

British Nation, and face unappalled the unnatural Combination which is gathered around us, His Majesty bids us to assure you of His firm Persuasion, that, under the Blessing of Divine Providence, the Struggle will prove ultimately successful and glorious to Great Britain.

We are lastly commanded to assure you, that in this awful and momentous Contest you may rely upon the Firmness of His Majesty, who has no Cause but that of His People; and that His Majesty reciprocally relies upon the Wisdom, the Constancy, and the affectionate Support of His Parliament.

AT the Court at the *Queen's Palace*, the 20th of *January 1808*,

P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

THIS Day His Grace Edward Venables Lord Archbishop of York, was, by His Majesty's Command, sworn of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and took his Place at the Board accordingly.

AT the Court at the *Queen's Palace*, the 6th of *January 1808*,

P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS it is expedient in the present State of the Subjects of Her Most Faithful Majesty, and during the Interruption in Commercial Correspondence between Great Britain and Portugal, that Claims should be permitted to be given for Portuguese Property brought in and detained by His Majesty's Ships of War and Privateers; His Majesty is pleased, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that Claims for Portuguese Property, given by Persons duly authorized by the Owners, or by the Consul or other Person authorized by the Portuguese Minister resident at this Court, shall be admitted in the High Court of Admiralty; and it is further ordered, that immediate Restitution shall pass of all such Property as shall appear by the Bills of Lading or other Documents found on board Portuguese Ships, coming from Portuguese Settlements to the Ports of Portugal, to belong to Her Most Faithful Majesty, or to any of Her Subjects residing at the Date of this Order, in the Brazils, or in any Foreign Settlement belonging to Her Crown, or in England, or in any Country in Amity with His Majesty, upon a general Claim for every such Ship and Goods, given by the Consul under the Authority aforesaid: And it is further ordered, that the Property of the Subjects of Her Most Faithful Majesty, at the Date of this Order, residing in Portugal, either belonging to them separately, or jointly with Subjects residing in the Brazils, or other Places before-mentioned, shall be pronounced to belong as claimed, upon a general Claim given for the same on board such Portuguese Ships as aforesaid: And it is further ordered, that the Property last-mentioned, as well as all other Property, under private Claims

already given or to be given, and pronounced to be Portuguese Property, and belonging to Persons resident in Portugal at the Date of this Order, shall remain subject to His Majesty's further Orders; and, in the mean Time, shall be put into the Joint Custody of Agents to be named on Behalf of His Majesty, and on Behalf of the Portuguese Minister resident at this Court, or of any Claimant; and that such Parts thereof as are perishable, or which it may be otherwise expedient to sell, shall be sold by the aforesaid Agents, under Commissions to be issued by the High Court of Admiralty, and the Proceeds thereof deposited in the said Court: — And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the Judges of the High Court of Admiralty and Courts of Vice-Admiralty, are to take the necessary Measures herein as to them shall respectively appertain. *W. Fawkener.*

Admiralty-Office, January 23, 1808.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral Montagu, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Portsmouth and Spithead, to the Honourable W. W. Pole, dated on board the Royal Wilham, at Spithead, the 20th Instant.

SIR,

I HAVE the Honour to inclose, for the Information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a Letter which I have received from Lieutenant Tracey, commanding the Linnet Brig, giving an Account of the Capture of La Courier, French Lugger Privateer, which shews much Judgment and Gallantry in that Officer.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) G. MONTAGU.

*His Majesty's Brig Linnet, at Sea,
January 16, 1808.*

SIR,

I HAVE the Honour to inform you, on Saturday the 16th Instant, Cape Barfleur W. by N. Six or Seven Leagues, I saw a French Lugger in chace of an English Ship and Brig: The Two latter I immediately joined, and thought proper to run in Company with them until Night should favour my closing with the Lugger. At half-past Six P. M. the Lugger commenced a Fire on the Ship, which she gallantly returned. At Seven the Lugger attempted to haul off; but my being within Musket-shot rendered his Attempt fruitless. Ten Minutes past Seven I fired a Broadside of Round and Grape, with a Volley of Musketry, which carried away his Bow-sprit and Main Lugg. I then hailed him to strike; instead of which she hoisted her Lugg. I then commenced a steady Fire, which lasted One Hour and a Half, (with Round, Grape, and Musketry;) during which Time her Luggs were knocked down, and as often hoisted, (at least Ten Times.) Fifty Minutes past Eight, being in a sinking State, hailed she had struck: proves to be Le Courier of Cherbourg, commanded by Captain Alex. Black, mounting Eighteen Guns, with a Complement of Sixty Men; Second Captain of which was killed, and Three Seamen wounded; sails remarkably fast; out Four Days; made no Capture; but came from under the Isles of Marcou at Eleven A. M. this Instant, where she anchored for Shelter from the late Gale.