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FROM FRIDAY, MARCH 22. TO TUESDAY, MARCH 26. 1805.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, March 23.

Copy of a letter from the Honourable Rear-Admiral COCHRANE to WILLIAM MARSDEN, Esq. dated on board his Majesty's ship Northumberland, off the Bar of Lisbon, March 5, 1805.

SIR,

I inclose a copy of a letter from Captain Rose, of his Majesty's ship Circe, giving an account of his having captured a Spanish privateer schooner. She seems a remarkably fine vessel; and, as she proceeds with the Squadron, I shall soon be able to judge of her qualifications.

I am, &c. ALEX. COCHRANE.

SIR,

Circe, at sea, March 2, 1805.

I beg leave to acquaint you, that, yesterday, I captured, off Oporto, La Fama Spanish schooner privateer, mounting four brass guns, and sixty-two men; out eight days from Vigo, but had made no captures.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Rear Admiral Cochrane.

JONAS ROSE.

Copy of a letter from Captain FARQUHAR, late Commander of his Majesty's bomb the Acheron, to WILLIAM MARSDEN, Esq. dated in Malaga prison, the 12th of February 1805.

SIR,

You will be pleased to lay before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the inclosed copy of an account transmitted to Lord Nelson, of the capture and destruction of his Majesty's sloop Arrow, Captain Vincent, and Acheron bomb, under my command, acquainting their Lordships that, from the uncertain state I am in with respect to the safety of Captain Vincent, or to what port he may have been carried, I have thought it my duty not to let an opportunity slip of giving his Lordship the earliest information, as well as the Commanding Officer at

[Price 6d.]

Gibraltar, that immediate assistance and protection might be afforded to the convoy.

I have the honour to be, &c.

ART. FARQUHAR.

Proceedings of his Majesty's bomb vessel

MY LORD, Acheron, Sunday Feb. 3, 1805.

At daylight two strange sail were seen from the mast-head, bearing about E. S. E. of us; at eight A. M. they had considerably neared us; we were at this time in the rear of the convoy. About half-past ten, the Arrow asked, per telegraph, my opinion of ships to the eastward; I immediately wore ship and stood towards them; observed the headmost ship to shorten sail, by hauling down the studding sails; made signal 642 to the Arrow, then hoisted the private signal, and continued upon a wind standing to them; at a quarter past eleven made the signal for their being suspicious (they not having answered the private signal). I was now so near as to be able to observe: they were frigates, and at half-past eleven to discover that they had their spare anchors in their main chains, which immediately led me to suppose that they were French. At fifty minutes past eleven wore ship, and made all sail towards the Arrow, who had by this time quitted her tow, and made signal for convoy to continue the same course, although ships of war acted otherwise.

At half-past twelve P. M. (Monday per log) hoisted our colours and fired a gun, which they paid no attention to. Signals 360 and 322 were then made to the Arrow, who immediately made signal to the convoy for an enemy, and to make all possible sail to the appointed rendezvous, which was repeated. The frigates had by this time made all possible sail in chace of us, but the wind being light and variable from the eastward we rather gained upon them. At half-past four P. M. having joined the Arrow, I went on

board: Captain Vincent appeared satisfied they were enemy's ships; they were now about five miles from us; it was resolved to make sail, and keep in the rear of the convoy, for their protection. It was calm until eleven P. M. when a breeze sprung up from the W. S. W. wore ship, and stood towards the Arrow. At twelve she hailed, and desired we would keep in her wake in close order. At two A. M. saw two sail upon the lee bow; called the hands to quarters. At half-past came up with them, and discovered they were two of the convoy. At a quarter past four A. M. saw two other ships standing to us on the opposite tack. At 45 minutes past four the Arrow hailed the headmost ship, then passing under her lee; being in close order she soon came abreast the Acheron. I saw she was a large frigate prepared to engage. I hailed her, asking what ship she was? she answered, What ship are you? and immediately gave us her broadside of round and grape, which did us very considerable damage in rigging and sails, besides carrying away the flings of the main yard and main-top-gallant yard in the flings, but did not kill or wound any one; we returned her fire, then hove about and gave her the guns from the other side, and kept up the fire while our shot would reach her. The Arrow bore up and raked her. At or about half past five the second frigate passed the Arrow (then lying to upon the starboard tack) without firing; a little afterwards she appeared as if intending to wear, and having her stern towards the Acheron, we gave her two rounds from the larboard guns. She then hauled her wind and stood towards the other frigate. The people were now employed in splicing the rigging and getting another top-gallant yard and sail ready to fend aloft.

At daylight observed the enemy had French

