

was choak'd by a Shot; which filled the Space between it and the Sternpost with Splinters; Part of her Wheel was shot away, and the Mizzen-mast badly wounded. On the 18th, Captain Dalrymple being anxious for Artillery being sent up to a Battery he was constructing on the Governor's Hill, I ordered the Guns from the Porcupine to be landed: They were drawn up by the Sailors through a heavy Road, and up a steep Ascent, to a Spot where they did notable Execution; but our Time being precious from various Considerations, and the Heat of the Climate making this Duty more fatiguing to our People, it was concluded on, between Captain Dalrymple and myself, to attempt an Escalade the following Morning; and the King's Ships to co-operate, by cannonading the Wall against the Sea,—I made the Signal settled for the Attack; I weighed at Three o'Clock, the Pomona and Lowestoffe standing for the Eastern, and the Charon for the Western Angle of the Fort, which I began to cannonade; when Captain Dalrymple, in a most gallant and exemplary Manner, storm'd on the Land-side with the Seamen and Marines, and subdued the Enemy with the Loss of little Blood. We took immediate Possession of Two Register Ships richly laden, which, with the Cargoes of other Vessels of less Note, will amount to the Sum of Three Millions of Piastres (or Dollars.) The Fort is an amazing Pile of Building; the greatest Part of it is an admirable Sort of Stone; the Remainder is Brick. It has cost to the Spaniards Twenty-five Years Labour, and the Lives of Thousands of their Subjects. Since it has been taken, we are astonished, from the Strength of it, that it was so easily vanquish'd. The Spanish Governor is very solicitous to ransom the Fort, and has offer'd Three Hundred Thousand Dollars for it. The Two Hundred and Fifty Quintals of Quicksilver, which came from Old Spain, and we have now taken, the Spaniards would have bought at any Price, saying, they would give double the Value of it, because they should have no other Means to work any of the valuable Mines in the Province. Their Reasons for wishing it, determin'd me not to part from a single Ounce of the Quicksilver, nor would I consent to ransom the Fort. The Number of Prisoners in the Enemy's Fort you will find, by the inclosed Return, far exceed'd the Troops that storm'd it; and whose undaunted Behaviour has added so much Lustre to the British Arms. Their Humanity has not been less conspicuous than their Bravery; nor can there be a greater Contrast than between the Treatment received by the King's Subjects at George's Key, which surrendered at Discretion, and the Spanish Garrison of Omoa though taken by Storm: Captain Dalrymple's Orders and my Wishes have been punctually obeyed even by the Musquito Men, and those of Honduras that received such ill Treatment. Proper Respect has been shewn to the Governor, Spanish Officers; Soldiers and Inhabitants; neither Cloaths, Watches, Pocket Money or other Effects have been taken from these Prisoners. The Ornaments of the Church the Captors have agreed to give back, if the Spanish Court does punctually comply with the Agreement respecting the Exchange of Prisoners. The uniform Bravery and good Conduct of all the Officers and Seamen under my Command may make it appear ungracious to mark particular People; but the Services rendered by Captain Pakenham and Lieutenant Trott call for my most earnest Recommendation of them to their Lordships Favor. The former Gentleman, who is the Bearer of these Dispatches, can give more perfect Information respecting the Reduction of this Fort and Settlement. Captain Nugent has exerted himself upon every Point of Duty in a distinguished Manner. I am not particularly acquainted with the Merits of Individuals that served on Shore, except that Commandant Dalrymple is certainly entitl'd to infinite Honour and Praise, for the gallant Manner in which he led the Troops to the Escalade. Captain Carden exhibited many Proofs of his Abilities as an Engineer and a Soldier. I must leave it with Captain Commandant Dalrymple to give due Praise to all those whose Services on Shore call for it: He will, I am sure, take Notice of Lieutenant Wightman of the Marines, who was wounded under the

Enemy's Walls, and of all those who have deserv'd it at his Hands. I have the Pleasure to assure their Lordships, that the most perfect Harmony and Co-operations have subsist'd between the King's Troops employ'd at Sea and on Shore; such Services as have been in my Power to render my Country, I trust, will prove acceptable to His Majesty.

I am, SIR,
Your very humble Servant,
JOHN LUTTRELL.

A Return of the Killed and Wounded on Board His Majesty's Ships Charon, Lowestoffe, and Porcupine, in an Action against the Catholic King's Fort of St. Ferdinando de Omoa, on the 17th of October, 1779.

	Killed.	Wounded.
Charon	1	6
Lowestoffe	3	5
Porcupine	1	0

A Return of the Killed and Wounded on Board the Racehorse armed Vessel at George's Key in the Bay of Honduras, the 13th of September, 1779.
Racehorse - 2 killed. — 3 wounded.

N. B. The Return of the Garrison, and of the Artillery and Stores, are the same as printed above.

St. James's, December 18.

The King has been pleas'd to grant unto Robert Chetler, Esq; the Office of Secretary to the Governors of the Bounty of Queen Anne for the Augmentation of the Maintenance of the Poor Clergy.

The King has been pleas'd to appoint Dr. Hary Spens to be Second Master and Professor of Divinity in the New College of the University of St. Andrew's.

East-India House, November 17, 1779.

THE Court of Directors of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies, do hereby give Notice,

That the Transfer Books of the said Company's Stock will be shut on Thursday the 16th of December next, at Two o'Clock, and opened again on Thursday the 13th of January following.

And that the Dividend Warrants on the said Stock, due the 5th of January, will be ready to be deliver'd on Thursday the 3d of February next, instead of Friday the 4th, as before advertis'd.

Notice is hereby given to the Officers and Company of His Majesty's Ship Ambuscade, who were actually on Board at the retaking the Ship Sir William Erskine, John Montgomery Master, on the 1st of October, 1777, that they will be paid their respective Shares of 797 l. being the Second and Final Payments for the Proceeds of Salvage, &c. of the said Ship and Cargo, at the King's Head in Fenchurch-street, London, on Thursday the 6th Day of January, 1780; and that the Shares not then demand'd will be recalled at the Agents House, No. 25, Garlick-hill, the First Thursday in every Month for Three Years to come.
Watson and Rashleigh, Agents.

Richmond in Surrey, December, 1779.

THE Commissioners for building Richmond Bridge give Notice, that they will meet, at the Office in the Church-yard, on Monday the 3d of January next, at Eleven in the Forenoon precisely, to elect Two Commissioners, in the Room of Two lately deceas'd.

*By Order of the Commissioners,
Clem. Smith, Clerk.*

Royal Exchange Assurance Office.

London, December 8, 1779.

THE Court of Directors of the Royal Exchange Assurance Company do hereby give Notice, that their Transfer Books will be shut from Thursday the 16th of December instant to Tuesday the 11th of January next; and that the Annual General Court, appointed by their Charter, will be holden at their Office on the Royal Exchange, on Wednesday the 22d of December instant, at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon; and that a Dividend will be consider'd of at the said Court.