

Fort Royal Bay; when this was perceived, the Enemy set Fire to, and destroyed the Amphitrite Frigate, of Forty-four Guns, and all the Shipping in the Harbour; having, on our first Landing, burnt the Carnation at Marin, also a Corvette at St. Pierres on the following Night.

The Army under Lieutenant-General Beckwith having advanced towards the Heights of Sutirey, fell in with the Enemy on the 1st Instant, who was defeated with considerable Loss; since then two Actions have taken place, which has given to His Majesty's Forces Possession of the before-mentioned Heights, commanding Fort Bourbon. The Enemy upon this abandoned the lower Fort, or Fort de France, having destroyed the Guns, and from the different Explosions I suppose they have blown up the Magazines.

Major-General Maitland reached Samantin on the 2d without Opposition; and has since formed a Junction with the Lieutenant-General. I am now moving the Squadron to the Fort Royal Side of the Bay, so as to embrace the double View of an early Communication with the Head Quarters of the Army, and affording the Supplies necessary for the Siege of Fort Bourbon on both Sides.

From the Zeal which has manifested itself in each Service, I make no doubt but the Batteries will soon be in a fit State to open upon the Enemy, and I hope before long, that I shall have the Satisfaction to communicate to their Lordships that the Fort has surrendered.

The Militia who were forced to serve, have returned to their Homes.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. COCHRANE.

Admiralty-Office, March 28, 1809.

*Copy of another Letter from the Honourable Rear-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane, K. B. &c. to the Honourable W. W. Pole, dated on board the Neptune, off Martinique, the 5th February 1809.*

SIR,

HAVING left Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes, about Noon on the 28th January, with the Expedition for the Attack of this Island, I had the Pleasure, on the Evening of the same Day, to meet with His Majesty's Ship Cleopatra, and the French Frigate La Topaze in Company; when Captain Pechell gave me the Letter, of which the inclosed is a Copy, stating the Manner of her Capture; and on my Arrival off here, the Hazard joined with Captain Maude of the Jason's Report, which I also inclose.

Captain Pechell in the Cleopatra, from his advanced Position, closed the Enemy first, and bore the Brunt of the Action. He placed his Ship in a Situation to attack with Advantage, and in such a Manner as did credit to his Intrepidity and Judgment, and evinced also the high State of Discipline and Steadiness of his Officers and Crew.

Captain Maude, of the Jason, lost not a Moment in getting into Action, and I had every Thing to expect from his Zeal and Gallantry, which I have witnessed for a Series of Years.

Particular Credit is also due to Captain Cameron, of His Majesty's Sloop Hazard, for boldly chasing, with a Determination to bring to Action, an En-

emy's Frigate of the largest Class, before any of the other Ships were in Sight.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

ALEX. COCHRANE.

*His Majesty's Ship Cleopatra, off Basseterre, Guadaloupe, Jan 23, 1809.*

SIR,

IN Consequence of separating from His Majesty's Ship Jason, and there being no Probability of Communication either with Captain Maude, or Captain Pigot of the Latona, and Senior Officer of the Blockading Squadron, I beg to inform you, that Yesterday, in obedience to the Signals made to me by Captain Maude, I chased a Ship in the N. N. W. which I shortly afterwards made out to be a French Frigate, who, on seeing us, hauled close in Shore, and anchored under a small Battery a little to the Southward of Point Noir, having ascertained that they were securing her, (by Springs on her Cables, and others fast to the Trees on Shore) as well as her Situation would permit, I made every Preparation for attacking her, the Wind being at this Time from the Southward and Westward, but very light and variable; at half past Two P. M. we got the true Breeze and turned up to Windward till within a Cable's Length of the Shore, and half Muzzle distant from the Enemy, which was effected at Five o'Clock, when his Firing commenced. I saw from the Shape of the Land and the shoal Water between us, that I could not close without Danger of being raked, I was therefore obliged to anchor in Six Fathoms and a Half, and returned his Fire, which fortunately cut away his outside Spring, when he swung in Shore with his Head towards us, giving us the Advantage I refused him before; this I so effectually preserved, that he never afterwards got more than Half his Broadside to bear; we thus engaged for Forty Minutes, when the Jason and Hazard came up, the former having taken a Position on her Starboard-Quarter, and firing her Bow Guns, the Hazard at the same Time directing hers to the Fort, the Enemy hauled down his Colours, finding he was not able to sustain so unequal a Combat.

She proves to be the French National Frigate Topaze, carrying Forty-eight Guns, Eighteen, Twenty-four, and Thirty-six Pounders, commanded by Monsr. Lahalle, Capitaine de Frigate, with a Complement of Three Hundred and Thirty Men; she has been from Brest Forty-seven Days, and had on board One Hundred Troops and Eleven Hundred Barrels of Flour for Cayenne, but meeting with superior Force off that Port she was obliged to push for Guadaloupe.

Our Loss is comparatively small with that of the Enemy, having only Two Killed and One Wounded, as his Guns were chiefly pointed at our Masts and Rigging, which he succeeded in cutting very much, most of our Fore and Main Rigging shot away, and had we been under sail must have lost our Main Topmast; on the other Side Twelve Killed and Fourteen Wounded, as near as can be ascertained, for the Instant her Colours were hauled down, One-third at least took to the Water, and several were either killed or drowned in attempting to effect their Escape.

Having thus, Sir, given you the Detail, it becomes a pleasing Duty to me to represent the Zeal with which Captain Cameron of the Hazard offered his Services before the Action, and had the Wind