

Boreas engaged with the French Frigate in Port Royal Bay, a French Rear Admiral with two other 74 Gun Ships, slipped their Cables, and bore down upon him, which obliged the Boreas to sheer off. This dextrous Manœuvre saved their Frigate, and some of their Merchant Ships. The French Admiral hauled his Wind in good Time, and kept plying for the Road. The Ships a-head of the Princess Royal at this Time were the Conqueror, Albion, Elizabeth, Vigilant, and Centurion, but the Conqueror a-head and to Windward of the Rest. About Five this Ship got within Distance of the French Rear-Admiral who began the Cannonade. The Steadiness and Coolness with which on every Tack the Conqueror received the Fire of these Three Ships, and returned his own, working his Ship with as much exactness as if he had been turning into Spithead; and on every Board gaining considerably on the Enemy, gave me infinite Pleasure: The Rest of the Ships shewed no less Eagerness to get into Action. Towards Sun-set the Albion had got well up to second the Conqueror, and the other Ships were in Action, but as they had worked, not only within the Danger of the Shoals of this Bay, but within the Reach of the Batteries from whence were fired both Shells and Shot, I called them off by the Night Signal at a Quarter before Seven. It was with inexpressible Concern I then heard that Captain Walter Griffith was killed by the last Broadside.—The Service cannot lose a better Man or a better Officer. The Conqueror had Three Men killed and Eleven wounded: The Damage done to the Ship is not very considerable, nor I believe to any of the other Ships, as I have had no Report from them. They are cruising under Commodore Collingwood off the Point of Salines. We have taken Nine Sail of this Convoy which came from Marseilles under the Convoy of the Aurora about the Middle of October; I judge that, including the Frigate, they were Twenty-six in Number; four more had lost Company, and are yet expected, rather at St. Lucia than Martinico. All of the French Ships, except those who were engaged, were in the Carenage, I believe in ill Condition, and many of their Crews in the Hospital.

On the 20th, standing with Seven Ships over to St. Lucia, late in the Evening, I received a Letter from Sir Henry Calder, informing me Three large Ships were seen that Afternoon from the Morne steering to the Northward, supposed to be Part of Monf. la Mote Piquet's Squadron returning from Grenada. As I judged this Intelligence very probable, Rear-Admiral Rowley was immediately detached in the Suffolk, with the Vengeance, Magnificent, and Sterling Castle, in Pursuit of them.

P. S. I am well assured the Sphynx is retaken by the Proserpine, after a smart Action; but, as I have had no Letters since that Time from Commodore Hotham, I cannot give their Lordships the Particulars.

*Copy of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Hyde Parker to Mr. Stephens, dated Princess Royal, Gros Islet Bay, St. Lucia, January 2, 1780.*

S I R,

**T**HE Delay of the Merchant-Ship, on which Captain Sutton is embarked, furnishes me with the Opportunity, and Admiral Rowley's Return with the Occasion, of my writing you a Third Letter, that you may inform their Lordships of the

Success of his Cruize, which I do by transmitting a Copy of his Letter to me.

I am, S I R,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

H. PARKER.

*Philip Stephens, Esq;*

*Extract of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Rowley to Rear-Admiral Hyde Parker, dated Suffolk at Sea, off Mount Fortune, January 1, 1780.*

S I R,

**I**BEG Leave to acquaint you, that in pursuance of your Order of the 20th of December last, I proceeded with the Ships named in the Margin\*, in Pursuit of the Three Ships which you had Intelligence of.

On Tuesday the 21st, at Eight A. M. Three strange Sail being discovered from the Suffolk's Mast-head in the North West, I ordered the Signal to be made for a general Chace, which being obeyed with the greatest Alacrity, I had the Satisfaction by Noon to find we gained upon them very fast.

On Wednesday the 22d, at Three P. M. they hoisted French Colours, but soon after hauled them down again: At Five, having come well up with the Chace, which I could now plainly perceive were French Frigates, I fired a Shot at them, which was returned.—At Half an Hour past Six the Magnificent exchanged several Shot with one of the Frigates, which, after a Chace of Fourteen Hours, I had the Pleasure to see strike to her. She proved the La Blanche Frigate, of 36 Guns, and 212 Men, commanded by Monf. Gallissounerie.

At Eleven, the La Fortune Frigate of 42 Guns and 247 Men, commanded by the Chevalier Marigny, struck to the Suffolk, after a Chace of Eighteen Hours. The Vengeance on my Lee Quarter having come up with the La Blanche, took Charge of her, and exchanged the Prisoners, &c. while the Stirling Castle and Magnificent continued the Chace to Leeward after the third Ship, which they came up with and took, after a Chace of 36 Hours, on Thursday the 23d ult. at Three P. M. She proved the La Ellis of 28 Guns and 68 Men, commanded by Monf. Fonteneaux.

From the Information of the Officers belonging to the Frigates before mentioned, I learn, that they left Savanna on the 1st of November last, arrived at Grenada the 6th of December, left that Place the 9th, arrived at St. Vincent's the 15th, from whence they sailed the 19th, and were on their Passage to Martinique.

On our Passage, in Lat. 16 Deg. 36 Min. I fell in with a French Schooner from Martinique to America, which was taken by the Stirling Castle. In Lat. 15 Deg. 36 Min. I also fell in with the Young Frow Isabella, a Sloop from Grenada, bound to St. Eustatia; but having only Americans on board, she was detain'd as Prize by the Suffolk. On the 28th the Vengeance also took a small Schooner, laden with Fish from Margaritta, bound to Martinique.

The Readiness and Alertness with which the Captains, Officers and Seamen obeyed the Signals on this Occasion, were such as to merit every Thing I can say in their Favour.

\* Suffolk, Stirling Castle, Magnificent, Vengeance.