

Leicester-House, February 8.

This Day the Baron de Cramm, Envoy Extraordinary from the Duke of Brunswick, had his Audience of Leave of her Royal Highness the Princess Dowager of Wales.

And afterwards of their Royal Highnesses the Duke of York and Princess Augusta.

To all which he was introduced by Sir Charles Cottrell Dormer, Knt. Master of the Ceremonies.

Admiralty-Office, February 10.

Rear Admiral Holmes, in his Letter from Jamaica, of the 11th of November last, to Mr. Cleveland, gives an Account, of having Intelligence, that five French Frigates, with other Vessels, were getting ready at Cape François, to sail in the Month of October for Old France; he made a proper Disposition of His Majesty's Ships under his Command to intercept them; and having stationed them accordingly, the Enemy sailed from the Cape the 16th of the said Month of October, with the five Frigates and other Vessels, to the Number of Eight Sail.

That on the 17th, at Sun-rise, the Hampshire, Lively, and Boreas, saw them due East, and gave Chace; Cape Nicholas bearing S. by E. eight Leagues. They discovered them soon to be the Enemy; but their utmost Efforts were baffled all Day, by little and variable Winds, so that they neared them but slowly.

In the Evening the Breeze freshned, which brought them fast up with the Chace; and at Twelve at Night, the Boreas, being the headmost Ship, got along-side the Sirenne, commanded by Commodore M'Cartie. They engaged very smartly for 25 Minutes, when the Sirenne declined the Action, shot a-head, and wanted to get off. The Boreas, disabled in his Rigging, could not again close with her till Two in the Afternoon of next Day; when a vigorous Action recommenced off the East End of Cuba, and continued till 40 Minutes past Four, when the Sirenne struck.

At the Time the Boreas first engaged the Sirenne, she was to the Northward of the Hampshire and Lively, who were in Chace of the other four Frigates, that were making the best of their Way to the Southward; but the Night being dark and equally, they were only able to keep Sight of them.

On the 18th, at Day-light, the Enemy were six Miles a-head of the Lively, exerting all their Skill to make the West End of Tortuga, and get into Port au Paix. The Lively, who made good Use of her Oars, was considerably a-head of the Hampshire, and got up along-side the Valeur, the sternmost of the Enemy, at Half an Hour past Seven, when a very smart Action ensued, and continued for an Hour and a Half, when the Valeur struck.

The Hampshire kept on after the other three Frigates; and the Wind freshning, she gained so fast upon them, that, at Half past Three in the Afternoon, she got between the Duke de Choiseul and the Prince Edward, the two headmost Ships, and open'd her Fire upon them; but the first having the Advantage of the Wind, made her Retreat good into Port au Paix; the other run on Shore about two Leagues to Leeward, when she struck her Colours; and, on the Hampshire preparing to take Possession, the Enemy set her on Fire, and she blew up.

On the 19th, in the Morning, the Hampshire, having the Lively and her Prize in Company, made Sail towards Fresh-Water Bay, which lies a little further to the Leeward of Port au Paix, to take or destroy the Fleur de Lis, their sternmost of the three Frigates she had chased the Day before; but on his

Approach, the Enemy likewise set her on Fire, and she blew up.

Three of the five Frigates, viz. the Sirenne, the Fleur de Lis, and the Valeur, were King's Frigates, and landed 643 Veteran Troops, with a Brigadier-General, at Martinico, in their Way from France to Cape François; the other two belonged to Merchants; and they were all loaded with Indigo and Sugar.

I have annexed an Account of the Five Frigates intercepted by the Detachment posted, as above, in the Western Passage; and beg Leave to congratulate their Lordships on our Success, and the interesting Loss sustained by the Enemy, on this Occasion. At the same Time, it gives me the agreeable Opportunity of expressing my perfect Esteem and Approbation of the Conduct and Spirit of the three Commanders, and the Officers and Men of His Majesty's three Ships, who fell in with the Enemy; and I have no less Esteem for the Officers and Men of all the other Ships, who shewed the greatest Diligence and Attention, in guarding the other Passages, upon the same Service.

An Account of the Five French Frigates taken, burnt, and chased into Port au Paix, in the Island of Hispaniola.

The Sirenne, Commodore M'Cartie, of 32 Guns, and 280 Men, struck to the Boreas, Capt. Uvedale, of 28 Guns, and having only 170 Men on board, the 18th of October.

On board the Boreas,	}	On board the Sirenne,
killed wounded		Killed and wounded
1		80
		Most of the wounded since dead

The Valeur, Capt. Talbot, of 20 Guns and 160 Men, struck to the Lively, the Hon. Captain Maidland, of 20 Guns and 160 Men, the 18th of October.

On board the Lively,	}	On board the Valeur,
killed wounded		Killed, 1 Lieutenant and 37 Private.
2 none		Wounded, the Captain, Master, Boatswain, and 22 Private.

The Duc de Choiseul, a Merchant Frigate, Capt. Bellevan, of 32 Guns and 180 Men, escaped into Port au Paix.

The Hampshire, Capt. Norbury, of 50 Guns and 350 Men, chased the 3 opposite Frigates, and destroyed two of them as expressed.

The Prince Edward, a Merchant Frigate, Capt. Dubois, of 32 Guns and 180 Men, burnt and destroyed to Leeward of Port au Paix, the 18th of October.

The Fleur de Lis, a King's Frigate, Capt. Diguarty, of 32 Guns and 190 Men, burnt and destroyed in Fresh Water Bay, to Leeward of Port au Paix, the 19th of October.

Admiralty Office, February 10.

Captain Levison Gower, of His Majesty's Ship Quebec, brought into Gibraltar Bay, the 27th of December, a French Privatier called the Phoenix, of 18 Guns and 125 Men, which he had taken off Cape Palos.

Admiralty Office, February 10.

Captain Loggie, of His Majesty's Ship Brilliant, gives an Account, in his Letter of the 2d Instant, of his having that Day, in Latitude 49°. 23', and Longitude 9°. 10' W. retaken and sent into Plymouth, the John and Elizabeth, of London, from

Guar.