

caine and Ceylon, which had been taken and recaptured from the Enemy, and the Imperial French Frigate La Venus, also captured from the Enemy.

The Details, Copies of which I have the Honor to transmit herewith, will fully explain to their Lordships the Circumstances of the Occupation of the Isle de la Passe, as well as the subsequent unfortunate Result of a very gallant Attack made on the Enemy's Ships in Port S. E. with the Sirius, Captain Pym, the Magicienne, Captain Curtis, the Iphigenia, Captain Lambert, and the Nereide, Captain Willoughby, which ended in the unavoidable Destruction of the two former of His Majesty's Ships, and the Surrender to the Enemy of the Iphigenia and Nereide, the latter after a glorious Resistance almost unparalleled even in the brilliant Annals of the British Navy.

A momentary Superiority thus obtained by the Enemy has been promptly and decisively crushed by the united Zeal, Judgment, Perseverance, Skill, and Intrepidity of Captain Rowley, in His Majesty's Ship Boadicea; the Value and Importance of whose Services, long conspicuous and distinguished as they have been, have fully justified the Selection and Detention of him as the Senior Officer conducting the Blockade of this Station; and who, in the present Instance, almost alone and unsupported but by the never-failing Energies and Resources of his active and intelligent Mind, under Circumstances, as may be easily imagined, of extremest Anxiety, Mortification, and Disappointment, in a few Hours not only retook His Majesty's Ships Africaine and Ceylon, but captured also the largest Frigate possessed by the Enemy in these Seas, and has thus restored the British naval Pre-eminence in this Quarter, which his Talents have long so successfully contributed to maintain.

Nor can I omit to offer the Tribute so justly due to the Memory of the gallant Corbett, of His Majesty's Ship Africaine, whose meritorious Eagerness to check the Triumph of an exulting Enemy impelled him to an unequal Contest, in which he nobly fell, defending the Cause of that Country, to whose Service his valuable Life had been most usefully, most honourably devoted.

Under the Pressure of these Events, the Arrival of the Nifus was to be considered as most opportune, as every Exertion had been already employed with a View to the Equipment of the Africaine and Ceylon, which Ships, though severely cut up in the Masts and Rigging (the lower Masts being unfit for further Service), had fortunately, at the Time of their Recapture, Part of their Crews on board. Fully concurring in the Expediency and the absolute Necessity of this Measure, the Adoption of which, and the carrying into Effect with the least Delay, is of the most serious Importance to the ultimate Success of the Operation, now ripe for Execution, against the Isle of France, and having found it further practicable to equip the Venus in furtherance of this Object, I have not hesitated to commission her for the Time being, under the Name of the Nereide, in Commemoration of the gallant Defence of His Majesty's Ship bearing that Name, notwithstanding the very many local Difficulties and Disadvantages with which we have necessarily had to contend in the Execution of these Plans. The Squadron, now on the Eve of sailing from these Roads, consisting of the

Ships named in the Margin*, exhibits a striking and no less gratifying Instance of what may be effected by British Exertion and British Perseverance.

I should at the same Time be very deficient, were I not to avail myself of the Opportunity now afforded me of expressing the Obligations of the Service to the Lieutenant Governor and Commander of the Forces on this Island, Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, to whom it is indebted not only for his Co-operation, as well as that of the whole military Force, not only for the Application of every civil Means at his Command, but for that Spirit of zealous Emulation, wherever the Navy is concerned, which has most anxiously anticipated the Appropriation of every Resource to its Service, and the Influence of which has been extended throughout this Division of the Army.

Among other Vessels captured by the Enemy I regret to mention the Ceylon and Wyndham, Honourable East India Company's Ships, and the Ranger Transport, from the Cape, having on board Provisions and Stores for the Squadron; I am happy to add that the Wyndham has since been re-taken, and is arrived here, and the Venus was found to have on board the greater Part of the Stores and Provisions taken in the Ranger, both of which Circumstances have been particularly advantageous, the lower Masts of the Wyndham having been applied to the Africaine, and the victualling of the Squadron being, by means of the Provisions found in the Venus, completed to Four Months.

It is further of still greater Moment that I should apprise you, for the Information of their Lordships, that Major-General Abercromby, who with his whole Staff was embarked in the Ceylon, and who is entrusted with the Command of the Expedition against the Isle of France, was recaptured in that Frigate.

As the Squadron will proceed to Sea in a few Hours, after the closing these Dispatches, I trust I shall stand excused to their Lordships, in deferring to a future Opportunity the several Returns and Details of the Squadron, as well as a Statement and preparing of Work performed in each Department, which, in the short Space of Three Weeks, through the unremitting and unwearied Exertions that have been displayed, has been such as to complete the Equipment of the Squadron, and to render the whole thoroughly effective.

I should add, that the Light Brigade of the Troops from hence are embarked, to the Number of Six Hundred Men, on board the five Frigates, and are doing Duty as Marines, until their Services shall be required on Shore.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BERTIE.

His Majesty's Ship Boadicea, St. Paul's Road, Isle of Bourbon, 21st Sept. 1810.

SIR, I HAD the Honor to transmit to you on the 31st of August, Captain Pym's Report of a gallant and successful Attack by his Boats on Isle de la Passe, and I beg Leave to second his Recommendation of Lieutenants Chads and Watling for their Conduct on that Occasion. Under the same Cover, I also

* Boadicea, Africaine, Ceylon, Nifus, Nereide.