

Had they come alongside, as expected, the Brig having shifted her Guns for the Purpose, I am certain the Crew of the Aigle would have acquitted themselves as English men do on those Occasions.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

GEO. WOLFE.

Sir Robert Calder Bart. Vice-Admiral of the Blue, &c. &c. &c. off Rochefort.

Admiralty-Office, August 7, 1804.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Robert Dudley Oliver, Commander of His Majesty's Ship the Melpomene, to William Marsden, Esq; dated off Hawre, the 2d Instant.

SIR,

I Beg Leave to enclose to you, for the Information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a Copy of my Letter to Lord Keith, of this Date.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

R. D. OLIVER.

My Lord, *Melpomene, off Hawre, Aug. 2, 1804.*

THE Wind having changed Yesterday to the N. E. I determined to make another Attack on the numerous Vessels in Havre Pier, as well as those which were moored outside, amounting to Twenty-eight Brigs, and as many Luggers, and stood in with the Squadron, as per Margin*. At Half past Seven, P. M. the Bombs were well placed off the Pier-Heads, when they began a well-directed Fire, which was kept up with great Spirit for about an Hour and a Half. The Town was very soon observed to be on Fire in Two Places; and Seven Brigs, which were on the Outside of the Pier, found it necessary to move; one lost her Mainmast. As the Wind came more off the Land, and a strong Ebb Tide setting out, I ordered the Bombs to discontinue firing. At Half past Nine we anchored with the Squadron about Five Miles from the Light-Houses. As the Explosion had fired away all her Shells, and the Zebra most of her Powder, I had them supplied from the Meteor; and at Half past Five this Morning got under weigh, and stood in with the Squadron again. Before Eight the Bombs took up their Position near the Pier Heads, and kept up a constant Fire for near Three Hours with Shells and Carcases; so many Shells burst on and about the Piers, that the Enemy's Fire was observed latterly to slacken considerably, and it was evident they were in the greatest Confusion; some Brigs and Luggers, however, got under Weigh, and came out to endeavour to annoy the Bombs, but all the other Ships and Vessels of the Squadron were so well placed as to give Chace to them immediately; and it was only by cutting away their Boats, which were a-stern, and retreating very speedily into shoal Water, that they escaped, but not before they had run the Gauntlet of all the Ships and Cutters, and were very closely engaged for a considerable Time by the Merlin, Favorite, Locust Gun-Brig, and Hope Cutter; and on this Occasion I feel particularly indebted to the Exertions of Captains Brenton and Foot, and Lieutenants Lake and Dobbin, whose Vessels were very

* Melpomene, Ariadne, Trusty, Magnanime, Merlin, and Favorite; Hecla, Meteor, Explosion, and Zebra Bombs; King George, Hope, Nancy, Countess of Elgin, and Locust Cutters.

often during the Action in very shoal Water, with a falling Tide; indeed nothing but the bad sailing of the Merlin prevented Captain Brenton from cutting off the Sternmost Brig.

The Locust lost her Main-topmast, but I have not heard of any other Loss. The Conduct of the Captains Sykes, James, Paul, and Beauchamp, commanding the Bombs on both these Occasions, was highly meritorious; and although their Ships were frequently struck, it gives me great Pleasure to add that no Lives have been lost. What Damage may be done to the Enemy by near Five Hundred Shells and Carcases thrown into the Town and Bason last Evening, and this Morning it is impossible to calculate, but I may without Vanity say, that if the Exertions of the Enemy's Flotilla be not much greater on our Shore than on their own, we have little to dread from them.

I cannot conclude without expressing my Obligations to every Officer and Man employed in this Squadron. I am, &c.

(Signed) R. DUDLEY OLIVER.

Right Honorable Lord Keith, K. B.

Commissions in the Aberdeenshire Militia, signed by the Lord Lieutenant.

Captain James Boyd to be Captain, vice Sir John Gordon, deceased. Dated July 23, 1804.

Ensign Alexander Abercrombie to be Lieutenant in the 1st Regiment Aberdeen Volunteer Infantry, vice Steward, resigned. Dated as above.

James Ross, Gent. to be Ensign in Ditto, vice Abercrombie, promoted. Dated as above.

Leslie Cruickshank, Gent. to be Ensign in Ditto, vice Logan, appointed to the Aberdeenshire Militia. Dated as above.

Andrew Ligertwood to be Assistant-Surgeon in Ditto. Dated as above.

George Davidson, Esq; to be Major-Commandant of the Strathbogie, Huntly, and Drumblade Battalion of Volunteer Infantry. Dated May 31, 1804.

Commission in the Northamptonshire Yeomanry Cavalry, signed by the Lord Lieutenant.

John Christopher Mansel, Esq; to be Captain of the Towcester Troop, vice the Earl of Pomfret, resigned. Dated July 19, 1804.

Navy-Office, July 29, 1804.

THE Principal Officers and Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy do hereby give Notice, that on Wednesday the 15th of August next, at One o'Clock, they will be ready to treat with such Persons as may be willing to contract for building

Six Houses, intended for the Residence of Officers at the Royal Naval Hospital near Plymouth.

A Form of the Tender, with a Draught of the Contract, may be seen at this Office, at the Commissioner's Office in His Majesty's Yard at Plymouth, and at Governor Greyke's, at the said Hospital

No Tender will be received after Twelve o'Clock on the Day of Treaty, nor any noticed, unless the Party, or an Agent for him, attends.

R. A. Nelson, Secretary.