

of Islands, and the Commanders in Chief of His Majesty's Forces at Jamaica and the Leeward Islands respectively, are to give the necessary Directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

W. Fawkenner.

Lord Chamberlain's Office, June 6, 1794.

Notice is hereby given, that there will be no Drawing-Room at St. James's until Thursday the 19th Instant.

Admiralty-Office, June 7.

THE following is an Extract of a Letter from William Parker, Esq; Captain of His Majesty's Ship Audacious, to Mr. Stephens, dated in Plymouth Sound, on the 3d Instant.

I Have the Honor to acquaint you, for their Lordships Information, that, on the 28th Ult. in the Morning about Eight o'Clock, His Majesty's Fleet, under the Command of the Earl Howe, then in the Latitude 47 Deg. 33 Min. North, Longitude 14 Deg. 10 Min. West, got Sight of that of the Enemy.

The Wind blew strong from the Southward, and the Enemy's Fleet directly to Windward.

Every Thing was done by His Majesty's Fleet, per Signals from the Earl Howe (preserving them in Order) to get up with the Enemy, who appeared to be forming in Order of Battle. But, as I apprehend his Lordship considered their Conduct began rather to indicate an Intention of avoiding a general Action, at Fifty-five Minutes after One o'Clock he directed a general Chace.

It was just becoming Dark when His Majesty's Ship under my Command arrived up with the Rear Ship of the Enemy's Line. I immediately commenced a very close Action, which continued near Two Hours without Intermision; never exceeding the Distance of Half a Cable's Length, but generally closer, and several Times in the utmost Difficulty to prevent falling on board, which, as his last Effort to Appearance, at about Ten o'Clock he attempted to effect. At this Time his Mizzen-Mast was gone by the Board, his Lower Yards and Main Top-Sail Yard shot away; his Fore Top-Sail being full (though flying out from the Top-Sail Yard, the Sheets being shot away) he fell athwart our Bows, but we separated without being entangled any Time. He then directed his Course before the Wind, and, to Appearance, passed through or close astern of the Ships in the Rear of our Line.

When the Enemy separated from athwart our Bows the Company of His Majesty's Ship under my Command gave Three Cheers, from the Idea, taken from the People quartered forward, that his Colours were struck. This I cannot myself take upon me to say, though think it likely, from his Situation obliging him to pass through or near to our Line: But certain it is he was completely beaten; his Fire slackened towards the latter Part of the Action, and the last Broadside (the Ships Sides almost touching each other) he sustained without returning more than the Fire of Two or Three Guns.

His Majesty's Ship under my Command, at the Time we separated, lay with her Top-Sails aback, (every Brace, Bowling, most of her Standing and all her Running Rigging shot away) in an unmanageable State. It was some Time before I could get her to wear, to run to Leeward from the French Line, under Cover of our own Ships, which, by what I could judge by their Lights, were all pretty well up, and tolerably formed.

This being effected, I turned all Hands to the repairing our Damages, to get into Readiness (if possible) to resume our Station at Day-Light.

The Rear of the French Line had been engaged, at a Distance, by Rear-Admiral Palley's Division, and some other Ships that did not fetch so far to Windward, a considerable Time before I arrived up with them; and this very Ship was engaged by one of His Majesty's Ships, at some Distance to Leeward, the Time I did.

The Night being very dark, I could form but little Judgment of the Situation of our Fleet with respect to the French, in Point of Distance, other than, not hearing any Firing after our own ceased, I concluded they were scarcely far enough to Windward.

Soon after Day-Light the next Morning, to our utmost Chagrin and Astonishment, we discovered Nine Sail of the Enemy's Ships about Three Miles to Windward.

The Audacious then, with her Standing Rigging but very indifferently scopper'd, her Fore-Sail and Top-Sails unbent, Main Top-Sail in the Top in the Act of bending, we put before the Wind, with the Main and Fore Top Mast Stay-Sails only, ill set, from the Stays being shot away; but, it being hazy with Rain, and soon becoming thick, we, for a Time, were covered from their View, and before, as I apprehend, they had formed a Judgment of what we were.

The greatest Exertion was used by every Officer and Man in the Ship to get the other Fore-Sail and Main Top-Sail bent. The Fore Top-Mast being so badly wounded, the Fore Top-Sail was of but little Moment, however the People brought the damaged Sail to the Yard again, though it could not be hoisted; but, before we got the Fore-Sail and Main Top-Sail set, the Haze cleared off, and we soon discovered ourselves to be chased by Two of the Enemy's Ships. At this Period we saw the Ship we had engaged, without any Mast standing, and passed her at about a Mile and a Half Distance. The Ships coming up with us very fast, our Situation became very alarming, until we got the Main Top-Gallant Sail, Main Top-Mast, and Top-Gallant Studding Sails set, when it was judged we nearly preserved our Distance. However, from the Fore-Mast being in a tolerable State of Security, at Half past Nine we were about setting a lower Studding Sail, when Three Sail, that had been discovered to the Eastward some Time before, (viz. Two Ships and a Brig) coming pretty near us, hoisted French Colours.

The State of our Masts did not admit of making Alteration in our Course; they observing our shattered State, and Two Ships in Chace of us, stood athwart us boldly within Fire, and Shot were exchanged; the one a large Frigate and the other Two Corvettes; but, as we had so much Sail out, they fell astern for a considerable Time; at length the Frigate came within Shot of us again, and harassed us, by a distant Cannonade upon the Quarter, upwards of an Hour, but without doing us any material Injury, we only firing some of our after Guns upon each Deck at her. She was observed to make a Signal to the Ships astern, and soon after, viz. about Half past Twelve o'Clock, with the Two Corvettes, hauled her Wind, and, by its becoming hazy, the whole were soon out of Sight.

Having been chased Twenty-four Leagues directly to Leeward, and the crippled State of the Bow-sprit being such as judged impossible to stand if the Ship was hauled to the Wind, I considered the endeavouring