

Ship the Quebec and a French Frigate of 40 Guns, of which the following are Copies.

Rambler, at Spithead, October 9, 1779.

S I R,

I Beg Leave to acquaint you, that on Wednesday the 6th Instant, being then in Company with His Majesty's Ship Quebec, Ushant bearing South 15 Leagues, at Day-break we discovered three Sail to Leeward in the S. W. Quarter. Captain Farmer made the Signal for the Rambler to come under his Stern, which I obeyed; he then asked me what I thought of them; I told him, a Ship, a Cutter, and a Dutch Hoy: He replied, he would go down and see what they were, and ordered me to keep close to him. At Half past Eight we plainly perceived two of them to be a large French Frigate, and a Cutter: At Nine the Enemy's Frigate began to fire at the Quebec, but at too great a Distance to do any Execution. At Ten the Quebec, being within Point-Blank Shot of the Enemy, hoisted her Colours, and returned their Fire, still edging down to come to a close Engagement till she was alongside the French Frigate. I immediately hoisted my Colours, and stood in between the French Frigate and the Cutter, with an Intent to cut her off from her Comfort, and bring her to a close Engagement; which I effected; and began to engage her at Eleven o'Clock close along-side; (I then found her Force to be Sixteen Six-pounders, and full of Men:) We continued to engage her in the same Position till within a few Minutes of Two o'Clock, when she set all the Sail she could croud, and bore from us, we not having had the Luck to carry away any Thing material; and the Rambler, having her Gaff shot away, her Topmast shot through, the Top-sail Hallyards, and most of her Standing and Running Rigging gone, and the Main-sail rendered unserviceable, was incapable of following her with any Hopes of coming up with her; at the same Time seeing both the Frigates dismasted, and the Quebec take Fire, I endeavoured to get as near the Quebec as possible, in Hopes of saving some of her Men; but there being but little Wind, and a large Swell, found I could assist her no other Way but by hoisting out our Boat, which I effected, and sent the Master and five Men armed in her, who picked up one Master's Mate, two young Midshipmen, and fourteen more of the Quebec's People, the Enemy's Frigate at the same Time firing at the Boat. As the Rambler was a considerable Distance to Leeward of the Quebec, I thought it would be in vain to send a second Time.

I want Words sufficient to describe the noble and gallant Manner of Captain Farmer's engaging the Enemy for upwards of three Hours and an Half that he lay along-side the Frigate, which carried Twenty-eight Eighteen-pounders on her Main Deck, and Twelve Guns on her Quarter Deck and Forecastle. The Quebec continued burning very fiercely, with her Colours flying, till Six o'Clock, when she blew up. I am much afraid, from the Report of Mr. William Moore, one of the Master's Mates of the Quebec, that Captain Farmer, and his Officers that were alive when he left the Quebec, shared the Fate of the Ship.

I must beg Leave, at the same Time, to recommend to you, Sir, the Officers and Crew of the Rambler, who did every Thing that might be expected from Englishmen. I am happy to say our Loss consists of only one Man who has lost his Leg, the Pilot shot through the Arm with a Musquet-

Ball, and several slightly wounded, as the Enemy aimed at our Masts and Rigging, in which they succeeded too well: From the Cutter's not returning the Fire for two or three Broad-sides before she bore away, and seeing but few Men on her Decks, conclude she suffered considerably.

I have the Honour to be,

S I R,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

JAMES GEORGE.

To Sir Charles Hardy, *Knt.*
Admiral of the White, and
Commander in Chief, &c.
Esq.

Salcombe, October 9, 1779.

GENTLEMEN,

LAST Night was brought in here, in a Topsham Pilot Boat, Thirteen of the Crew of the Quebec Frigate, Captain Farmer, which was blown up in an Engagement with a French Forty Gun Ship, the 6th of this Instant, about 14 Leagues S. W. of Ushant. They were taken from the Wreck by a Prussian Vessel, and put on board the Pilot Boat Five Leagues off the Bolt. There were about Fourteen poor Souls more left on another Part of the Wreck; but a heavy Squall came on, which prevented the Vessel from taking them up. The People saw the Captain leap over-board, and endeavour to swim to one of our Cutters which was in Company with them, but whether he was saved or not they cannot tell. The Frenchman had all three Masts shot away. The Captain's Clerk is one of the Persons brought in here, who desires the Regulating Captain at Dartmouth may be acquainted with their Situation; 3 of the Men are greatly wounded. I sent for a Doctor from Kingbridge to dress their Wounds last Night, and have taken all the Care imaginable of them. The Quebec's Masts were all shot away before she blew up; they had about 80 Men killed and wounded. The Purser, in endeavouring to swim to these poor Souls, was drowned.

I am, Gentlemen,

your humble Servant,

RICH. VALENTINE.

P. S. I hope Captain Michell will send the poor Souls some Relief immediately, as they are almost naked. The Engagement began about Nine o'Clock in the Morning, Yard Arm and Yard Arm, and lasted till Two, when the Frenchman ceased firing. The Sails of the Quebec took Fire from her own Guns, which set Fire to the Vessel, and she blew up about Six o'Clock.

To the Collector and Comptroller of His Majesty's Customs at Dartmouth.

AT the Court at St. James's, the 7th of October, 1779,

P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS His Majesty was pleased, by His Order in Council of the 24th of last Month, to direct, that no Person or Persons whatsoever should, at any Time during the Space of Two Months, to commence from the Date of the said Order, presume to transport out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise, any Plates of Copper, without Leave or Permission in that Behalf first obtained from His Majesty or His Privy Council. And whereas it hath been represented to His Majesty at this Board, that the Continuance of the said Prohibition