



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1795.

Admiralty-Office, April 6.

A Dispatch, of which the following is a Copy, was this Evening received from Vice-Admiral Hotham, Commander of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean.

Britannia, at Sea, March 16, 1795.

SIR,

YOU will be pleased to inform their Lordships, that on the 8th Instant, being then in Leghorn Road, I received an Express from Genoa, that the French Fleet, consisting of Fifteen Sail of the Line and Three Frigates, were seen Two Days before off the Isle of Marguerite, which Intelligence corresponding with a Signal made from the Mozelle, then in the Offing, for a Fleet in the North-West Quarter, I immediately caused the Squadron to be unmoored, and at Day-Break the following Morning we put to Sea with a strong Breeze from the East-North-East.

The Mozelle previously returned to me, with the Information, that the Fleet she had seen were steering to the Southward, and supposed to be the Enemy; in consequence of which I shaped my Course for Corfica, lest their Destination should be against that Island, and dispatched the Tarleton Brig to St. Fiorenzo, with Orders for the Berwick to join me with all possible Expedition off Cape Corse; but, in the Course of the Night, she returned to me with the unwelcome Intelligence of that Ship's having been captured Two Days before by the Enemy's Fleet.

To trespass as little as possible upon their Lordships Time, I shall not enter into a Detail of our

Proceedings until the Two Squadrons got Sight of each other, and the Prospect opened of forcing the Enemy to Action, every Movement which was made being directed to that Object, and that alone.

Although the French Ships were seen by our advanced Frigates daily, yet the Two Squadrons did not get Sight of each other until the 12th, when that of the Enemy was discovered to Windward.

Observing them on the Morning following still in that Direction, without any apparent Intention of coming down, the Signal was made for a general Chace, in the Course of which, the Weather being squally, and blowing very fresh, we discovered one of their Line of Battle Ships to be without her Topmasts, which afforded to Captain Freemantle, of the Inconstant Frigate, (who was then far advanced on the Chace) an Opportunity of shewing a good Proof of British Enterprize, by his attacking, raking, and harrassing her until the coming up of the Agamemnon, when he was most ably seconded by Captain Nelson, who did her so much Damage as to disable her from putting herself again to rights; but they were at this Time so far detached from our own Fleet, that they were obliged to quit her, as other Ships of the Enemy were coming up to her Assistance, by one of which she was soon afterwards taken in tow.

Finding that our heavy Ships did not gain on the Enemy during the Chace, I made the Signal for the Squadron to form upon the Larboard Line of Bearing, in which Order we continued for the Night.

At Day-Light the next Morning (the 14th) being about Six or Seven Leagues to the South-West of

Genoa,

[Price Four-pence Halfpenny.]