some Time longer, except in those Cases where (for the Benefit and Advantage of Trade, and for the Use and Defence of Ships trading to Foreign Parts, and of the Transports and Victualling Vessels employed in His Majesty's Service) His Majesty, by His several Orders in Council of the 13th and 27th of October, and of the 6th and 22d of November, 1775, of the 5th and 19th of February, and the 23d of August and 25th of September, 1776, of the 16th of April, the 13th of August, and the 3d and 10th of October, 1777, of the 19th of June, the 7th and 26th of August, and the 10th of September 1778, has thought proper to permit and allow the Exportation of, and carrying Coastwise, Gunpowder, Saltpetre, Arms and Ammunition, under certain Conditions and Restrictions mentioned in the said Orders: His Majesty doth therefore, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, hereby order, require, prohibit, and command; that no Person or Persons whatsoever (except the Master-General, Lieutenant-General, or Principal Officers of the Ordnance, for His Majesty's Service) do, at any Time during the Space of Three Months, to commence from the said 23d Day of this instant August, presume to transport into any Parts out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise, any Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, or ship or lade any Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, on Board any Ship or Vessel, in order to transporting the same beyond the Seas, or carrying the same Coastwise, except in the Cases comprized within the aforementioned Orders in Council, without Leave or Permission in that Behalf first obtained from His Majesty or His Privy Council, upon Pain of incurring and suffering the respective Forfeitures and Penalties inflicted by an Act passed in the 29th Year of His late Majesty's Reign, entituled, "An Act to empower His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Saltpetre, and to enforce the Law for empowering His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms and Ammunition; and also to empower His Majesty to restrain the carrying Coastwise of Saltpetre, Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition."— And the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, the Commissioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the Master-General of the Ordnance, and His Majesty's Secretary at War, are to give

the necessary Directions herein, as to them may respectively appertain.

Steph. Cottrell.

Admiralty-Office, August 31, 1779.

Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Duff, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean. Dated on Board His Majesty's Ship Panther, at Gibraltar, the 26th of July, 1779, to Mr. Stephens.

ON the 10th of this Month I received Intelligence that Five Xebecks, with a Number of Spanish Vessels supposed to be under their Convoy, lay in the Road of Malaga, and might soon put to Sea on their Voyage to the Westward; I therefore immediately ordered the Childers Sloop to proceed a few Leagues to the Eastward, but to cruize in Sight of this Place, in order to look out for the said Convoy, and upon discovering the same to throw out a Signal appointed to convey such Information, which being observed to have been made the next Day after her sailing on this Service at about Four P. M. determined me to order the Cables of the Panther and Enterprize (the only Ships here) to be slipped; about which Time Two of the Xebecks had approached near to this Bay, in Chace of Three Cutter Privateers, who having taken Possession of One of their Convoy, a Saetie, were towing her under the Batteries of Europa, which they effected: But the Moment the Xebecks discovered the Ships to be in Motion, they hauled their Wind, and made Sail for Ceuta; and in their Progress thither one of them was fired upon by and exchanged a few Shot with the Childers. I hastened with the Ships to the Sloop's Support, but there being little Wind, and the Xebecks having the Weather-gage, they soon got out of Reach, and the Night closing fast upon us, these Xebecks with a few of the Convoy escaped to Ceuta; the others, being Three in Number, (all which, as well as the former, mounting from 26 to 32 Guns each) with some other armed Vessels, made off to the Eastward, by which Means their Convoy was effectually dispersed.

The Cutters above-mentioned, in Course of the Night, took Three more Saeties, the Childers destroyed another nearly under the Batteries of Ceuta, and at Day-break in the Morning I gave Chace with the Ships, came up with and took Two other Saeties of the above Convoy; and after this, seeing that the Two Xebecks (one wearing a broad Pendant, said to be commanded by Commodore Baracello, Son to the present Admiral) had secured themselves under the Fortrefs of Ceuta, and that the others had also escaped us, I proceeded with the Panther, Enterprize and Childers to this Bay, and again anchored here in the Afternoon of the 12th Instant.

The Prizes are all laden with useful Articles for this Garrison, their Cargoes consisting chiefly of Wines, Brandies, and some small Quantities of Bread, and other like Provisions; of which Commodities are also the Cargoes of Eight other Spanish Prizes taken by His Majesty's Vessels, and the Privateers from this Place, that have been furnished with Letters of Reprizal by Governor Elliot.

