

Treasury, the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the Lieutenant-Governor and the rest of the Principal Officers of the Ordnance, His Majesty's Secretary at War, and the Governors or Commanders in Chief for the Time being of the said respective Isles of Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, Sark, and Man, are to give the necessary Directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

Steph. Cottrell.

Admiralty-Office, December 27, 1800.

*Extract of a Letter from the Earl of St. Vincent, K. B. Admiral of the White, &c. &c. to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated in Torbay, the 21st Instant.*

I Herewith transmit a Letter which I have received from Captain King, of His Majesty's Ship Sirius, giving an Account of his having captured a Spanish Brig from Corunna bound to Monte Video.

*His Majesty's Ship Sirius, at Sea,*

MY LORD,

*December 12, 1800.*

I Beg Leave to acquaint you, that His Majesty's Ship Sirius, under my Command, captured on the 11th Instant (Sifarga bearing W. by N. Three Miles) the Spanish Merchant Brig Melchura, from Corunna bound to Monte Video, out of Port only Twenty-four Hours. It may be some Satisfaction to your Lordship in hearing it is the only Spanish Vessel that has sailed from Corunna since the Ship taken by His Majesty's Ship Boadicea in August last.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

RICHARD KING.

*The Right Honorable Earl St. Vincent, K. B.*

*&c. &c. &c.*

Admiralty-Office, December 27, 1800.

*Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Matthew Smith, commanding His Majesty's Schooner Milbrook, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated Oporto, 14th November 1800.*

SIR,

I Have the Honor to enclose, for their Lordships' Information, a Copy of a Letter I have this Day written to the Right Honorable Lord Keith.

I am, &c.

MATTHEW SMITH.

*His Majesty's Schooner Milbrook, off Oporto,*

MY LORD,

*November 14, 1800.*

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordship, that being off Oporto, in His Majesty's Schooner Milbrook, under my Command, early on the Morning of the 13th Instant we fell in with a French Ship wearing a Pendant, apparently a Frigate, mounting Thirty-six Guns; and as I had at that Time Two Brigs of the Newfoundland Convoy under my Protection, and several Vessels appearing in the Offing, which I have every Reason to suppose Part of that Convoy also, I determined as the only Means of preserving them, to give her Battle, and made Sail to close with her accordingly; at the same Time with a View of increasing our Distance from the Convoy.

It was nearly Calm when the Action commenced at Eight A. M. and continued till near Ten, when

the Enemy's Colours came down; but the Milbrook at this Time having her Masts, Yards, Sails, and Rigging very much cut, and Ten of her Guns disabled, I could not prevent his taking Advantage of a light Breeze springing up, assisted by his Sweeps, to get away from us.

The Bravery and steady Conduct of the Officers and Seamen under my Command against such superior Force, in the disabled State of the Milbrook, for a long Time with only Three Guns opposed to the Enemy's Broadside, and their Activity in changing her Position with the Oars (not a Sail set) whilst exposed to his raking us for Fifteen Minutes, merits my highest Commendation, and does them the greatest Credit; but I should fail in my Duty if I did not in the strongest Manner recommend to your Lordship's Notice Mr. Thomas Fletcher the Master, who, wounded in the Beginning of the Action, continued on Deck, exerting himself with the greatest Bravery; as did also Mr. Thomas Groves the Clerk, and Mr. Jose da Sa, the Portuguese Pilot.

I enclose a List of Wounded; and have the Honor to be, &c.

MATTHEW SMITH.

*Right Honorable Lord Keith, K. B.*

*&c. &c. &c.*

*List of Wounded.*

8 Seamen and 1 Marine (severely).

Mr. Thomas Fletcher, Master; Mr. J. Parfiter, Surgeon's Mate; and 1 Seaman (slightly).

Total.—2 Petty Officers and 10 Seamen.

MATTHEW SMITH.

Admiralty-Office, December 27, 1800.

*Copy of a Letter from Mr. Richard Le Gallais, Commander of the Comus Private Ship of War, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated at Jersey, the 20th Instant.*

SIR,

I Have the Honor to inform you, that being on a Cruise in the Comus Privateer, I captured, the 7th Instant, a French Chasse Marée, mounting Three Three-Pounders, laden with Hides; and the next Day, 8th Instant, after a Chase of Seven Hours, boarded and took Possession of the French Brig Letter of Marque Rocou, pierced for Fourteen Guns, and had on board Twelve Six and Two Two-Pounders, but only Four Six-Pounders mounted, from Cayenne bound to Bourdeaux, laden with Cotton and Rice. I am happy to add the Brig is safely arrived in Guernsey, and the Chasse Marée in this Island.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

RICHARD LE GALLAIS.

*Whitehall, December 24, 1800.*

The King has been pleased to grant unto Charles John Gough, of Bradley, in the County of Hants, Clerk, His Royal Licence and Authority, that he and his Issue may assume and take upon him and them, and use the Surname of Seare only, without the Name of Gough, or any other Surname whatsoever; and also to take and bear the Family Arms of Seare, of Grove, (such Arms being first duly exemplified according to the Laws of Arms, and recorded in the Herald's Office,) pursuant to the last Will and Testament of his late Cousin Mary Seare, of