

Madras, were loaded, three ships were perceived under the land in the fourth-west, coming down before the wind, with all sail set. About half-past nine A.M. it was seen that the strange ships were enemies, and were a line of battle ship and two frigates; the line of battle ship hoisted, with her colours, a flag at the mizen topmast-head, and I believe was the Marengo, Admiral Linois, and I shall so call her in this letter. The frigate appeared to be of thirty-six or forty guns. For the information of the convoy the signal of an enemy being in sight was hoisted, and soon afterwards one for the convoy, as they were best able to put into a port in view. This was done that the two ships that we had taken under convoy might get close in shore for protection, or, if necessary, to be run on it: the Barnaby complied with this signal; she ran in shore, but unfortunately afterwards got into the surf, and was totally lost.

About ten A.M. the headmost of the enemy's ships, a frigate, was about half a mile from the Centurion, without any colours flying. Several shot were fired at her. About the same time the cable was cut, and topmasts sheeted home, which were already loose for the purpose; by this means the broadside was brought to bear upon the enemy, and prevented the ship being boarded or raked; by this manœuvre, likewise, a frigate, that was within a cable's length of the Centurion, and appeared to have an intention to board, got a close and well-directed broadside into her: the action soon became general; the three enemy's ships directing their fire on the Centurion, their only object, for the Princess Charlotte Indiaman had very early struck her colours. The Centurion stood in shore, the Marengo and one frigate on the starboard quarter, the other frigate on the larboard; they were all less than half a mile distant, and kept firing, which the Centurion returned. Her fire was chiefly directed against the Marengo. About a quarter before eleven the French ships stood to sea; and immediately after this I got on board, though with much difficulty and danger. I had been on shore to expedite the sailing of the convoy, and was not present in this early part of the action; for, till now, the Centurion had been under the direction of Lieutenant James Robert Philips, the First Lieutenant; and, before I proceed any further in this account, permit me to notice the judicious conduct of this deserving and old Officer, and his gallant defence of the ship against so superior a force as that of the enemy. I hope, Sir, his conduct will be thought worthy of a reward, and that he will be esteemed deserving of promotion.

On my coming on board, I found the sails and rigging so very much cut as to render the ship not in a state to be worked, and therefore anchored at the back of the surf, about a mile and a half to the north-east of the town; this situation was the best I had in my power to take, both for defence, and to prevent her falling into the possession of the enemy if overpowered.

A battery of three guns at the town, under the command of Col. Campbell, of his Majesty's 74th regiment, had kept a fire on the enemy whilst within reach in the roadstead, but now we were too far distant to receive any support from it. I sent on shore to request guns might be brought on the beach nearer us; this was a thing, I have since been convinced of, totally impracticable, or it would have been done. We prepared again for action; and, whilst thus employed, the enemy, in the of-fing, wore and stood towards us; the Marengo, after having repeatedly tried the range of her guns, came to an anchor abreast of us, and about a mile distant; clewed up her topmasts, furled her courses, and commenced cannonading. This threatening appearance of being determined to persevere, and to succeed, only served to animate the officers and men of his Majesty's ship to greater exertions of defence with the lower deck guns, the only ones that would reach the enemy, for she was too far distant for the carronades, but all the enemy's shot reached us. In the mean time, one of the frigates kept under sail on our quarter, and nearer than the Marengo, and annoyed us much by her fire; the other frigate carried off the Indiaman from her anchorage in the road.

At a quarter past one P. M. nearly two hours after this cannonading had commenced, and which had been kept up with vigour on both sides, the Marengo cut her cable, hoisted her jib, and stood to sea. By some of her last shot our cable was cut, and we made some sail, and got further off shore before we brought up with the sheet anchor. When the Marengo first made sail, I supposed she intended to make a short stretch, tack, and renew

the action nearer, and made all necessary preparation to receive her, but she, frigates, and prize Indiaman, stood to sea, and a little before sunset bore up to the north-east, towards the bottom of the bay.

What damage the enemy has sustained, or from what cause they declined further contest with us, I cannot tell.

After this full account of the transactions of the day, I feel it a duty incumbent on me not only to repeat the high sense I have of Lieutenant Philips' services, but likewise to inform you that the other Lieutenants of this ship, Lieutenants David Pringle, Richard Coot, and Wm. Fairbrother Carol, displayed great gallantry and spirit on the occasion; the last mentioned, Lieut. Carrol, though a young officer, has seen much service, and as his commission of Lieutenant is not yet confirmed by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, may I request that you will be pleased to represent his great merit, to induce their Lordships to do it. To the zeal and energy of Lieut. Warring of the Marines, I am much indebted.

To insert any thing in this letter in praise of the behaviour of the veteran and gallant crew of his Majesty's ship Centurion, must be needless to you, Sir, who are well acquainted with it, but I cannot refrain from saying that they displayed great experience, and cool courage, and the good discipline of the ship was conspicuous, and does great credit to their proper Commander, Captain Rainer.

His Majesty's ship has received considerable damage in her masts, yards, and rigging. The foremast, mizenmast, and mainyard, are badly wounded, as well as several smaller masts and yards; several shot remain in the bottom between wind and water, one came through into the gunner's store-room; but for your full information of particulars, there accompanies this detailed reports of damages sustained in the gunner's, boatswain's, and carpenter's departments, as far as they have been yet ascertained. It is with pleasure I acquaint you, that very few men, considering the long action, have suffered; none were killed, and only nine wounded, one of them is since dead, the others are not in apparent danger.

