

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday March 9, to Tuesday March 12, 1782.

Westminster, March 12.

THIS Day, the Lords being met, a Message was sent to the Honourable House of Commons by Sir Francis Molyneux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, acquainting them, that *The Lords, authorized by Virtue of His Majesty's Commission, for declaring His Royal Assent to several Acts agreed upon by both Houses, do desire the immediate Attendance of this Honourable House in the House of Peers, to hear the Commission read; and the Commons being come thither, the said Commission, empowering the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord High Chancellor of Great-Britain, the Lord President of the Council, and several other Lords therein mentioned, to declare and notify the Royal Assent to the said Acts, was read accordingly, and the Royal Assent given to*

An Act for raising a certain Sum of Money by Way of Annuities, and for establishing a Lottery.

An Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, and for the better Payment of the Army and their Quarters.

An Act for further continuing an Act, made in the Nineteenth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, for allowing the Importation of fine Organzined Italian Thrown Silk, in any Ships or Vessels, for a limited Time.

An Act for keeping the Militia Forces of this Kingdom compleat, during the Time therein mentioned.

An Act to continue the Term of an Act, made in the Twenty fourth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Second, for repairing and widening the Road from Preston to Lancaster, and from thence to a Place called Heirng Syke, that divides the Counties of Lancaster and Westmorland.

An Act for extending the Provisions of an Act made in the Thirtieth Year of His present Majesty, for more effectually amending several Roads leading from the Borough of Truro in the County of Cornwall, to the Roads leading from Shortlanes end in the Parish of Kenwyn to Callegock Burrow, and from the Two Burrows in the said Parish to Perran's Alms House, and from the Three Burrows in the said Parish to Saint Agnes Alms House in the said County.

An Act to confirm and carry into Execution certain Articles of Agreement entered into between the Right Honourable James Earl of Salisbury and the Trustees appointed by and under several Acts of Parliament, for repairing the Road leading from Galley Corner adjoining to Enfield Chase, in the Parish of South Mimms, in the County of Middlesex, to Lemmiford Mill, in the County of Hertford; and for turning and altering the said Road in the Manner mentioned in the said Agreement.

An Act for enlarging the Term and Powers of an Act, passed in the First Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, for repairing and amending the Road leading from White Croft in the Parish of Leven in Holderness, in the East Riding of the County of York, to the Town of Beverley in the same County.

And to Three Private Bills.

Admiralty-Office, March 12, 1782.

THIS Morning Captain Henry Edwin Stanhope, late of His Majesty's Ship the *Ruffel*, arrived here from Rear-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, Bart. with a Letter to Mr. Stephens, dated Barfleur, Bassè-Terre Road, the 7th of last Month, of which the following is an Extract:

THE Design of the Count de Grasse was most undoubtedly against Barbadoes, could he have got to Windward; but, failing of that, owing to

strong Easterly Winds, and a Lee Current, he bent his Course to this Island.

The Moment his Views were made known to me, I quitted Carlisse Bay, and got off English Harbour, with all the Haste in my Power; where I could only hear of a formidable Attack being made upon St. Christopher's, without any certain Information either of the Enemy's Sea or Land Force. I anchored in St. John's Road, and the Prudent having joined me, I sailed on the 23d in the Evening with 22 Sail of the Line, and was close off the South-East End of Nevis, at Day-Light next Morning, when I directed the Squadron to be formed in Order of Battle, with a Design of attacking the Enemy at Anchor, if I saw it practicable to any Advantage; but the Signal for the Line a-head was no sooner thrown out than Rear-Admiral Drake made *that* for speaking with me, and brought to; I did the same, and soon learnt he only repeated the Signal of the *Alfred* in the Rear; and that that Ship had run on board the *Nymphè*, and almost cut her asunder. It was reported to me, each had received so much Damage as to be unable to keep the Sea. I immediately ordered a Survey on both, and was happy to find the *Alfred* could be put in a State for present Service in the Course of the Day and following Night; but that the *Nymphè* could not. I therefore shifted the Troops, she had on board, to another Frigate, and ordered her to English Harbour, where she arrived safe. This Misfortune to the *Alfred*, obliged me to remove her from being the leading Ship, into the Center of my Line, and to place the *St. Alban's* in her Room. That Morning the look out Frigate a-head fell in with and took a very large King's Cutter of 16 Six-pouuders, but Seven Months old, and commanded by a Knight of Malta: She is named *L'Espion*; she came from Martinique about Thirty Hours before, and was full of Shells and other Ordnance Stores. In the Afternoon the Count de Grasse quitted this Road, and kept a few Miles to Leeward of me the whole Night.

At Day-light we plainly discovered 33 Sail of the Enemy's Ships, 29 of which of Two Decks formed in a Line a-head. I made every Appearance of an Attack, which threw the Count de Grasse a little from the Shore; and as I thought I had a fair Prospect of gaining the Anchorage he left, and well knowing it was the only Chance I had of saving the Island, if it was to be saved, I pushed for it, and succeeded, by having my Rear and Part of the Center engaged.

The Enemy gave a Preference to Commodore Affleck; but he kept up so noble a Fire, and was so supported by his Seconds, Captain Cornwallis and Lord Robert Manners, that the Loss and Damages sustained in those Ships were very trifling, and they very much preserved the other Ships in the Rear. The Prudent had the Misfortune to have her Wheel shot to Pieces the first Broadside, which occasioned her Loss to exceed that of any other Ship.

Would the Event of a Battle have determined the Fate of the Island, I would, without Hesitation, have attacked the Enemy, from my Knowledge how much was to be expected from an English Squadron, commanded by Men, amongst whom is no other Contention than who should be most forward in rendering Services to his King and Country: Herein I placed the utmost Confidence, and should not, I fully trust, have been disappointed.

I anchored His Majesty's Squadron in a close Line a-head; but Commodore Affleck having acquainted me that the *Bedford* had driven off the Bank, I ordered her into the Van.

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