

the Enemy fired Three Guns to Leeward and hauled down his Colours.

I made the Signal for the Wolverine to take Charge of the Prize, and desired the Officer sent on board to send her Pilot to conduct the Arrow to the Ship, (my Dutch Pilots having declined the Charge,) and requested of Captain Bolton to follow me to the Jetting Passage, where the Ship lay, and then pushed on towards her. We had to turn to Windward towards the Enemy against a strong Lee Tide which retarded our Progress much; she lay with Springs on her Cables, and her Broadside opposed directly to our Approach, and for Twenty Minutes before we could bring a Gun to bear with Effect on her, annoyed us very much, and cut us up a good Deal in the Hull, Sails, and Rigging; but after bringing the Ship up by the Stern and Head in a very narrow Passage at about a Quarter of a Cable from her, the Contest became smart but was short, for she struck in about Fifteen Minutes after we commenced our Fire upon her, and just before the Wolverine (which was pressing in the most gallant Manner to my Aid) came up. I sent my First Lieutenant to take Possession of her, and found her to be the Batavian Republic Guard-Ship De Draak, commanded by Captain-Lieutenant Van Esch, mounting Twenty-four Guns, Sixteen of them long Dutch Eighteen-Pounders, Two long English Thirty-two-Pounders; Six Fifty-Pound Howitzers, and One Hundred and Eighty Men. From the Howitzers I rather suppose Langridge was fired, as several Pieces of Iron were picked up in the Ship after the Action was over. Our Loss in Killed and Wounded (considering the Length of Time we had to advance on her under every Disadvantage, such as being exposed to her raking Fire for about Twenty Minutes, working Ship in a very narrow Navigation, shortening Sail, and anchoring) is very small, having only to lament at present the Death of One brave Man; there are Nine wounded, some of them badly, and myself slightly in the Left Knee.

The Loss of the Enemy I have not as yet been able to ascertain; Two dead and Three badly wounded were found on board her, and from the Appearance of great Quantities of Blood, &c. covered with Tarpaulins, which Captain Bolton discovered, I am led to think has been very considerable; indeed some of them confess that a Number were put into a Boat and sent to Harlingen immediately upon the Ship striking, and from the Number they at present muster not agreeing with the Establishment, I am induced to believe that was the Case.

On my going on board the Draak I found that she had been built for a Sheer Hulk, and converted into a Guard-Ship, extremely old; her Masts and Rigging very much cut, and the Vessel altogether unfit for His Majesty's Service, determined me to destroy her; I therefore directed Captain Bolton to perform that Duty, which he did effectually by burning her. This Service performed, we weighed and proceeded towards the Fly Island, at which Place we anchored on the 15th Instant. I immediately sent Captain Bolton to take Possession of the Batavian Republican Ship the Dolphin, riding at Anchor close to the Town of the Fly. She had on our anchoring hoisted the Orange Colours, and

the same Step was taken on the Island. A Person came off from the Municipality desiring him to surrender the Island to the Government of the Prince of Orange; and I have the Honor to request you will be pleased to direct some Persons to be sent as soon as convenient to take upon themselves the Arrangement and Management of Civil Affairs in the Island.

The Island of Schelling has not yet adopted the same Step; I shall therefore, if it meets your Approbation, take the necessary Steps to induce them to do it.

To the Captains and Officers I have given Pardons, which Measure I hope will meet your Wishes. The Prisoners from the Ship and Brig, amounting to about Two Hundred and Thirty, I have put on board the Dolphin until I know your Pleasure respecting them (I think they will mostly volunteer for the Prince's Service): the Command of which Ship I have given (until your Pleasure is known) to Lieutenant M'Dougal of the Wolverine; this Officer; from his Zeal at all Times, (from Captain Bolton's Report,) but particularly so on the Service we were at present employed, I think, Sir, will merit your Protection; and now, Sir, permit me to have the Honor of expressing to you the Sentiments of Gratitude I feel at the Conduct of all those employed under me in this little Expedition; each Individual has behaved well. To Captain Bolton, his Officers and Ship's Company, I am particularly indebted for the gallant Manner in which he pushed his Ship on in attempting our Assistance; indeed I cannot but acknowledge the greatest Obligations to Captain Bolton for his Counsel at all Times.

To the Officers of every Description, Seamen, and Marines of the Arrow, I cannot sufficiently express my Approbation of their cool and determined Bravery; they acquitted themselves as Britons: to Mr. Gilmour, my First Lieutenant, the greatest Praise is due for the prompt Manner in which he caused my Orders to be executed in bringing the Ship to an Anchor under a heavy Fire from the Enemy; I therefore take the Liberty of recommending this zealous good Officer to your Protection; he is an old Follower of mine, has been Two Voyages round the World with me, and was One of the Three young Midshipmen that remained with Lieutenant Riou during the Distress of His Majesty's Ship Guardian; I therefore hope my Lords-Commissioners of the Admiralty will deem him worthy of Promotion. I have given him the temporary Command of the Batavian Republican Brig Gier, and shall send her round to the Texel as soon as possible. She mounts Fourteen long Dutch Twelve-Pounders, with a Complement of Eighty Men. She is a most complete Vessel, quite new, Copper-bottomed, well found, and never yet at Sea, and in every Respect fit for His Majesty's Service, only wanting Men. I mean to take Four of her Guns out for the Purpose of arming Four Schoots to act hereabouts, either on the defensive or offensive.

Underneath is a List of Killed and Wounded on board His Majesty's Sloop Arrow, and also a Statement of the British and Batavian Force.

*List of the Killed and Wounded.*

Killed.—John Shean, Seaman.

Wounded.—Captain Portlock, William WMon.