

wich to Tarvin, in the County of Chester, and other Roads in the said Act mentioned, so far as respects the Third District of the said Roads.

An Act for making and maintaining a Road over Horley Common, in the County of Surrey, to a Place called Black Corner, and from thence to join the Brightelmston Turnpike Road at Cuckfield, in the County of Suffex.

An Act for enlarging the Term and Powers of Two Acts of His present Majesty, for repairing the Road from Tunbridge Wells, in the County of Kent, to the Cross Ways near Maresfield-Street, and from Florence Farm to Forest Row, in the County of Suffex.

An Act to continue the Term and enlarge the Powers of an Act of the Thirty-seventh Year of His present Majesty, for amending the Road from or near Edenfield Chapel to the Township of Little Bolton; and for making and maintaining a Road from the said Road at or near Booth Pits, to or near Bury Bridge, in the County Palatine of Lancafter.

An Act to continue the Term and enlarge the Powers of Two Acts of His present Majesty, for repairing the Road leading from Reading, in the County of Berks, through Henley, in the County of Oxford, and Great Marlow to Hatfield, in the County of Hertford; and also the Road leading out of the said Road at Marlow, over Great Marlow Bridge, through Bysham, to or near the Thirty Mile Stone in the Road leading from Maidenhead to Reading aforesaid.

And Thirty-five Private Acts.

Admiralty-Office, May 23, 1809.

*Copy of a Letter from Rear-Admiral the Honourable Sir Alexander Cochrane, K B Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at the Leeward Islands, to the Honourable W. H. Pole, dated on board the Neptune, off the Mona Passage the 17th of April 1809.*

SIR,

HAVING in my Letter, (No. 637,) dated the 7th Instant, informed the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of the Arrangements that had been made between Lieutenant-General Beckwith and me for the Reduction of the Saints, and, if possible, to secure the French Squadron of Three Ships of the Line and Two Frigates, then at Anchor there, which it is ascertained were sent to this Country expressly for the Relief of Martinique; I have now the Honour to acquaint you, for their Lordships' Information, with our subsequent Proceedings, which have been attended with the Capture of Le D'Hautpout, a fine new Ship, of Seventy-four Guns, of the largest Class.

The Troops, under the Command of Major-General Maitland, arrived at the Saints on the 13th Instant, and were landed the following Day with little Loss; the Direction of all naval Operations connected with the Army having been left entirely with Captain Beaver, of the Acasta, who conducted that Service with all the Correctness and Celerity which I expected of him.

On the Afternoon of the same Day Two Howitzers and Mortars began to play upon the Enemy's Ships; and I received Information that one of the Line had weighed one of her Anchors, but that the others did not appear to be preparing for Sea.

I must here call their Lordships' Attention to the Situation of the Saints, which have Three Passages the Enemy could escape through, and these being situated in different Directions made it particularly difficult to guard by Five Ships of the Line, so as to bring an equal Force to meet the Enemy at either Point.

At Halfpast Nine in the Evening the concerted Signal was made for the Enemy's Ships having put to Sea; but the Signals were for their having gone both to Windward and to Leeward of the Islands, which was literally the Case, as I am informed the Two Frigates proceeded one Way, and the Three Line of Battle Ships the other.

The Neptune being at the Time off the South West Passage, made Sail to join the Pompée stationed under the West End, which Ship I found had closed with, and in Cnace of Three Ships, apparently standing to the W. S. W. but from their Appearance in the Dark, I did not suppose them to be of the Line.

At this Time I was particularly at a Loss how to act, for if those Ships should be the Enemy's small Men of War, and the Line of Battle Ships reported to be preparing for Sea, should remain behind, the withdrawing of the Squadron from the Saints would have been fatal to the Troops landed the preceding Day. The Night was very dark, and it was not possible to determine whether the whole of the Ships making off were of the Line or not, although we crossed to near the Sternmost, that her Shot struck the Neptune, and killed One Man and wounded Four. When Daylight approached they were clearly discovered, and every Endeavour used to come up with them, the Pompée being the only Line of Battle Ship in Company, and the Frigates not joining until the following Day. Some Ships were seen from the Masthead, to whom I sent to signify, by a Sloop of War, the Course we were steering.

The Superiority of the Enemy's sailing, left little Chance for the Neptune getting up, unless some of the Ships were disabled, and if any Accident had happened to the Pompée's Masts, they must inevitably have all escaped; I therefore directed Captain Fahie to endeavour to cripple the Sternmost Ship, without bringing on the collected Fire of the Three, then in Line abreast. In this Attempt he was most gallantly supported by Captain Napier, of His Majesty's Sloop Recruit, who kept close up; although fired at from all their Stern Chase Guns, and did every Thing that was possible to be done to cut away the Enemy's Masts and Rigging, and continued on this Service during the whole Chace, which lasted until this Morning at Half-past Three, when Le D'Hautpout was brought to Action by the Pompée and Castor, as will more fully appear by Captain Fahie's Letter, here inclosed.

I should not render Justice to that excellent Officer was I to withhold the Praise due to him for his unremitting Attention during so long and arduous a Pursuit, and his taking such Advantages of the Enemy's Situation as they occasionally occurred.

I have much to regret in the Loss of those that have fallen and suffered on the Occasion, a List of whom is inclosed.

As the other Two Ships of the Enemy separated on the Morning of the 17th, at Two o'Clock, their Route cannot be well ascertained, I suppose they