

transmitted Captain Pym's Detail of his subsequent Operations at Grande Porte. The Urgency of the Service we were then engaged in, prevented me from entering more minutely into Particulars; the Boadicea was then under Weigh, proceeding to Grande Porte, in Hopes of relieving the Iphigenia, the only Frigate left to me by the Disasters which had befallen our Squadron. It is now my Duty to give you a more detailed Account of our Operations.

I had acquainted you with the Intentions of Colonel Keating in concert with myself to establish a strong military Post at Flat Island, after Occupation of Isle de la Passe. For this Service the Bombay Merchant Transport was prepared with Water and Provisions sufficient for the Supply of both Places; and the Flank Battalion, under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Austin, with a Proportion of Artillery, were in Readiness to embark, when, on the Evening of the 22d of August, by the Arrival of the Wyndham recaptured Indiaman, I learned that the Bellone and Minerve, French Frigates, Victor Corvette, and Ceylon captured Indiaman, had forced the Passage by Isle de la Passe into Grande Porte, and that it was Captain Pym's Intention to attack them there.

Two of the Flank Companies and a Detachment of Artillery were immediately embarked on board the Boadicea; the Transport with the Remainder of the Force was directed to follow as expeditiously as possible. From baffling Winds our Passage was very tedious; on the Morning of the 27th we picked up a Boat with an Officer and Fourteen Men dispatched with Letters from Captains Pym and Lambert, which I transmitted to you; these made me acquainted with the unfortunate Result of the Attack on the Frigates, in Grande Ports: next Morning at Daylight I made Isle de la Passe, and perceived Two of the Enemy's Frigates close off the Porte; we stood nearly within Gun-shot of One of these, and within Five or Six Miles of Isle de la Passe, under which the Iphigenia was anchored, making Signals to her, but a Third Sail, which we afterwards learned was the Astrea Frigate, appearing to Windward, I thought it prudent to tack off, and was immediately chased by the French Squadron; of these the Venus, from her Superiority of sailing, might soon have brought us to Action, but appeared to wait for her Consort (La Manche).

Towards Day-break they hauled off; but as I judged it advisable to draw them down as far as possible from their Station, in order to give the Transport an Opportunity to succour the Iphigenia, and favour the Escape of both, I again stood towards the French Frigates, when they resumed their Chace, and continued it until our Arrival off St. Denis. From thence I immediately dispatched an Express to Captain Tomkinson to move with his Ship's Company on board the Wyndham, and join me off the Island, the Otter being dismantled for heaving down.

On my Arrival off St. Paul's, I found that Captain Tomkinson, considering the Wyndham unfit for immediate Service had declined the Command of her; in consequence of which Captain Lynne had with the most indefatigable Exertions fitted the Emma Transport with her Guns, and joined me off the Port.

For the Promptitude and Expedition with which

this Aid was afforded me, as well as for the most ample Assistance on every Occasion, I am indebted to Colonel Keating, who has spared neither personal Exertions, nor the Resources which his Situation commands in facilitating the Supplies of the naval Service, and assisting me by Reinforcements of his Troops.

With the Emma in company I resumed my Route towards the Isle of France; but finding that she could not keep Company, I detached her to Windward from Round Island to Roderiguez in order to give Notice to any of our Ships she might meet, of the comparative State of our naval Force, and that of the Enemy's. I then proceeded with the Boadicea off Isle de la Passe, and on our Arrival there found the Iphigenia gone, and Four Ships at Anchor in Grande Porte; these we have since learned were the Bellone, Minerve, Nereide, and Ceylon, (East India Ships,) the first with Top-Gallant-Yards across, Sails bent, and apparently ready for Sea; the second with Jury-Top-Masts; and the third with Jury Fore and Mizen-Masts. I have also understood from the Prisoners lately taken in the Venus, that they were shortly to proceed round to Port Louis, and that the Slaughter on board of them had been very great.

Finding that nothing was to be effected as Affairs then stood, I returned to this Port, where I anchored on the 11th of September.

Captain Lambert is said to have capitulated for the Iphigenia and Isle de la Passe the Day before we first arrived off there, on Condition that all the Officers and Men should, in One Month from the Date of the Capitulation, be sent from the Isle of France to some Part in the Dominions of His Majesty, not to serve against France or her Allies till exchanged.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

JOSHUA ROWLEY.

*Vice-Admiral Bertie, &c. &c. &c.*

*His Majesty's Ship Boadicea, St. Paul's Road, S I R, Isle of Bourbon, 21st Sept. 1810.*

I WEIGHED Anchor from the Bay of St. Paul's on the Morning of the 12th of September, in company with the Otter Sloop, and Staunch Gun-brig, in order to attack Two of the Enemy's Frigates, the Astrea and Iphigenia, who were in the Offing to Windward. When under Weigh, I received an Intimation from Colonel Keating that an English Frigate was said to have arrived at St. Denis, and as we stood out clear of the Bay, I had the Satisfaction of recognizing the Africaine, who joined with me in the Chace. By superior Sailing, and having the same Breeze as the Enemy, she was enabled to close with them before dark, and led by her Signals the Boadicea was gaining fast upon them, when at Three A. M. a heavy Firing was observed between the Frigates, at that time between Four and Five Miles a-head of the Boadicea. I concluded that it was Captain Corbett's Intention merely to attempt crippling the Enemy, in order to enable us sooner to close with them: but unfortunately at that Moment the Winds became light and variable, and the Africaine becoming unmanageable under the Fire of both Ships (one in a most destructive-raking Position), after a most gallant, though unequal Contest, was obliged to surrender, and the Firing ceased at about Fifteen Minutes after Four in the Morning.