

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday May 25, to Saturday May 29, 1779.

Admiralty-Office, May 29, 1779.

Extract of a Letter from the Honorable Vice-Admiral Byron to Mr. Stephens, dated on Board His Majesty's Ship the Prince's Royal, off St. Lucia, the 2d of April, 1779; received the 28th Instant.

THE Ship British King, in the Service of the Treasury, being bound from hence to Cork, I take the Opportunity to give Their Lordships some Account of the Proceedings of His Majesty's Ships under my Command.

The Squadron under Commodore Rowley having arrived from England on the 12th of February, in good Condition, I sent him, with the Ships* named in the Margin, to cruize to Windward of Martinique, in Hopes of preventing a Junction between the Ships expected from France and those at Fort Royal; he failed upon that Service the 19th of February, but was recalled a few Days after upon my receiving certain Advice of M. De Grasse, with Four or Five Sail of the Line, some Frigates and Store-Ships, having got safe to Martinique. Since then Detachments from the Fleet have occasionally cruized to Windward, and others between the Islands of St. Lucia and Martinique, for intercepting such of the Enemy's Vessels as might attempt that Channel, and at same Time to give Protection to our small Craft; when reconnoitring the Strength and Position of the French Squadron in Fort Royal Bay; one of these Detachments, under Command of Captain Griffith, was carried greatly to Leeward by the Current the 15th of last Month; their Situation must have been observed from Martinique, and I think the Prospect of these Ships not being able to regain this Anchorage probably occasioned the Enemy to make a Movement; for M. D'Estaing with Four other Flag-Officers, and Fifteen Sail of the Line, with some Frigates and small Vessels, having previously embarked a Number of Troops, came out of Fort Royal Bay the-Morning of the 18th, at which Time several of the Ships under my Command; that had been cruizing, were taking in a Supply of Water at the Cul de Sac, and Captain Sawyer, with Three Sail of the Line and a Fifty Gun Ship, was to Windward of Martinique. With the rest of our Force I slipped and put to Sea the Moment the French Squadron was discovered, and made for them with all possible Expedition; but although equal in Number and Strength to the Ships I had collected, they returned to the Protection of their Batteries, without putting it in my Power to bring them to Action. I stood close in with Fort Royal next Morning, and had a full View of the Enemy's Batteries and Ships; but their only Movement upon our Approach was to get under Sail, and work farther into the Bay; I therefore tacked, and stretched towards this Place, but a strong Lee Current kept the Squadron several Days at Sea.

The Frigates that are upon this Station have been kept cruizing to Windward of Barbadoes,

* Suffolk, Magnificent, Sterling Castle, Medway, Centurion, Isis, Preston, Carysfort.

and among the Islands; but no Prize of Consequence has been taken by any of them, except the Ship Governor Trumbull, an American Privateer of Twenty Guns and One Hundred and Fifty Men, which the Venus took off St. Christopher's the 6th of last Month, after several Hours Chace.

Admiralty-Office, May 29, 1779.

VICE-Admiral Sir Peter Parker, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Jamaica, has, in his Letter to Mr. Stephens of the 9th of March last, transmitted a List of Vessels taken by the Ships of his Squadron between the 18th of May, 1778, and 24th of February, 1779; of which the following is a Copy:

A List of Vessels seized by His Majesty's Ships under the Command of Sir Peter Parker, Knt. Rear-Admiral of the Red, and Commander in Chief, &c. at Jamaica, between the 18th of May last, and 24th of February 1779.

1778: May 18. By the Bristol Ship St. George, retaken.

May 19. By Ditto Schooner Amelia, retaken off Menutse Head, Colin Clarke Master and Owner, 70 Tons, from Jamaica to Augustine, in Ballast.

May 19. By Ditto Ship Isabella, retaken, Thompson and Campbell of Montega Bay Owners, 12 Men, 9 Guns, from Missisippi to Jamaica, with Lumber and Staves.

May 19. By Ditto Ship Swift, retaken, off the Cocks Comb, William Loft Master, Thomas Reaston of Kingston in Great Britain Owner, 170 Tons, 16 Men, 10 Guns, from Jamaica to Kingston, with Rum, Sugar, and Pimento.

May 21. By Ditto Schooner William, retaken off Bay Honduras, Gilbert Kellam Master, G. W. White of Green Island Owner, 75 Tons, 7 Men, from Jamaica to St. Augustine, with Rum, Sugar, Negroes, and Dry Goods.

May 21. By Ditto Sloop Aurora, 10 Tons.

June 6. By the Niger. Tryal, taken at Sea, burnt at Sea, John Barker Master, 11 Men, from Boston to Charles Town, in Ballast.

June 20. By the Aeolus. Schooner Le Heuresse, taken off Cape Semena, Francis Casneau Master, M. Vanbobben of Baltimore in Maryland Owner, 70 Tons, 7 Men, from Baltimore to Bourdeaux, with Tobacco and Staves.

July 4. By the Niger. Sloop Uninterrupt, taken off Isabella Bay, 7 Men, from Carolina to Cape Francois, with Rice.

July 6. By the Minerva and Fleet. Schooner Guana, taken off Port Royal Harbour, George Johnson Master, James Keith Owner, 70 Tons, 3 Men, from South Carolina to St. Eustatia, with Indigo, Rice, and Tobacco.

July 7. By the Niger. Schooner Fleur de la Mar, taken off Isabella Bay, 12 Men, from North Carolina to Port au-Prince, with Tobacco and Tar.

July 8. By the Ofrich. Brig Polly, taken off Port Antonio, 175 Men, privateering.

Aug. 10. By the Niger. Schooner Planter, taken at Sea, 6 Men, 2 Guns, from Virginia, with Tobacco.

Aug.

