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Naples, August 15, O. S.

Captain Byng, the Admiral's eldest Son, is this Day gone Express for England with the News of the entire Defeat of the Spanish Fleet, which has been received here with the greatest Acclamations of Joy. The Spaniards still attack Messina by Land, but very faintly; and German Troops are going over to reinforce the Garrison.

Hampton-Court, Aug. 31. This Morning arrived here Captain Byng, with Letters from the Admiral his Father, containing the following Advices.

From on board the Barfleur off of Syracuse, Aug. 6. O. S. Early in the Morning on the 30th of July, as we were standing in for Messina, we saw 2 Scouts of the Spanish Fleet in the Faro very near us; and at the same Time a Felucca coming off from the Calabrian Shore, assured us they saw from the Hills the Spanish Fleet lying by. Upon which, the Admiral stood through the Faro after the Scouts, judging they would lead us to their Fleet; which they did, for before Noon we had a fair Sight of all their Ships, as they were drawing into Line of Battle. On our Approach they went from us large, but in their Order of Battle; their Fleet consisting of 26 Men of War, great and small, two Fire-ships, four Bomb-Vessels, seven Gallies, and several Ships with Stores and Provisions. The Admiral ordered the Kent, Superbe, Grafton, and Orford, being the best Sailers in the Fleet, to make what Sail they could to come up with the Spaniards; and that the Ship which could get headmost and nearest to them, should carry the Lights usually worn by the Admiral; that he might not lose Sight of them in the Night; and he made what Sail he could with the rest of the Fleet, to keep up with them. It being little Wind, the Spanish Gallies towed their heaviest Sailers all Night. The 30th in the Morning, as soon as it was Day, they slidings pretty near up with their Fleet, the Gallies and smaller Ships, with the Fire-ships, Bomb-Vessels, and Store-ships, separated from the Admiral and bigger Ships, and stood in for the Shore; after whom the Admiral sent Captain Walton in the Canterbury, with the Argyle and six Ships more: As those Ships were coming up with them, one of the Spaniards fired a Broadside, at the Argyle. The Admiral seeing those Ships engaged with the Spanish which were making towards the Shore, sent Orders to Captain Walton to rendezvous, after the Action, at Syracuse (where the Viceroy for the King of Sicily was with a Garrison;) The like Orders he dispatched to the Flags, and to as many Ships as were within his Reach; that Place being defended against the Spaniards, and being the most proper Port on that Coast for the Fleet to gather together again. We held on our Chace after the Spanish Admiral, with three of his Rear Admirals, and the biggest Ships, which staid by their Flags till we came near them. The Captains of the Kent, Superbe, Grafton, and Orford, having Orders to make what Sail they could, to place themselves by the four headmost Ships, were the first that came up with them. The Spaniards began by firing their Stern-Chace at them; but they having Orders not to fire, unless the Spanish Ships repeated their Firing, made no Return at first; but the Spaniards firing again, the Orford attacked the Santa Rosa, which some Time after she took. The St. Charles struck next, without much Opposition, and the Kent took Possession of her. The Grafton attacked the Prince of Asturias, former-

ly called the Cumberland, in which was Rear Admiral Chacon; but the Breda and Captain coming up, she left that Ship for them to take, which they soon did, and stretched a-head after another 60 Gun Ship, which was on her Starboard Bow while she was engaging the Prince of Asturias, and kept firing her Stern-Chace into the Grafton. About One a Clock, the Kent and Superbe engaged the Spanish Admiral, which with two Ships more fired on them, and made a running Fight till about Three; when the Kent bearing down upon her, and under her Stern, gave her a Broadside and went away to Leeward of her: Then the Superbe put for it, and laid the Spanish Admiral on board, falling on her Weather Quarter; but the Spanish Admiral shifting her Helm, and avoiding her, the Superbe ranged up under her Lee Quarter, on which she struck to her. At the same Time the Barfleur being within Shot of the said Spanish Admiral a-stern inclining on her Weather-Quarter, one of their Rear Admirals, and another 60 Gun Ship, which were to Windward of the Barfleur, bore down and gave her their Broadsides, and then clapt upon a Wind; standing in for the Land. The Admiral in the Barfleur stood after them till it was almost Night; but it being little Wind, and they galing from him out of Reach, he left pursuing them, and stood away to the Fleet again, which he joined two Hours after Night. The Essex took the Juno, the Mountague and Rupert took the Volante, Vice-Admiral Cornwall followed the Grafton to support her, but it being very little Wind, and the Night coming on, the Spaniards galed away from the Grafton. Rear-Admiral Delaval with the Royal Oak chased two Ships that went away more, Leewardly than the rest (one of them said to be Rear-Admiral Cammock;) but we not having seen them since, know not the Success. The Ship that suffered most with us was the Grafton, the Captain of which, though he had not the Fortune to take any particular Ship, yet was engaged with several, behaved himself very much like an Officer and a Seaman, and bid fair for stopping the Way of those four Ships that he pursued, who got away not through his Fault but Failure of Wind, and his own Sails and Rigging were much shattered.

When the Admiral appeared off the Point of the Faro on the 29th of July, the Governour of Melazzo sent off a Vessel with a Letter acquainting him, that of 700 Horse which blocked up that Place, part went away that Morning for Messina, and that he believed the rest would follow the next Day; and that at the Sight of the British Fleet, the County which had taken the Spaniards Part, appeared ready to return to their Duty.

From on Board the Barfleur at 5 a, Aug. 7. O. S. Just now is returned one of the eight Ships which the Admiral sent with Captain Walton to pursue those of Spain that went in with the Shore, with a Letter from that Captain dated the 5th Instant, giving an Account, that he with the said Ships had taken 1 Spanish Rear-Admiral of 60 Guns, 1 Man of War of 54, 1 of 40 which gave the Argyle the first Broadside, 1 of 24, 1 Ship laden with Arms, 1 Bomb-Vessel; and had burnt 1 Man of War of 54 Guns, 2 of 40 each, 1 of 30, 1 Fire-ship, 1 Bomb-Vessel, 1 Sattce. At the Writing of this Letter Captain Walton was making into Syracuse. The Ship which brought this Letter saw Rear-Admiral Delaval last Night, who had taken the Isabella, a Ship of 60 Guns, with which he was standing in likewise for Syracuse, to which Place we are now going, and hope to get in there this Night. When
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