I have received all the assistance that this place could afford me from Colonel A. Campbell of his Majesty's 74th Highland regiment, commanding officer of the district, and from all the Company's servants, both civil and military, at this settlement. I am, &c. (Signed) JAMES LIND.

Peter Rainer, &c.

Trident, Madras Road, Oct. 1, 1804.

Sir,—I am to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th ultimo, informing particulars of your proceeding in execution of my orders, and of the very noble defence you made in his Majesty's ship Centurion, under your command, in Vizagapatnam road the preceding day, against the formidable attack of so superior a force of the enemy, as described in your letter, led on by the French Admiral, Linois, in the Marengo; the gallant and spirited conduct displayed on this occasion by yourself, officers, and crew, merits the highest applause, wherein you not only saved his Majesty's ship under your command from falling into the enemy's hand, as well as from shipwreck, by running her on shore, as a very obvious resource that offered to prevent it, but gave the French Rear-Admiral a complete defeat.

I shall not fail to forward your letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty for their Lordships' information by the present opportunity, and have no doubt but their Lordships will bestow on you some honourable acknowledgment of their approbation of your gallant conduct. I remain, &c.

PETER RAINIER.

To James Lind, Esq. acting Captain of his Majesty's ship Centurion.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, MARCH 16, 1805.

Admiral Rainer, commanding in the East Indies, also transmits the following accounts of captures:—

By the Dedaigneuse, a French privateer of 4 guns, some small arms, and 36 men. By the Caroline frigate, after a chase of 16 hours, the French privateer brig Les Frenes Unis, of 8 (pierced for 16) guns, and 134 men, 15 of whom were officers, and 40 foldiers. The privateer had one man killed; the Caroline not a man hurt, but both sustained much injury to boats, booms, rigging, &c. By the St Fiorenzo, a Chasse Maree, of 2 brass six pounders, 6 brass givels, and 25 men. She was boarded in a most gallant style by the frigate's barge and cut-

ter; and carried after a most determined resistance, without the loss of a man. The enemy had two men killed, and the first and second Captain, and three others very dangerously wounded—the Captain, it was feared mortally, as he had a ball thro' his body. By the Caroline, the General de Caen, French privateer ship, of 360 tons, 22 guns, and 200 men, stored and victualled for five months.—By the Sheerneck, the Alfred, French privateer, of 14 guns, and 80 men. By the Albion and Sceptre, the French ship Clarisse, of 12 guns, and 157 men;—a brig of 4 guns and 36 men, and 2 vessels laden with slaves.

Copy of a letter from Mr Thomas Musgrave, commander of the Kitty private ship of war, to W. Marsden, Esq. dated at Falmouth the 14th inst.

SIR;

I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords of the Admiralty, that on Sunday the 10th inst. in lat. 48. N. and long 10. 15. W. we fell in with the Spanish private ship of war Felicity, mounting 20 guns and 170 men, commanded by Jose Vincento de Cinza, out 10 days from St Andero; and after an engagement of one hour and a half, she struck to the Kitty, private ship of war, of London, under my command. I am concerned to add, that we had one man killed, and two dangerously wounded. In justice to the officers and ship's company, I must say their conduct deserves the approbation of their Lordships, when you take into consideration that not 20 of them ever saw a gun fired before, and not twice that number ever were at sea before we left the Downs, on the 3d inst.

I have the honour to be &c.

THOMAS MUSGRAVE.

ST JAMES'S, FEB. 20, 1805.

The King has been pleased to confer the honour of Knighthood on Vickers Gibbs, Esq. his Majesty's Solicitor General.

BERLIN, FEB. 26, 1805.

The Dowager Queen of Prussia expired yesterday morning, in the fifty-fourth year of her age.

WAR-OFFICE, MARCH 9, 1805.

The King's German Legion, ——— Stille, to be Assistant-Surgeon.

1st Garrison Battalion—Ensign Geo. Ball, from the 2d garrison battalion, to be Adjutant, with the rank of Ensign.

2d—Ensign Wm. Leunon, from half pay of 68th foot, to be Ensign; Quartermaster Hiram Seaman, from the late 7th garrison battalion, to be Quartermaster.

1st Royal Veteran Battalion—John Page, late Serjeant of the Royals, to be Ensign, vice Barron, promoted.

GARRISON.

Major-General Charles Wm. Este to be Lieutenant Governor of Carlisle, vice Ramsden, deceased.

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE.

Serjeant Alex. Calder, from the royal artillery, to be Quartermaster.

MEMORANDUM.

Ensign Alex. Proudfoot, of the 2d West India regt. who was superseded in the Gazette of the 23d ult. is reinstated in his rank.

Lieut. — D'Arcy, of the 15th foot, is superseded.

ORDNANCE-OFFICE, MARCH 7, 1805.

Royal Regiment of Artillery—Second Lieut. H. Blackley to be First Lieutenant, vice H. Meggs, resigned; dated Feb. 18. 1805.—Second Captain Geo. Crawford to be Captain; First Lieut. David Storey to be Second Captain, vice Crawford; Second Lieut. J. A. Chalmer to be First Lieutenant, vice Storey; all dated March 1. 1805.

Corps of Royal Engineers—Robert Thomson to be Second Lieutenant; dated Nov. 1. 1804.

Commissions signed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Inverness.

Aird, Strathglass, Urquhart, and Dores Battalion. 1st Aird Company—Ensign Alex. Falconer to be Lieutenant, vice Hugh Fraser; Hector McEachin to be Ensign, vice Falconer, promoted; both dated Feb. 22. 1805.

Glencelg Company—Donald McIver to be Ensign, vice McLeod, appointed in the 78th regt.; dated Sept. 1. 1804.