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Admiralty-Office, February 21, 1807.

CAPTAIN LYDIARD, of His Majesty's Ship the *Anson*, arrived here this Morning with Dispatches from Vice-Admiral Dacres, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Jamaica, to William Marlden, Esq; of which the following are Copies:

SIR, *Shark, Port Royal, Jan. 11, 1807.*

IHAVE much Satisfaction in congratulating my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the Capture of the Island of Curacao, on New Year's Day in the Morning, by the Four Frigates named in the Margin*, under the Orders of Captain Brisbane, of the *Arethusa*; a Copy of whose Letter I inclose for their Lordships' Information.

Whilst I contemplate the immense Strength of the Harbour of Amsterdam, and the superiour Force contained in its different Batteries opposed to the Entrance of the Frigates, I know not how sufficiently to admire the Decision of Captain Brisbane in attempting the Harbour, and the determined Bravery and Conduct displayed by himself, the other three Captains, and all the Officers and Men under his Command: and is another strong Instance of the cool and determined Bravery of British Seamen.

Captain Brisbane being from his Situation obliged to act as Governor, I have, as an Acknowledgement and high Approbation of his Conduct, continued him in that Situation till His Majesty's Pleasure shall be known; and request, in the strongest Manner, that their Lordships will be pleased to recommend him for that Appointment.

Captain Lydiard, (who will have the Honour of delivering this, and who fully partook of the Conquest, and has before distinguished himself off the Haven-

* *Arethusa, Latona, Anson, and Fisgard.*

nah,) I beg to refer their Lordships to for any Information. I shall put an Acting Captain into the *Anson* until his Return, or I receive Directions thereon.

I am, &c.

(Signed) J. R. DACRES.

His Majesty's Ship Arethusa, Curacao, January 1, 1807.

SIR,

IT is with the most lively and heartfelt Satisfaction I have the Honour to inform you, that His Majesty's Squadron under my Command has this Day opened the New Year with what I humbly flatter myself will be deemed an Enterprize of considerable Consequence to my Country.

I proceeded in the Execution of your Orders the 29th of November with every possible Avidity, but the adverse Wind and Current prevented me from reaching this Island before the 1st Instant. In my Way up I met Captain Bolton, of the *Fisgard*, going to Jamaica; I took him under my Orders, according to your Directions and proceeded with the Squadron off this Port, having previously resolved on that System of Attack which British Seamen are so capable of executing. My Arrangements having been previously made known to the respective Captains, I was satisfied nothing further remained for me than to put it in Execution. My Line of Battle consisted of the *Arethusa*, *Latona*, *Anson*, and *Fisgard*; and very soon after the Break of Day, I made all possible Sail with the Ships in close Order of Battle, passing the whole extensive Line of Sea Batteries, and anchored the Squadron in a Stile far surpassing my Expectations. Being still desirous of having the Effusions of Human Blood spared, I writ the inclosed, No. 1, on the Capstan of His Majesty's Ship *Arethusa* during the Action, which was not regarded, as they did their utmost to destroy us. Words cannot express the Ability of the Squadron. The Harbour was defended by regulas