

ing in with the Land, near the Penmarks, I sent the Phaeton a-head to look out for any of the Enemy's Ships upon the Coast. I stood after her with the rest of the Ships *. At Ten she made a Signal for seeing a Fleet a-head, and afterwards that they were of superior Force. Upon her bringing-to, I made the Signal to haul to the Wind upon the Starboard Tack. At this Time I could not see the Hulls of the strange Sails. Thirty were counted, and some of them had all their Sail out upon a Wind, being directly to Leeward of us. I stood upon the Starboard Tack with all our Sail, keeping the Ships collected. Upon enquiring by Signal the Enemy's Force, Capt. Stopford answered, Thirteen Line of Battle Ships, Fourteen Frigates, Two Brigs, and a Cutter; in all Thirty Sail. Near Half of them tacked in Shore in the Afternoon; the Wind fell very much, and came round to the Northward, off the Land, and of course brought those Ships of the Enemy (which had tacked) to Windward, and the others laid up for us. They were seen in the Morning before it was Daylight, upon both Quarters of the Squadron.

At Nine in the Morning one of the Front Line of Battle Ships began to fire upon the Mars. Their Frigates were ranged up abreast of us to Windward, except one, which kept to Leeward, and ran up upon the Larboard Quarter of the Mars, then yawed and fired, which was frequently repeated. This was the only Frigate that attempted any Thing. The Line of Battle Ships came up in Succession, and a teasing Fire, with Intervals, was kept up during the whole Day. In the Evening they made a Shew of a more serious Attack upon the Mars, (which had gotten a little to Leeward) and obliged me to bear up for her Support. This was their last Effort, if any Thing they did can deserve that Appellation. Several Shot were fired for Two Hours after, but they appeared to be drawing off, and before Sun-set their whole Fleet had tacked and were standing from us. The Mars and Triumph being the sternmost Ships were of course more exposed to the Enemy's Fire; and I cannot too much commend the spirited Conduct of Sir Charles Cotton and Sir Erasmus Gower, the Captains of those Ships. Lord Charles Fitzgerald also in the Brunswick kept up a very good Fire from the After Guns, but that Ship was the whole Time obliged to carry every Sail. The Bellerophon being nearly under the same Circumstances, I was glad to keep in some Measure as a Reserve, having Reason at first to suppose there would be full Occasion for the utmost Exertion of us all, and being rather a-head of me was not able to fire much. I considered that Ship as a Treasure in Store, having heard of her former Achievements, and observing the Spirit manifested by all on Board when she passed me, joined to the Activity and Zeal shewed by Lord Cranston during the whole Cruise. I am also much indebted to Captain Whitby for his Activity and unremitted Diligence on Board the Royal Sovereign. The Frigates shewed the greatest Attention and Alertness. I kept the Pallas near me to repeat Signals, which Captain Carleton performed very much to my Satisfaction. Indeed, I shall ever feel the Impression which the good Conduct of the Captains, Officers, Seamen, Marines and Soldiers in the Squa-

* Mars, Triumph, Brunswick, Bellerophon, Phaeton and Pollux.

dron has made on my Mind; and it was the greatest Pleasure I ever received to see the Spirit manifested by the Men, who, instead of being cast down at seeing Thirty Sail of the Enemy's Ships attacking our little Squadron, were in the highest Spirits imaginable. I do not mean the Royal Sovereign alone, the same Spirit was shewn in all the Ships as they came near me; and although (circumstanced as we were) we had no great Reason to complain of the Conduct of the Enemy, yet our Men could not help repeatedly expressing their Contempt of them. Could common Prudence have allowed me to let loose their Valour, I hardly know what might not have been accomplished by such Men.

Little Damage has been received by the Ships in general, except the Sterns having been very much shook by firing the Guns. The Mars reports Twelve Men wounded, but none killed; the Main-Mast, Fore and Fore-Top-Sail-Yard wounded, and her Rigging and Sails cut a good Deal. The Triumph has shifted and repaired some of her Sails, but any Damage she has received is so trifling, at least in her Captain's Eye, that Sir Erasmus Gower has not thought it worth reporting; indeed, the cool and firm Conduct of that Ship was such, that it appeared to me the Enemy's Ships dared not to come near her.

It has blown hard from the North-East since I parted from the French Fleet.

I take the first Opportunity of sending this by the Phaeton, lest, upon hearing that the French Fleet are at Sea, their Lordships may be under Apprehensions for the Safety of these Ships.

Copy of a Letter from the Honorable Captain Cochrane, of His Majesty's Ship Thetis, to Ewan Nepean, Esq; Secretary of the Admiralty, dated Halifax Harbour, May 28, 1795.

SIR, On Board His Majesty's Ship Thetis, Halifax Harbour, May 28, 1795.

BE pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that in consequence of Orders from Rear-Admiral Murray to cruise off the Chesapeake, to intercept the Three French Store-Ships then laying in Hampton Roads and ready for Sea, I proceeded, on the 2d Instant, with His Majesty's Ship Hussar, and on the 17th Instant, at Day-Break, Cape Henry bearing E. by S. distant Twenty Leagues, we discovered Five Sail of Ships standing to the N. W. with their Larboard Tacks on Board. We soon perceived that they were Ships of Force; Two of them appeared to carry from 28 to 30 Guns on their Main Decks, One of which had Lower Deck Ports; the Three others from 20 to 24 Guns.

On observing us standing towards them, they formed a Line of Battle a-head, and waited to receive us. At Nine, A. M. I made the Hussar's Signal to prepare to engage the Second Ship of the Enemy's Van, intending, in the Thetis, to attack the Centre Ship, which appeared the largest, with the Two others that formed their Rear.

At Half past Ten the Five French Ships hoisted their Colours, the Second Ship from the Van carrying a Broad Pendant. By this Time we had got within Half Musket Shot, when the Firing commenced on the Side of the Enemy, which was soon afterwards returned by His Majesty's Ships.

Before