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Admiralty-Office, March 4, 1780.

CAPTAIN Robert Sutton, late Commander of His Majesty's Ship the Sphynx, arrived on the 1st Instant from the Leeward Islands, with Dispatches from Rear-Admiral Hyde Parker to Mr. Stephens, of which the following are Extracts and Copies.

Extract of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Hyde Parker to Mr. Stephens, dated Princess Royal, Gros Iſlet Bay, St. Lucia, December 9, 1779.

[Duplicate, of which the Original is not yet received.]

MY last to you of the 16th of October, acquainted you with my Arrival at Barbados; with the Squadron of His Majesty's Ships under my Command.

On the 24th of October, the *Astæon* and *Proserpine* came into Carlisle Bay, with the *Alcmene* Frigate of Twenty eight Guns, commanded by Captain de Bonneval: She was chased by several Ships, but struck to the *Proserpine*. From the Capture of this Ship I first learned with Certainty, that the Count D'Estaing was gone with all his Fleet to America.

Inclosed I send a List of Prizes taken since my last.

An Account of Prizes taken by His Majesty's Squadron under my Command, since my last.

1779. August 30. By the *Boreas*, after a smart Engagement of 20 Minutes, in which the *Boreas* had 4 Men killed and 5 wounded. French Flute *Le Compas*, 20 Guns, 140 Men, from Martinique, laden with Sugar.

Sept. 8 By the *Rover Sloop*. American Schooner *Sally*, 60 Tons, 6 Guns, 6 Men, from Marblehead to Guadaloupe, with Lumber.

— 16. By *Ditto*. American Schooner *Nancy*, 40 Tons, 5 Guns, 5 Men, from Salem to Guadaloupe, with Fish and Lumber.

— 16. By the *Proserpine*. A French Sloop, from Grenada to Eustatius, with Rum, Sugar and Coffee.

— 17. By *Ditto*. French Sloop *St. Vincent's*, from Dominique to Eustatius, with Rum, Sugar and Coffee.

— 20. By *Ditto*. Spanish Schooner *Seignora Socana*, from Barcelona to Eustatius, with Provisions.

— 21. By *Ditto*. Schooner *Maria Magdelana*, from Margarita to Martinique, with Fish.

— 29. By the *Surprize Sloop*. American Brig Fair, 120 Tons, 15 Men, from Charles Town to St. Martin's, with Rice and Tobacco.

[Price Seven-Pence.]

Oct. 4. By the *Proserpine*. French Sloop *Liberty*, from Grenada to Martinique, with Bottles.

— 5. By *Ditto*. French Sloop *Alexander*, from Grenada to Eustatius, with Rum, Sugar, and Coffee.

— 7. By *Ditto*. French Sloop *Le Superbe*, from Eustatius to Guadaloupe, with Bale Goods, Wine and Provisions.

— 29. By the *Surprize and Rover*. French Ship *St. Jean*, from Cape Francois to Old France, with Sugar, Coffee and Cotton.

— 21. By the *Astæon*, *Proserpine*, and *Cornwall*. French Frigate *Alcmene*, 28 Guns, 200 Men, from St. Domingó to Old France.

— 29. By the *Deal Castle and Barbados*. A French Sloop with Naval Stores, &c.

— 29. By *Ditto*. A French Sloop, with Sugar and Coffee.

— 29. By the *Preston*. An American Sloop, with Tobacco, &c.

Dec. 1. By the *Boreas*. French Ship *Conquereur*, from Marseilles to Martinique, with Sundries, Provisions, &c.

— 1. By *Ditto*. French Polacre *Lovely Maria*, from Marseilles to Martinique, with Sundries, Provisions, &c.

Extract of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Hyde Parker to Mr. Stephens, dated Princess Royal, Gros Iſlet Bay, St. Lucia, December 23, 1779.

Captain Sutton not having yet left the Squadron, gives me an Opportunity to add a Supplement to my Letter of the 9th Instant, and to desire you will inform their Lordships, that on the 18th Instant, between Eight and Nine o'Clock in the Morning, the *Preston* being between Martinico and St. Lucia, to Windward, made the Signal for a Fleet; which was no sooner observed on board the *Princess Royal*, than a Signal was thrown out for the Ships under my Command to slip their Cables, and chase to Windward. The Captains were then assembled at a Court Martial; and as the Ships were in a Course of Fitting, some lay on the Heel, others had their Sails unbent, and from all of them great Numbers were employed on Shore in Wooding and Watering. Under these Circumstances the Alertness and Dispatch with which the Ships put to Sea, was surprising even to me, who am no Stranger to the Activity and Briskness of the English Officers and Seamen. As the Squadron stood over for Port Royal, the Enemy's Ships were discovered to be a Convoy. Before Four in the Afternoon Nine or Ten of them run themselves on Shore on the Island Martinico, and were set on Fire by our Boats, either immediately or the next Morning. About the same Time I observed the

Boreas

