

La Concorde, Plymouth Sound,

S I R,

April 25, 1794.

I Have the Honor to acquaint you of my Arrival here with His Majesty's Ship under my Command, with a French Frigate which we took in the Afternoon of the 23d Instant. The early Transactions of that Day has been detailed to you by Sir John Warren, but as the Flora was at too great a Distance to observe my Proceedings in the Afternoon, I beg to relate the Particulars of my Conduct from the Time we passed the Pomona after she had surrendered. About Eleven A. M. we were near enough to receive and return the Fire of the Enemy's Two Frigates which were making off. It was my Intention to endeavor to disable the sternmost, and leave her for the Ships of His Majesty which were following us, and push on to attack the leading Ship; but in this I was disappointed, for the leading Ship bore down, and closed to support his Second, and laying herself across our Bows, soon disabled us in our Sails and Rigging so much, that we dropped astern. We soon got our Sails on the Ship again, and I purposed to keep the Enemy's Two Ships in Checque till our's arrived, as the only Means of taking them both; but finding the Day far advanced, and little Probability of our being assisted, as our Ships rather dropped, and expecting our Maintop-mast, which was shot through, to go every Minute, knowing that if our Mast went, both the Ships must escape, I determined to secure the one I was nearest. She was assisted for some Time by her Second, but, changing Sides in the Smoke, it prevented him from annoying us. She was defended with the greatest Bravery from Twelve till a Quar-

ter before Two P. M. when being silenced, and totally unmanageable, they called they had surrendered. She proved to be L'Engageante, of 34 Guns and 4 Cannonades, with 300 Men. The other Frigate, Le Resolue, after firing a few Shot, stood on, and our Ship, much cut up in her Sails and Rigging, was not in a Condition to follow her. The Mast of the L'Engageante, in the Evening, as we attempted to tow her, fell; and expecting our's to go also, I availed myself of seeing the Nymph and Melampus, returning from the Chace of the Resolue, to make the Signal for Assistance. The Nymph joined us at Night, and we steered for this Port.

I must request you will please to inform their Lordships, that the zealous, cool and steady Conduct of the Officers and Ship's Company was highly meritorious in the Action; and their Efforts in refitting the Ship, after the Fatigue they had experienced, exceeded any Exertion I ever saw before. As the First Lieutenant, Charles Aphorp, was mostly with me, I had an Opportunity of observing the Spirit of Enterprize which pervaded his Conduct, and I must acknowledge the great Assistance he was of to me from the able Manner in which he performed the various Duties I employed him upon; and am convinced also of the good Conduct of Lieutenants Boys and Evans, who commanded on the Main Deck. I enclose a Report of the Damages and State of the Ship. And have the Honor to be, &c.

R. J. STRACHAN.

*Rear-Admiral Macbride,**&c. &c. &c.*