

allowed him to get up sooner, would have attacked the Fort, and thereby prevented many of the Troops getting on Shore.

I am happy, also, in having an Opportunity of bearing Testimony to the Gallantry displayed by the Officers and Crew of His Majesty's Ship under my Command; and beg leave to recommend my First Lieutenant Simpson to their Lordships' Notice; also Lieutenants Puckingham and Lambert as good Officers, and every Way deserving their Lordships' Favour.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) SAM. JOHN PEHELL.

Rear-Admiral Sir A. Cochrane, Bart.

&c. &c. &c.

*A Return of Killed and Wounded on Board His Majesty's Ship Cleopatra, in Action with the French National Frigate La Topaze, 22d January 1809.*

Alexander McCloud and John Simms, killed.

John Francis, wounded.

(Signed) SAM. JOHN PEHELL.

*His Majesty's Ship Jason, off Basseterre, Guadalupe, Jan. 23, 1809.*

SIR,

I BEG. Leave to acquaint you, that while cruising off Basseterre in pursuance of your Order to blockade the French Frigate at that Anchorage, on the Morning of the 22d the Cleopatra made the Signal for a suspicious Sail bearing North, which I immediately directed her to reconnoitre, and soon after made sail in the Jason in that Direction; she was in a short Time discovered to be an Enemy's Frigate, standing in for the Land, where she effected her Purpose of anchoring close under a small Battery. As I perceived by the Cleopatra's Motions, it was Captain Pechell's Intention to bring her to Action as early as possible, I considered it unnecessary to make any Signals to him; and he most fully anticipated my Wishes, by bringing his Ship to Anchor on the Frigate's starboard Bow, and opened a heavy Fire, which was warmly returned and kept up by the Enemy, till the Jason came to on his Quarter, and commenced her Fire from the Bow Guns, soon after which she struck her Colours. After silencing the Battery she was taken possession of, and proved to be the National Frigate La Topaze, of Forty-eight Guns, (long Eighteens and Thirty-two Pounder Carronades) and Four Hundred Men, many of whom, with some Troops she had on board, had escaped on Shore, from Rochefort, loaded with Flour for the Supply of the French Colonies, commanded by Monsieur Lahalle, Capitaine de Frigate, and Officer of the Legion of Honour.

Captain Pechell speaks in high Terms of Commendation of the Conduct of his Officers and Ship's Company; and I have also every Reason to be satisfied with that of those of my own Ship, and only regret a fuller Opportunity for their Exertions was not afforded them.

In justice to Captain Cameron, of the Hazard, I conceive it my Duty to inform you that (notwithstanding the Disparity of Force, and the Uncertainty of falling in immediately with any of our Cruizers) the Enemy's Ship was chased by him from Daylight, and that nothing but the baffling Winds prevented his coming into Action, and taking the Station assigned him.

Being anxious to regain my Station off Basseterre to prevent the Escape of the other Frigate, which I had in the Afternoon dispatched the Cherub to watch, I left the Prize in Charge of the Cleopatra and Hazard; and the Service on which I have since been employed not having permitted me to communicate with them, I am ignorant of the Number killed and wounded on board the French Ship. The Cleopatra, I am sorry to say, had two badly wounded (since dead); this Ship not a Man hurt.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) WM. MAUDE.

To Hugh Pigot, Esq; Captain of His Majesty's Ship Latona, and senior Officer off Guadalupe.

*His Majesty's Ship Acasta, Bay Robert,*

SIR,

31st January 1809.

I HAVE the Honour to inform you, that, at Day-dawn of Yesterday, the Division of Transports carrying the Army under the Command of Lieutenant-General Beckwith were Four Leagues to Windward of the Carvel Rock.

I immediately bore up with it for Bay Robert, being joined in my Way thither by the Ethalion, Forrester, Ring-Dove, Haughty, and Eclair, the Eurydice having joined me the preceding Evening.

The Weather was uncommonly windy and squally, and there was a very considerable Swell as far out as Loup Garou, neither of the small Frigates (the Cleopatra or Circe) had joined, to go in with the Transports, and, not knowing what Opposition might be made to a Landing, I determined to enter the Cul de Sac with all the Men of War, that I might effectually protect the Landing, if Occasion required, which I could not possibly have done had I anchored as far out as Loup Garou.

Having therefore placed Boats with Flags, at a Graplin upon the Edges of the Shoals, I led in with the Acasta, followed by the Penelope and Transports, and anchored the whole of them about Noon.

This Decision, I trust, Sir, you will approve, as it enabled me to land the First and Second Brigades, amounting to Four Thousand Five Hundred Men, with a certain Proportion of Artillery and Horses, before Sunset, which I could not otherwise have done, and this Morning by Seven o'Clock all the Reserve were landed.

To Captains Cochrane of the Ethalion, and Bradshaw of the Eurydice, I am indebted for arranging the Boats for the first Landing, and more particularly to Captain Dick of the Penelope, for superintending that Arrangement, and leading in the Transports, which he did with great Judgment.

From Captain Withers, the principal Agent for Transports, I received all that Assistance in the various Arrangements which I had to make, which could be expected from an Officer of great Zeal and clear Comprehension; and Lieutenant Sunhouse, whom you did me the Honour to appoint as my Adjutant for this Expedition, rendered me very essential Service in carrying on the detailed Duties of the Squadron.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) P. BEAVER.

To the Honourable Sir Alex. Cochrane, K. B. Rear-Admiral of the Red, Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.