

distant about Seven Leagues, we discovered Five Sail to Leeward of us nearly Hull-down.

As Lieutenant Sheppard, of the Pigmy Cutter, had informed me on the 19th that an Enemy's Squadron had quitted Durasso on the 7th, where they had attempted to land their Troops, I concluded the Ships in Sight were those of which he had given me Intelligence, and made all the Sail possible to get from them: At Sunrise my Suspicions were realized: we clearly distinguished Four of them to be of the Line, the other a large Frigate, and their Signal Flags soon pointed them out to be Enemies. At Half past Five Two of the Line of Battle Ships tacked, by Signal, and stood on till they fetched into our Wake, while the other Two and the Frigate stood upon the same Tack with us. At Eight o'Clock the Two Ships and Frigate having fore-reached considerably on us, tacked and stood towards us until they got on our Lee Quarter, when they tacked again. From their great Superiority of Sailing they closed with us so fast as to be nearly within Gun-Shot by Two P. M., and as the Ships Astern were coming up very fast, I determined on bearing down and engaging the Two Ships and Frigate to Leeward, hoping to disable one of them before the whole Squadron could be brought into Action, and thereby effect our Escape by getting to Leeward of them: Three o'Clock I bore up and steered to pass Astern of the sternmost Ship, all our steering Sails set on the Starboard Side, when the Enemy tacked and stood toward us:—At Half past Three the Indivisible, of Eighty Guns, bearing Rear-Admiral Gantheaume's Flag, and the Dix Adout, of Seventy-four Guns, being in close Order, and within Half Gun-Shot of us, opened their Fire, which was instantly answered, and a warm Action ensued. Their great Superiority in point of Sailing gave them every Advantage of Position, and baffled all our Attempts to get to Leeward of them. At Thirty-seven Minutes past Four the Jean Bart and Constitution, of Seventy-four Guns, being within Gun-Shot, and closing upon our Starboard Quarter very fast, the Indivisible almost on board of us on our Larboard Bow, and the Dix Adout on our Larboard Quarter, our Fore-Yard and Fore Top-sail-Yard shot away, all our Running and Part of our standing Rigging cut to Pieces, the Fore-Mast, Mizzen-Mast, and Main-Yard badly wounded, our Deck lumbered with the Wreck and Sails, all Hopes of making our Escape or falling in with any Succour being cut off, and only one of the Enemy's Ships apparently much damaged, I thought farther Resistance, in our crippled State, would be exposing the Lives of valuable Men without any Advantage to their Country resulting from it, with Pain, therefore, I ordered His Majesty's Colours to be struck, after an Action of One Hour and Seven Minutes.

Most sincerely, my Lord, do I lament our having been opposed to so very superior a Force, as from the steady and gallant Conduct of the Officers and Men I had the Honor to command on this Occasion, and with whom I had been acting nearly Four Years on various Services, I have not a Doubt of what would have been the Issue of a Contest on more equal Terms. Our Loss has been principally in Masts, Yards, Sails, and Rigging, having only Two Men killed, Lieutenant Davis, and Seven Men wounded, (Two of whom are since dead of their

Wounds,) the Enemy's Intention being to disable us in our Rigging, in which they succeeded too well; at the Commencement of this unequal Contest, we were Eighty-six Men short of Complement, and had Fifty-nine Sick, those who returned from the Army before Alexandria, having introduced a bad Fever into the Ship.

Four Hundred Men were put on board the Swiftsure on the Evening of her Capture, many of the Prisoners removed, and the Ship in so crippled a State as to render it necessary to take her in Tow; the next Day Carpenters and Seamen from all the Ships were sent on board to repair her Damages, and Soldiers to complete her Number to Seven Hundred; and with all their Exertions, and the Advantage of smooth Water, it was Six Days before they were able to make sail.

On the 4th of July, between Lampidofa and Pantalaria, they fell in with and captured the Mohawk Letter of Marque, from Bristol to Malta, laden with various Articles of Merchandise; on the 22d they anchored in this Road, in general, very sickly, with out having landed any Part of their Troops on the Coast of Egypt or Barbary, although they attempted a Debarkation at Derne, on the 23d Ultimo, but from the hostile Appearance and Reception of the Natives, they did not persevere, and returned to their Ships without landing a single Person.

I feel it a Duty I owe to Admiral Gantheaume to mention to your Lordship the handsome Manner in which we have all been treated by the Officers of his Squadron, and by him in particular, the strictest Orders have been issued to preserve the Property of every Individual, and he has done every Thing in his Power to render the Situation of the Officers and Men as comfortable as possible.

I have the Honor to be, My Lord, &c.

(Signed) BEN. HALLOWELL.

Right Honorable Lord Keith, K. B.

&c. &c. &c.

Whitehall, December 22, 1801.

*Whereas it has been humbly represented to the King, that an anonymous threatening Letter was put under the Door of the Counting House of Messrs. R. Bulmer and Co. in South Shields, where the same was found on the Morning of the 14th Instant, of which the following is a Copy, viz.*

Jos. Bulmer

You Bulmer if you do not give the Carpenters a Guinea a Week as sure as Hell is hot O before Winter is done you must be shot O and worse than that a bleafe about your Ears for that O you have been the worst Friend to us that ever cam here and we will take care of some more you may depend.

*His Majesty, for the better apprehending and bringing to Justice the Persons concerned in writing and sending the said Letter, is hereby pleased to promise His Most gracious Pardon to any one of them, (except the Person who actually wrote the same,) who shall discover, his or their Accomplice or Accomplices therein, so that he, she, or they may be apprehended and convicted thereof.*

PELHAM.

*And, as a further Encouragement, a Reward of ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS is hereby offered, by the said Messrs. Bulmer, to any Person making such Disco-*