



THE Edinburgh Gazette.

Published by Authority.

FROM FRIDAY, AUGUST 8. TO TUESDAY, AUGUST 12. 1800.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, AUGUST 9. 1800.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of St Vincent, K. B. Admiral of the White, &c. to Evan Nepean, Esq. dated on board his Majesty's ship Royal George, at sea, the 4th instant.

SIR,

I did not think the enterprise of Sir Edward Hamilton or of Captain Campbell could have been rivalled, until I read the inclosed letter from Sir Edward Pellew, relating the desperate service performed by acting Lieutenant Coghlan, of the Viper cutter, on the 29th July, which has filled me with pride and admiration; and although the circumstance of his not having completed his time in his Majesty's navy operates at present against his receiving the reward he is most ambitious of obtaining, I am persuaded the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will do all in their power to console him under his severe wounds, and grant him promotion the moment he is in a capacity to receive it.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

ST VINCENT.

Impetueux, Palais-Royal, Aug. 1. 1800.

I have true pleasure in stating to your Lordship the good conduct of Lieutenant Jeremiah Coghlan, to whom, for former gallant behaviour, you had given an acting commission to command the Viper cutter, from this ship.

This gallant young man, when watching Port Louis, thought he could succeed in boarding some of the cutters or gun-vessels which have been moving about the entrance of that harbour, and for this purpose he entreated a ten-oared cutter from me, with twelve volunteers; and on Tuesday night the 29th inst. he took this boat, with Mr Silas H. Paddon, Midshipman, and six of his men, making, with himself, twenty, and accompanied by his own boat and one from the Am-thyft, he determined upon boarding a gun-brig mounting three long 24-pounders, and four 6-pounders, full of men, moored with springs on her cables, in a naval port of difficult access, within pistol-shot of

three batteries, surrounded by several armed craft, and not a mile from a seventy-four and two frigates, bearing an Admiral's flag. Undismayed by such formidable appearances, the early discovery of his approach (for they were at quarters), and the lost aid of the two other boats, he bravely determined to attack alone, and boarded her on the quarter; but unhappily, in the dark, jumping into a trawl-net hung up to dry, he was pierced through the thigh by a pike, and several of his men hurt, and all knocked back into the boat.

Unchecked in ardour, they hauled the boat further a-head, and again boarded, and maintained against 87 men, 16 of whom were soldiers, an obstinate conflict, killing six and wounding 20, among whom was every officer belonging to her. His own loss 1 killed and 8 wounded; himself in two places, Mr Paddon in six. I feel particularly happy in the expected safety of all the wounded. He speaks in the highest terms of Mr Paddon and the whole of his party, many of whom were knocked overboard, and twice beat into the boat, but returned to the charge with unabated courage. I trust I shall stand excused by your Lordship for so minute a description, produced by my admiration of that courage which, hand to hand, gave victory to a handful of brave fellows over four times their number; and of that skill which formed, conducted, and effected so daring an enterprise.

Le Cerbere, commanded by a Lieutenant de Vaisseau, and towed out under a very heavy fire, is given up as a prize by the Squadron to mark their admiration, and will not, I know, be the only reward of such bravery; they will receive that protection your Lordship so liberally accords to all the young men in the service who happily distinguish themselves under your command.

I enclose Lieutenant Coghlan's letter, and have the honour to be, &c.

EDWARD PELLEW.

Admiral the Earl of St Vincent,

K. B. &c. &c. &c.

His Majesty's Cutter VIPER, Tuesday morning, Eight o'clock.

DEAR SIR,

I have succeeded in bringing out the gun brig Le Cerbere, of three guns 24 pounders, and four six-pounders, and 87 men, commanded by a Lieutenant de Vaisseau. Pray forgive me when I say from under the batteries of Port Louis, and after a

(B.)

Price Sixpence.

