

Proserpine separated the preceding Evening in a Fog. I will not attempt to find Words to convey to you, Sir, the Sense I feel of the Conduct of the Officers and Ship's Company under my Command; for if it was possible for me to say any Thing that could add to the Glory of British Seamen, I have ample Field for so doing in the Situation I held this Day. Indeed nothing less than the Confidence of the most gallant Support from them, and the high Opinion I entertain of the Santa Margaritha our Second, could induce me to risk an Action with a Force apparently so much our superior; and while I congratulate myself upon the happy Effects of their Valour in the Capture of Two of the Enemy's Frigates, that have done so much Mischief to our Commerce during the War, and on their present Cruize were likely to do so much more, you may easily conceive what my Feelings are, when I inform you, Sir, this Service is obtained without the Loss of One of the brave Men in the Ship under my Command; my Happiness will be complete, if I find the Santa Margaritha has been equally fortunate.

In Justice to the Officers of the Unicorn, I must beg of you to recommend to the Notice of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty my First and Second Lieutenants, Messrs. Palmer and Taylor, Mr. Quayle the Master, and Lieutenant Hatr of the Marines. I had great Reason to regret the Absence of Mr. Carpenter, the Third Lieutenant, of Two Mates, and some of my best Seamen, who were the Evening before put on Board a valuable Ship from Surinam; but the able Assistance I should have derived from Lieutenant Carpenter, I was made to feel the less by the Exertion of Mr. Collier the Purser, who voluntarily offered and undertook to supply his Place to the best of his Abilities, and whose Name I beg you to include in your Recommendations to their Lordships. We are now using our utmost Exertions to put the Unicorn and her shattered Prize in a Condition to proceed to Cork.

I have the Honor to be. &c. &c. &c.

THO. WILLIAMS.

*Copy of a Letter from Lord Amelius Beauclerk, Captain of His Majesty's Ship Dryad, Plymouth Sound, June 16, 1796, to Mr. Nepean.*

S I R,

PLEASE to inform their Lordships, that, on the 13th Instant, at One, A. M. Cape Clear bearing West by North, Distance Twelve Leagues, we discovered a Sail standing towards us from the Southward, but on nearing us hauled her Wind and tacked. I immediately chased, and came alongside of her at Nine, P. M. when, after a close Action of Forty-five Minutes, she struck; proves to be the National Frigate La Proserpine, mounting 26 Eighteen-Pounders, 12 Nines, and 4 Thirty-two Pound Caronades, with 348 Men, commanded by Citizen Pevrieu; sailed from Brest the 6th Instant, in Company with La Tribune, Thames, and La Legere Corvette; had not taken any Thing. I feel myself much indebted to the Officers and Men under my Command for their steady and spirited Exertions during the Action. I particularly recommend the senior Officer, Lieutenant King, as truly deserving their Lordships Notice. It is with Pleasure I add,

that our killed consisted only of 2, and 7 wounded; La Proserpine, 30 killed and 45 wounded.

I have the Honor to be, Sir, &c.

AM. BEAUCLERK.

*Downing-Street, June 17.*

A Letter, of which the following is an Extract, has been received by the Right Honourable Lord Grenville, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from Colonel Graham, dated Peri, May 31.

YESTERDAY Morning the French Army under the Command of General Bounaparté, consisting of about 22,000 Men, forced the Passage of the Mincio, at Valeggio.

General Beaulieu ordered the different Corps of his Army to retire on Castell Nuovo, except the Infantry at Goito, which, being Part of the Garrison of Mantua, was sent back there; and the Dispositions were so well made, that this was executed without any Loss: Every Attempt to molest them in their Retreat was not only immediately checked by the distinguished Conduct of the Cavalry, both Austrian and Neapolitan, but the Right of the French Army was attacked, with great Intrepidity and Success, by Eight Squadrons (Hulans and the Neapolitan Regiment du Roi) coming from Goito, who cut down a great many Men, took some Prisoners, (among them One of General Bounaparté's Aides de Camp, and Three other Officers) and brought off above 150 Horses.

This Morning the Army, with all the Artillery (except Two Pieces of Cannon lost at Valeggio) Ammunition, Stores and Baggage, passed the Adige in perfect Order at Chiufa: In this Affair the Loss of the French must have been considerable; that of the Austrians is trifling, and fell chiefly on One of the Battalions of Strafaldo, posted at the Bridge of Valeggio, but in all it does not exceed 300 Men, many of whom, being wounded, could not be brought off for Want of Waggon.

This Afternoon, while the Bridge at Chiufa was removing, the French appeared on the Right Bank of the Adige, and began a Cannonade, which was returned. It has continued during all the Evening, with scarcely any Loss on the Side of the Austrians.

*Whitehall, June 18.*

DISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, have been received at the Office of the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Abercromby, K. B. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in the West Indies.

*Head Quarters, St. Lucia, May 2, 1796.*

S I R,

IN my Letter of the 9th of April I expressed a Desire to detach a Body of Troops to take Possession of Demerary, provided that Admiral Sir John Laforey would afford me the necessary Naval Force.

The Admiral, upon my Application to him for that Purpose, immediately ordered the Malabar, La Picque, and Babet, on Board of which, and the Grenada Transport, with some small Vessels, Major-General Whyte, with the 39th, 93d, and 99th Regiments,