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LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, August 3.

Licut. PHILIP DUMARESQ of his Majesty's ship *Cæsar*, arrived last night with dispatches from Rear-Admiral Sir JAMES SAUMAREZ, Bart. of which the following are copies:

SIR, *Cæsar*, off Cape Trafalgar, July 13.

It has pleased the Almighty to crown the exertions of this Squadron with the most decisive success over the enemies of their country.

The three French line-of-battle ships disabled in the action of the 6th instant, off Algeiras, were, on the 8th, reinforced by a Squadron of five Spanish line-of-battle ships, under the command of Don Juan Joaquin de Moreno, and a French ship of 74 guns, wearing a broad pendant, besides three frigates, and an incredible number of gun-boats and other vessels, and got under sail yesterday morning, together with his Majesty's late ship *Hannibal*, which they had succeeded in getting off the shoal on which she struck.

I almost despaired of having a sufficient force in readiness to oppose to such numbers, but, through the great exertions of Captain Brenton, the officers and men belonging to the *Cæsar*, the ship was in readiness to warp out of the Mole yesterday morning, and got under weigh immediately after with all the Squadron, except the *Pompee*, which ship had not had time to get in her masts.

Confiding in the zeal and intrepidity of the officers and men I had the happiness to serve with, I determined, if possible, to obstruct the passage of this very powerful force to Cadiz. Late in the evening I observed the enemy's ships to have cleared Cabareta Point, and at eight I

bore up with the Squadron to stand after them. His Majesty's ship *Superb* being stationed ahead of the *Cæsar*, I directed Captain Keats to make sail and attack the sternmost ships in the enemy's rear, using his endeavours to keep in shore of them. At eleven the *Superb* opened her fire close to the enemy's ships, and on the *Cæsar's* coming up and preparing to engage a three-decker that had hauled her wind, she was perceived to have taken fire, and the flames having communicated to a ship to leeward of her, both were seen in a blaze, and presented a most awful sight. No possibility existing of offering the least assistance in so distressing a situation, the *Cæsar* passed to close with the ship engaged by the *Superb*, but by the cool and determined fire kept upon her, which must ever reflect the highest credit on that ship, the enemy's ship was completely silenced, and soon after hauled down her colours.

The *Venerable* and *Spencer* having at this time come up, I bore up after the enemy, who were carrying a press of sail standing out of the Straits, and lost sight of them during the night. It blew excessively hard till day-light, and in the morning the only ships in company were the *Venerable* and *Thames* ahead of the *Cæsar*, and one of the French ships at some distance from them, standing towards the shoals of Conil, besides the *Spencer* after coming up:

All the ships immediately made sail with a fresh breeze, but, as we approached, the wind suddenly failing, the *Venerable* was alone able to bring her to action, which Captain Hood did in the most gallant manner, and had nearly silenced the French ship, when his mainmast (which had been before wounded) was unfortunately shot away, and it coming nearly calm, the

enemy's ship was enabled to get off without any possibility of following her.

The highest praise is due to Captain Hood, the officers and men of the *Venerable*, for their spirit and gallantry in the action, which entitled them to better success. The French ship was an eighty-four, with additional guns on the gun-wale.

This action was so near the shore, that the *Venerable* struck on one of the shoals, but was soon after got off and taken in tow by the *Thames*, but with the loss of all her masts.

The enemy's ships are now in sight to the westward, standing in for Cadiz. The *Superb* and *Audacious*, with the captured ship, are also in sight, with the *Carlotta* Portuguese frigate, commanded by Captain Craufurd Duncan, who very handsomely came out with the Squadron, and has been of the greatest assistance to Captain Keats, in staying by the enemy's ship captured by the *Superb*.

I am proceeding with the Squadron for Rosier Bay, and shall proceed the moment the ships are refitted to resume my station.

No praises that I can bestow are adequate to the merits of the officers and ship's companies of all the Squadron, particularly for their unremitting exertions in refitting the ships at Gibraltar, to which, in a great degree, is to be ascribed the success of the Squadron against the enemy.

Although the *Spencer* and *Audacious* had not the good fortune to partake of this action, I have no doubt of their exertion, had they come up in time to close with the enemy's ships.

My thanks are also due to Captain Holles of the *Thames*, and to the Honourable Captain Dundas of the *Calpe*, whose assistance was particularly useful to Captain Keats in securing the

