

Admiralty-Office, January 7, 1809.

*Copy of another Letter from Rear-Admiral the Hon. Sir Alexander Cochrane, K. B. to the Hon. W. W. Pole, dated Belleisle, to Windward of Point Salines, Martinique, November 2, 1808.*

SIR,

THE inclosed Copy of a Letter from Captain Cockburn, of His Majesty's Ship *Pompée*, will acquaint you, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, with the Capture of the *Pylades*, a French Brig Corvette of Sixteen Guns.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. COCHRANE.

*His Majesty's Ship Pompee, Barbadoes, October 22, 1808.*

SIR,

I HAVE great Pleasure in informing you, that His Majesty's Ship under my Command, on her Passage here, on the 20th October, fell in with, and after a long Chace of Eighteen Hours, came up with and captured *Le Pylade*, a French Brig Corvette, mounting Fourteen Twenty-four-Pounder Carronades and Two long Nine-Pounders, commanded by Monsieur Cocherel, Lieutenant de Vaisseau, and having on board One Hundred and Nine Men.

She was Eight Days from Martinique, but had not made any Capture. She is only Three Years old, in perfect good State, and in every Respect fit for His Majesty's Service. I am also assured by her Officers, she is the fastest sailing Vessel the French had in these Seas.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

E. COCKBURN, Captain.

*To Sir A. Cochrane, K. B. Rear-Admiral of the Red, &c. &c. &c.*

Admiralty-Office, January 7, 1809.

*Copy of another Letter from Rear-Admiral the Hon. Sir Alexander Cochrane, K. B. &c. to the Hon. William Wellesley Pole, dated on board the Northumberland, to Windward of Point Salines, Martinique, the 2d of November 1808.*

SIR,

I INCLOSE the copy of a Letter from the Master of His Majesty's late Brig *Maria*, giving an Account of her Capture, by a large French Corvette Ship, of Twenty-two heavy Guns.

The *Maria* was a small Brig, of Twelve twelve pounder Carronades, and Two long Fours, and Sixty-five Men. The Officers and Crew, however, fought her well, and did not strike until she was near sinking. When the Enemy took Possession they were obliged to run her on Shore and destroy her.

I regret the Loss of her Commander Lieutenant Bennett, who was an Officer of long standing, and of great Merit. Mr. O'Donnell, Midshipman, was also killed, and Four Seamen, and Nine others were wounded.

I am, &c.

ALEX. COCHRANE.

SIR, *Roseau, Dominica, Oct. 18, 1808.*

I HAVE taken the earliest Opportunity of acquainting you of the Loss of His Majesty's Brig *Maria*, Lieutenant Bennett late Commander.

Wishing to join you as soon as possible, I made Application for a Cartel, which was granted for

Four Officers and myself, by General Erneuf, for Dominica, where we arrived this Morning, on the 29th September, Point Antigua Grand Terre bearing S. W. At 6 A. M. saw a Sail bearing S. E. by S. Made all Sail to cut her off the Land. When we came within a Mile of the Chace, she seemed to haul more for the Land. Lieutenant Bennett supposed her to be a French Letter of Marque. When we came within Gun Shot, shewed our Ensign and Pendant, still keeping within her and the Land. A Flaw from the Land took us aback, and fell dead Calm, which exposed us to her Broadside. She then hoisted her French Ensign and Pendant, up Ports and raked us Fore and Aft. Lieutenant Bennett used every Exertion in ordering Sweeps to be got out, which was instantly done; but we received her second Broadside in the like Manner. We kept up a constant Fire when our Broadside would bear; it still continued calm; finding it impossible to save His Majesty's Brig by attempting to run, and from the State of our Masts, and Yards, and Rigging, then making much Water from Shot received in our Hull, still kept up the Action. Our Ensign Haul-yards being shot away, the French Captain asked, "Had we struck?" was answered in the Negative by Lieutenant Bennett, who was shortly after killed by Three Grape Shot he received in his Body. I still ordered the Fire to be kept up, until I found His Majesty's Brig in a sinking Condition; struck.

Whether from the Confusion of the Enemy, or from the Situation she was then in, they, shortly after taking Possession of His Majesty's Brig, ran her on Shore, and left her an entire Wreck.

She is the French National Vessel *Le Sardis*, mounting Twenty-two Guns, and One Swivel:—

On her Main Deck, Sixteen Thirty-two Pound Carronades, and Four Long Twelve-Pounder Guns. On her Quarter-Deck, Two Nine-Pounders.

I am sorry to add the Loss on board His Majesty's Brig, *Maria*, was James Bennett, Lieutenant, Commander; Robert O'Donnell, Midshipman; and Four Seamen, killed; and Nine wounded, now in Point a l'etre Hospital, in a fair Way of Recovery. It would have given Pleasure to both Officers and Seamen to have captured her. From her Superiority in Force was compelled to strike.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOSEPH DYASON, Master.

*To the Honourable Sir Alex. Cochrane, K. B. &c. &c. &c.*

*Whitehall, January 7, 1809.*

The King has been pleased to present the Honourable and Reverend Anchtel Grey, Master of Arts, to the Twelve Prebend of Durham, void by the Translation of the Right Reverend Father in God Thomas Lithop of Rochester to the See of Ely.

*Whitehall, January 7, 1809.*

The King has been graciously pleased, by Warrant under His Royal Signet and Sign Manual, to give and grant unto Henry Clements Thompson, Esq; a Commander in the Royal Navy, His Royal Licence and Permission that he may, in compliance with the Desire of His Majesty Gustavus Adolphus the Fourth, King of Sweden, accept and wear the Insignia of a Knight of the Royal Swedish Military

