

Setting alongside of her, when a few well-directed Shot induced them to strike their Colours. She proved to be the identical Alert, of Twenty Guns, long Nines and Sixes, One Hundred and Forty Men, last from Cayenne, had taken nothing.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) V. V. BALLARD.

Rear-Admiral the Hon. Sir A. Cochrane, K. B.  
Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

SIR, *Belleisle, Tortola-Roads, Nov. 7, 1807.*

THE inclosed Letter which I have just received from Mr. Rogers, the Master of the Windsor Castle Packet, gives an Account of the Capture of a French Privateer.

It is such an Instance of Bravery and persevering Courage, combined with great Presence of Mind, as was scarcely ever exceeded. He has shewn such Ability in defending one of His Majesty's Packets, that I hope it will secure him the Command of the first that is vacant.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. COCHRANE.

*Windsor-Castle Packet, Carlisle Bay,  
3d October 1807.*

SIR,

HAVING, on my Passage from England in the Windsor-Castle Packet, with the Mails for Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, been attacked by a French Privateer within the Limits of your Station, I take the Liberty of acquainting you, that we were fortunate enough to capture her after a severe Action, and arrived with her safe in this Bay. She was seen on the Morning of the 1st of October in Latitude  $13^{\circ} 53'$  N. and Longitude  $58^{\circ} 1'$  W.; and about half-past Eight made all Sail in Chace of the Packet, when every Exertion was made to get away from her; but finding it impossible, Preparations were made to make the best Resistance we could, and Arrangements to sink the Mails if necessary.

At Noon the Schooner got within Gun-shot, hoisted French Colours, and began her Fire, which was returned from the Stern-Chace Guns; this was continued until she came near, when we were hailed in very opprobrious Terms, and desired to strike the Colours. On refusing to do so she ran alongside, grappled the Packet, and attempted to board, which we repulsed by the Pikes, with the Loss of Eight or Ten Men on the Part of the Enemy, when the Schooner attempted to get clear by cutting the Grapplings, but the Main-Yard being locked in her Rigging she was prevented. Great Exertions were continued on both Sides; and I had occasion to station a Part of the Crew in Charge of the Mails, to shift them as Circumstances required, or to cut them away in case of our Failure. About Three we got one of our Six-Pounder Carronades to bear upon the Schooner, loaded with double Grape, Cannoner, and One Hundred Musket-Balls, which was fired at the Moment the Enemy was making a second desperate Attempt to board, and killed and wounded a great Number. Soon after this I embraced the Opportunity of boarding, in Turn, with Five Men, and succeeded in driving the Enemy from his Quarters, and about Four o'Clock the Schooner was completely in our Possession. She is named the Jeune Richard, mounting Six Six-Pounders and One long Eighteen-Pounder, having on board at the Commencement of

the Action Ninety-two Men, of which Twenty-one were found dead on her Decks, and Thirty-three wounded. From the very superior Numbers of the Enemy still remaining, it was necessary to use every Precaution in securing the Prisoners. I was obliged to order them up from below one by one, and place them in their own Irons as they came up, as Three of our little Crew were killed, and Ten severely wounded, the Mizzen-Mast and Main-Yard carried away, and the Rigging fore and aft much damaged. It is my Duty to mention to you, Sir, that the Crew of the Packet, amounting at first to only Twenty-eight Men and Boys, supported me with the greatest Gallantry during the whole of this arduous Contest.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) W. ROGERS, acting Captain.

The Hon. Sir Alexander Cochrane, K. B. Rear-Admiral of the White, &c. &c. &c.

SIR, *Belleisle, Tortola-Roads, Nov. 3, 1807.*

I INCLOSE, for the Information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Copies of Two Letters from Captain Stewart, of His Majesty's Sloop Port d'Espagne, on the Trinidad Station, giving an Account of the Capture of Two Privateers, and of destroying a Third, with the Assistance of Lieutenant Murray, of the Schooner Balahou; a Fourth was chased out of the Gulph of Paria by the Port d'Espagne, which was captured by His Majesty's Gun-Brig Attentive.

I also inclose the Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Yetts, commanding the Laura Cutter, acquainting me with the Capture of a French Brig Letter of Marque by that Vessel and the Balahou.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. COCHRANE.

*His Majesty's Ship D'Espagne, at Sea,  
August 18, 1807.*

SIR,

I HAVE the Honour to inform you, that His Majesty's Ship under my Command has captured La Maria Spanish Privateer Schooner, mounting One long Eighteen-Pounder, with a Crew of Seventy-four Men, after a Chace of Six Hours. She is last from Margarita, without having made any Capture, stored and provisioned for Three Months, and bound to Windward of Barbadoes. I feel particularly pleased in the Capture of this Vessel, as she is esteemed the fastest Sailer out of any of the Windward Islands. Her Commander has cruized with the greatest Success in different Privateers for the last Fourteen Years without being captured.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

J. P. STEWART.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Cochrane, K. B.  
Rear-Admiral of the White, Commander in Chief, &c. &c.

*His Majesty's Sloop Port D'Espagne, at Sea, September 12, 1807.*

SIR,

I HAVE to inform you the Boats of this Ship, under the Command of Lieutenants Cotgrave and Hall, this Morning captured El Rosario Spanish Schooner Privateer, armed with One Gun; her Crew consisted of Thirty-four Men, which made their Escape by reaching the Shore. On the 20th of last Month the Boats of the Balahou, in Conjunction with an Armed Prize from this Ship