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Admiralty-Office, July 31, 1805.

Copy of a Letter from the Honorable Admiral Cornwallis, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Channel, &c. to William Marsden, Esq; dated Ville de Paris, off Ushant, 28th July 1805. Eight P. M.

SIR,

I HAVE the Pleasure to enclose, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a Letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Calder, giving an Account of his Success against the Combined Squadron of France and Spain.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

W. CORNWALLIS.

SIR, *Prince of Wales, July 23, 1805.*

YESTERDAY at Noon, Lat. 43 Deg. 30 Min.

N., Long. 11 Deg. 17 Min. W., I was favoured with a View of the Combined Squadrons of France and Spain, consisting of Twenty Sail of the Line, also Three large Ships, armed en flute, of about Fifty Guns each, with Five Frigates and Three Brigs; the Force under my Directions at this Time consisting of Fifteen Sail of the Line, Two Frigates, a Cutter, and Logger, I immediately stood towards the Enemy with the Squadron, making the needful Signals for Battle in the closest Order; and, on closing with them, I made the Signal for at-

tacking their Centre. When I had reached their Rear, I tacked the Squadron in Succession; this brought us close up under their Lee, and when our Headmost Ships reached their Centre the Enemy were tacking in Succession; this obliged me to make again the same Manœuvre, by which I brought on an Action which lasted upwards of Four Hours, when I found it necessary to bring to the Squadron to cover the Two captured Ships, whose Names are in the Margin*. I have to observe, the Enemy had every Advantage of Wind and Weather during the Whole Day. The Weather had been foggy, at Times, a great Part of the Morning; and very soon after we had brought them to Action, the Fog was so very thick at Intervals, that we could, with great Difficulty, see the Ship a-head or a-stern of us; this rendered it impossible to take the Advantages of the Enemy by Signals I could have wished to have done; had the Weather been more favourable, I am led to believe the Victory would have been more complete.

I have very great Pleasure in saying, every Ship was conducted in the most masterly Style; and I beg Leave here publicly to return every Captain, Officer, and Man whom I had the Honor to command on that Day, my most grateful Thanks, for their conspicuously gallant and very judicious good Conduct.

* St. Rafael, 84 Guns. Firm, 74 Guns.