

the Day before for Intelligence (called the Munster Lass) rejoined me. Lieutenant Johnston, of the Marines, a brisk and active Officer, and zealous in the Publick Service, had requested me that he might be permitted to go in that Vessel to gain Intelligence. He landed at Twelve o'Clock at Night in Tyrrel's Bay, and immediately repaired to One of the principal Planters Houses, called Mr. Alexander Gordon: He instantly requested, that Mr. Gordon would dispatch Messengers to the Governor, acquainting him with the Arrival of the Fleet, and to know, where it would be proper to land the Troops that came to the Assistance of the Island.

Lieutenant Johnston's Surprize was great indeed when Mr. Gordon told him the Island had surrendered on the 2d Instant, and that Lieutenant Governor Ferguson and Major Stanhope were Prisoners at Scarborough.

I am convinced that something extraordinary must have happened, which could have induced Governor Ferguson and the Troops to have capitulated; but I hope, and sincerely believe, that notwithstanding the Enemy have taken the Island of Tobago, they will have no Reason to boast at the End of this Campaign.

As their whole Fleet is again in Fort Royal Bay, and as His Majesty's Island of Barbadoes, under Protection of the Fleet, is again put in a State of Defence, I shall instantly proceed with the whole Fleet off Martinique, to watch the Motions of the Enemy.

I must now, Sir, acquaint you, that, after receiving the Intelligence of the Surrender of Tobago, I stood with the Fleet to the Northward, and about Two in the Afternoon of the 5th Instant descried (from the Mast-head) the Enemy's Fleet to Leeward towards Granada and the Granadillas. Before Sun set we had neared them very considerably, and plainly observed that they consisted of 29 Sail, 24 of which were of the Line, and Five Frigates. Their Situation was such as rendered it impossible to attack them with a Probability of Success, as it was in their Power (Night coming on) to entangle His Majesty's Fleet among the Granadillas, to decoy them into the Channel between Granada and the Spanish Main, where the Currents are so very rapid, that His Majesty's Fleet might have been drove far to Leeward, while the Enemy had it in their Power to anchor under the Batteries of Granada, which might have been attended with the Capture of Barbadoes, before I could possibly have given it Succour.

The Enemy's Fleet standing to the Northward as well as His Majesty's, I flattered myself that they, depending upon their superior Number, might be induced to risk a Battle; and I was in Hopes to draw them by the next Morning to Windward of the Island of St. Vincent, where we should have had Sea Room to have attacked them.

With this View I gave Orders that all the Lights of the Fleet should be particularly conspicuous to the Enemy, that, in case they chose an Action, they might be sure their Wishes would be complied with the next Day.

On the 6th in the Morning at Day-light, then to Windward of the Island of St. Vincent, no Enemy appeared in Sight: They had tacked in the Night, and, as I hear, sheltered themselves in Courland Bay, Tobago. We instantly sent a Reinforcement of Troops to St. Lucia, to strengthen the Garrison, and put that Island out of all Danger.

I cannot conclude this Letter without assuring their Lordships, that I have the highest Confidence in the Spirit of the Officers and Men of the Fleet. I have the Honour to command; nor have I the least Doubt, but, if the Enemy will give them a proper Opportunity, that it will redound to the Honour of the British Flag.

Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Arbuthnot to Mr. Stephens, dated Bedford, off Sandy Hook, July 4, 1781.

THE Rumours that had been Abroad for a considerable Time past, that a Reinforcement of Troops was daily expected from France, induced me to send a Squadron into Boston Bay of superior Force, as the Enemy's Guard was reported to be

only Two Frigates: The Assurance, Charles-Town, Amphitrite, Vulture, and Savage, are employed on this Service; and the Royal Oak, in her Way to Halifax, was directed to take that Route.

I have since, by the Channel of the Rebels, received Intelligence, that a few Recruits and some Store-ships have notwithstanding got into Boston, with a French Fifty Gun Ship and Two Frigates; but Captain Duncan of the Medea, which arrived from Halifax on the 30th ult. informs me, that His Majesty's Sloop the Atalanta, which had been taken after a very gallant Action, by the Rebel Frigate Alliance, of 40 Guns, was retaken by that Detachment in Boston Bay, and that he spoke a Store-ship of near 800 Tons, also a Prize, on her Entrance into the Port of Halifax, as he came out. It is believed they have been much more successful, but I have no authentick Advices of their Operations. (I reserve some Particulars of the Atalanta's Action for another Letter.) The Medea, on her Return, captured Two Privateers from Salem, the Ship Rover, of Eighteen Six-pounders and 140 Men, and the Sloop Revenge, of Ten Guns.

I had frequent Intelligence from Rhode Island of the Intentions of the Enemy. The Maintenance of the French Garrison there prevented their affording material Aid to the Cause of Rebellion. It was to have been evacuated in June; and the Forces which constituted its Defence, were to have joined Washington, the low State of whose Army, and the Destruction of all the Resources for its Support, had determined him once again to meditate an Attempt against New York: However, the Count de Barras, at present commanding the French Squadron, being directed to continue at Rhode Island, the greatest Part of the French Troops, of Course, remain with him for its Defence.

The Rebel General Greene, after his Defeat at Guildford Court-House, penetrated into Carolina; and after his second Overthrow by Lord Rawdon at Camden, giving up all Thoughts of Charles-Town, retired up the Country, and invested our Post at Ninety-six, which is defended by Colonel Cruger. The Arrival of the Warwick and Solebay at Charles-Town, on the 13th of June, with the Troops under their Escort, which were immediately landed, determined Lord Rawdon to proceed after him; and from the Rebels we have since learnt, that Greene immediately retreated to the Northward. The Event of my Lord Rawdon's March is not yet officially known here, as the Warwick and Solebay, immediately after having made the Desbarkation, proceeded to join me, and arrived here on the 26th, with the Remainder of their Convoy, the Recruits for the Guards excepted, which were left with Lord Cornwallis in Virginia.

Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Arbuthnot to Mr. Stephens, dated Bedford, off Sandy Hook; July 4, 1781.

I HAD the Honor to mention, in my Letter of this Date, my Intention of reporting some particular Circumstances respecting the Capture of the Atalanta; they are communicated in the inclosed Paper.

The Atalanta, with a Gallantry that does her Captain the highest Honor, maintained the Action some Time after the Trepassey struck, until she was a Wreck, in which State she was carried to Halifax.

The Behavior of Lieutenant Samuel Arden, of the Atalanta, was brilliant beyond Expression: He lost his Right Arm in the Fight, and the Instant it was dress resumed his Station on Deck, where he remained until she struck, notwithstanding his Weakness and Loss of Blood.

I doubt not these Matters will be thought entitled to their Lordships Consideration.

Report of Mr. Philip Windsor, late Master of His Majesty's Sloop the Trepassey, in Halifax Harbour, June 11, 1781, viz.

ON Sunday the 27th of May, 1781, being on a Cruize with the Atalanta Sloop, by Order from the Commanding Officer at St. John's, Newfoundland, in Lat. 41. Long. 61. W. saw a Sail at Three P. M. S. E. distant Four Leagues: We bore up, and came within One League; finding her a large