

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

It is impossible to contemplate the internal Situation of the Enemy, with whom We are contending, without indulging an Hope that the present Circumstances of France may, in their Effects, hasten the Return of such a State of Order and Regular Government as may be capable of maintaining the accustomed Relations of Amity and Peace with other Powers.

The Issue, however, of these extraordinary Transactions, is out of the Reach of Human Foresight.

Till that desirable Period arrives, when My Subjects can be restored to the secure Enjoyment of the Blessings of Peace, I shall not fail to make the most effectual Use of the Force which you have put into My Hands.

It is with the utmost Satisfaction that I have recently received the Advices of an important and brilliant Success obtained over the Enemy by a Detachment of My Fleet, under the able Conduct of Lord Bridport.

I have every Reason to rely on the Continuance of the distinguished Bravery and Conduct of My Fleet and Armies, as well as of the Zeal, Spirit, and Perseverance of My People, which have been uniformly manifested through the whole Course of this just and necessary War.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by His Majesty's Command, said;

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

It is His Majesty's Royal Will and Pleasure, That this Parliament be prorogued to Wednesday the Fifth Day of August next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Wednesday the Fifth Day of August next.

Admiralty-Office, June 27.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies and Extract, were Yesterday received at this Office.

Copy of a Letter from the Honorable Vice-Admiral Cornwallis, dated on Board His Majesty's Ship Royal Sovereign, at Sea, the 11th of June, 1795, to Evan Nepean, Esq; Secretary of the Admiralty.

S I R,

I Request that you will be pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that, on the 6th Instant, a Ship having been chased by the Squadron, a Signal was made to me from the Phaeton, that it was an Enemy's Frigate; but in the Evening Captain Stopford made me a Signal that he could not come up with the Chace, upon which I called him in, and brought to for the Night, being then in Latitude 47 deg. 28 min. Longitude 5 deg. 57 min. In the Morning of the 7th a Sail was seen again to the Eastward. I made the Signal for the Phaeton, Pallas and Kingsfisher to chace, and followed them with the Line of Battle Ships: It was blowing fresh from the North. As we came in with the Land several large Ships were seen under Sail, which proved to be a French Squadron, consisting of Three Line of Battle Ships, Six Frigates, a Brig, a Sloop and Cutter. Some of them were at first standing off Shore, but unfortunately the Wind was fair for them to get into Belleisle Road, where I saw several large Ships at Anchor. We had got

very near the Enemy's Ships, and I had hopes at first we should have got up with them before they would have reached their Port; and I made the Signal for the Snips to form for their mutual Support, and engage the Enemy as they came up. The Phaeton fired several Shot, which the Line of Battle Ships returned from their Sterns. I followed as far as I thought it prudent, and then hauled the Wind. Soon after I saw Three Sail standing in, I made the Signal to chace. They were Two French Frigates, and a large Dutch-built Ship in tow of one of them. They stood round the South End of Belleisle. The headmost Ships got within Gun-Shot, and several were exchanged. The Kingsfisher fired several Broadfides at the Frigates. They were obliged to cast off the Ship in Tow; and rounding the Point of the Island we came upon a Convoy, chiefly Brigs. Eight of them were taken; but the Frigates running in Shore among Shoals, the Triumph and Phaeton having made Signals to me of Danger, were obliged to give over the Pursuit.

By what I can learn the Convoy came from Bourdeaux, laden with Wine, and under the Charge of the Three Line of Battle Ships and Eight Frigates. A Brig Corvette had anchored close in with the South End of the Island in the Evening, whilst the Frigates were chased. At Night I directed Captain Stopford, in the Phaeton, to work in Shore, and if he did not perceive any Works to protect the Corvette, to endeavour to bring her out. He attempted it in the Morning, but they opened a Battery upon the Ship which he had not seen; and the Brig having been hauled very close in Shore during the Night, Captain Stopford very properly thought it was not an Object of Consequence enough to balance the Loss the Ship was likely to sustain, and therefore returned, having had One Man killed, Seven wounded, and Two of his Guns dismounted. I find the Vessels have Naval Stores as well as Wine. The Ship has Cannon, and I understand is laden with Naval and Ordnance Stores.

Two American Vessels, laden with Provisions of different Kinds, have been detained by the Squadron: I send them in by the Kingsfisher. I have ordered Captain Gosselin to join me again immediately.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Gosselin, of His Majesty's Sloop Kingsfisher, dated Falmouth, June 24, 1795, to Evan Nepean, Esq; Secretary of the Admiralty.

S I R,

YOU will be pleased to inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of the Arrival of His Majesty's Sloop under my Command, off this Port, and of having seen the large Ship (captured by Vice-Admiral Cornwallis's Squadron on the 7th Instant) in Safety; all the rest of the Convoy parted Company with me on the 19th in a severe Gale of Wind.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. L. M. GOSSELIN.

Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Cornwallis to Evan Nepean, Esq; Secretary to the Admiralty.

Royal Sovereign, at Sea, June 19, 1795.

I Have the Honor of acquainting you, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that on the 16th in the Morning, stand-

ing