

to you, that not being able to prevail upon her Commander, Citizen Durand, to surrender, after some Minutes Conversation, I opened a close and well-directed Fire upon him. After we had sustained the Fire of his Stern Chases some Time, and upon firing the second Broadside, he called out that he had struck. I had at the same Moment directed the Helm to be put to Port, in order to board him, as the Ships were going under a Press of Sail at the Rate of Ten Knots, and drawing near the Shore.

Allow me, Sir, to express to you how much I feel myself obliged to my First Lieutenant Edward Ellicott, for his very particular Attention in keeping Sight of the Chace, and for his steady and manly Courage when close engaged: The Cheerfulness with which he put himself at the Head of the Boarders promised me the happiest Success, if that Event had been necessary, and which was only stopped by the Enemy's calling to surrender.

In this short Contest the highest Praise is due to my Officers and Ship's Company, and the Effect of their steady Conduct is striking in the Number of Killed and Wounded, of which a List is annexed.

I cannot sufficiently express my own good Fortune in not having lost an Officer or Man, which is to be attributed to the Enemy's firing at the Masts and Rigging.

I am, &c.

FRA. COLE.

Sir Edward Pellew, Bart.  
 &c. &c. &c.

L'Unité, Citizen Durand, Commander.  
 Killed 9—Wounded 11.

*Indefatigable, Falmouth, April 23, 1796.*

S I R,

I Have most sensible Pleasure in desiring you to inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of my Arrival at this Port, accompanied by the French National Frigate La Virginie, of 44 Guns, Eighteen and Nine Pounders, and 340 Men, commanded by Citizen Bergeret, Capitaine de Vaisseau, who sailed from Brest singly, Four Days ago, to cruise off the Lizard in this favorite Frigate, which is considered the finest Ship and fastest Sailer in the French Navy, and of the largest Dimensions, being 158 Feet long and 43 broad.

On Wednesday Morning the 20th Instant, after I had sealed my Dispatches for their Lordships, laying-to under the Lizard, with the Squadron waiting for the French Frigate La Unité, our Prize, to weather that Point, I observed a Ship coming in from the Sea, which in my Mind looked rather suspicious; and, on her not answering the private Signal, when she tacked from us, I immediately gave Chace to her, accompanied by the Amazon and La Concorde, (having by Signal directed Le Revolutionnaire to attend her Prize into Port, and the Argo to proceed to Plymouth.) The superior sailing of the Indefatigable gave me the Satisfaction of coming up with her, after a Chace of Fifteen Hours, and running One Hundred and Sixty-eight Miles. Fortunately the Wind prevented her from steering for Ullant, or she must have escaped.

A little past Midnight I commenced Action with the Enemy, which was closely continued, under a crowded Sail, for One Hour and Forty-five Minutes. The Enemy, who fought gallantly, was by this Time

much crippled, her Mizzen-Mast and Main-Top-Mast being shot away; the Indefatigable was not much less disabled, having lost her Gaff and Mizzen-Top-Mast, the Main-Top-Sail was rendered useless by an unlucky Shot cutting both Leech-Ropes. In this Situation we passed the Enemy without the Power of avoiding it, having no After-Sail to back, and I had long discovered we had not only to combat a Ship of large Force, but that her Commander was completely Master of his Profession, in whose Presence I could not commit myself with Impunity, by throwing my Ship in the Wind, without submitting to be raked by him.

She had not at this Time struck, and we kept close a-head of her, receiving new Braces to enable us to bring the Ship to, to renew the Attack.

At this Period La Concorde appeared in Sight, close under her Stern; and, upon the Enemy seeing her, she fired a Gun to Leeward, and struck her Light, as a Signal of Surrender.

Although a very few Minutes would have placed the Indefatigable again alongside of her, I am confident she would not have surrendered without further Resistance, had not the Concorde so timely come up.

I am extremely indebted to Captains Hunt and Reynolds, for their very particular Attention in keeping after us during the Night on so many Courses, which nothing but the most delicate Observation of my Signals would have enabled them to do, their Distance aftern being so great.

Their Lordships are well aware how difficult it is in a Night Action with a flying Enemy, whose Rate of sailing is little inferior to her Antagonist, to choose a Situation; and, when it is remembered how often this Ship changed her's in the Action, I need scarcely say what great Attention was paid to my Orders by every Officer under my Command.

To Lieutenants Pellowe, Thomson and Norway, my Thanks are above Expression. Lieutenant Williams of the Marines, and Mr. Bell the Master, who were immediately about my Person, rendered me the utmost essential Services.—The Ship's Company, who have been my faithful Companions during the War, and are endeared to me by their uniform Exertions, manifested on this Occasion nothing but Ardour and Zeal.

But above all other Pleasures I feel is that of informing their Lordships that I have lost neither Officer nor Man in the Contest. The Enemy suffered considerably, having 14 or 15 killed, 17 badly wounded, and 10 slightly: The Ship much shattered in her Hull, and Four Feet Water in her Hold from Shot Holes.

I have sent La Concorde to Plymouth with La Virginie, and shall proceed with the Amazon, who has lost her Head, for the same Place, To-morrow, in order to repair the Damages we have sustained in the Action.

I am, &c.

EDW. PELLEW.

*Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Murray, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America, to Evan Nepean, Esq; Secretary of the Admiralty.*

ON the 11th Instant arrived L'Aurore, (French Corvette) Prize to His Majesty's Ship Cleopatra. She had only Fifty Men on Board when taken.