

## Londo

RAORDINARY.

## Published by Authority.

## MARCH FRIDAY, 3, 1797.

· Admiralty-Office, March 3, 1797.

OBERT CALDER, Efq; First Captain to Admiral Sir John Jervis, K. B. arrived this Morning with Dispatches from him to Mr. Nepean, of which the following are Copies.

Victory, in Lagos Bay, February 16, 1797. S I-R. --

THE Hopes of falling in with the Spanish Fleet, expressed in my Letter to you of the 13th Inflant, were confirmed that Night, by our diffinctly hearing the Report of their Signal Guns, and by Intelligence received from Captain Foote, of His Majesty's Ship the Niger, who had, with equal .Judgment and Perseverance, kept Company with them for several Days, on my prescribed Rendezvous, (which, from the strong South-East Winds, I had never been able to reach) and that they were not more than the Distance of Three or Four Leagues from us. I anxiously awaited the Dawn of Day, when, being on the Starboard Tack, Cape St. Vincent bearing East by North Eight Leagues, I had the Satisfaction of feeing a Number of Ships extending from South-West to South, the Wind then at West and by South. At Forty-nine Minutes past Ten, the Weather being extremely hazy, La Bonne Citoyenne made the Signal that the Ships feen were of the Line, Twenty-five in Number. His Majesty's Squadron under my Command, consulting of the Fifteen Ships of the Line named in the

· Victory; Britannia, Barfleur, Prince George, Blenbeim, Namur, Captain, Goliath, Excellent, Orion, Coloffus, Egmont, Culloden, Irrefistible,

Diadem,

\* Salador Gensi

Margin, \* happily formed in the most compact Order of Sailing, in Two Lines. By carrying a Press of Sail I was fortunate in getting in with the Enemy's Fleet at Half past Eleven o'Clock, before it had Time to connect, and form a regular Order of Battle. Such a Moment was not to be lost; and, confident in the Skill; Valour and Discipline of the Officers and Men I had the Happiness to command, and judging that the Honor of His Majesty's Arms and the Circumilances of the War in these Seas required a confiderable Degree of Enterprize, I felt myfelf justified

in departing from the regular System; and passing through their Fleet, in a Line formed with the utmost Celerity, tacked, and thereby separated Onethird from the main Body, after a partial Connonade, which prevented their Rejunction till the Evening; and by the very great Exertions of the Ships which had the good Fortune to arrive up with the Enemy on the Larboard Tack, the Ships named in the

> Margin were captured, and the Action ceased about Five o'Clock in the Evening.

I enclose the most correct List I have been able to obtain of the Spanish Fleet opposed to me, amounting to Twenty-kven Sail

del Mando, 112 . San Josef, 112 San Nicolas, 80 San Yfidro, 74

[ Price Four-pence Halfpenny. ] -