

AT the Court at St. James's, the 18th Day of
May, 1796,

P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

HIS Majesty having been pleased to appoint Charles Earl of Northampton to be Lord Lieutenant of the County of Northampton, his Lordship this Day took the Oaths appointed to be taken thereupon, instead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy.

Extract of a Letter from Captain Cayley, of His Majesty's Ship Invincible, to Mr. Nepean, Secretary to the Admiralty, dated at Sea, the 4th of April, 1796, Lat. 35. 28. N. Long. 18. 16. W.

ON the 1st Instant, in Lat. 37. 11. N. and Long. 18. 2. W. we captured the Alexander French Privateer, of Ten Guns and Sixty-six Men, commanded by Mons. Petre Edite, belonging to Nantz, out Ten Days; had captured the Signior Montcalm, from Lisbon, bound to the Brazils, which Ship was also recaptured. The Convoy being so near Madeira, I thought it proper to send the Albicore there with the recaptured Vessel, with Orders to endeavour to join the Convoy again as soon as possible. The Privateer I shall carry with me to the West Indies.

Extract of a Letter from Adam Duncan, Esq; Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the North Sea, to Mr. Nepean, Secretary to the Admiralty, dated Venerable, at Sea, May 16, 1796.—At Noon, Texel, S. E. by E. Distance 15 Leagues.

BE pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that, on the 12th Instant, at Day-Light, (the Texel then bearing N. W. by W. Distance about 8 Leagues) I discovered a Frigate and Brig standing in to the Fleet, making the private Signal to speak with me; they proved to be His Majesty's Ship Pegasus and Sylph Sloop, whom I had ordered to cruize off the Naze of Norway. Captain Donnelly came on Board, and informed me, that in consequence of the Information he had received on the 8th Instant, of the Dutch Frigate Argo and Three National Brigs having left Flickeroe the Day before, bound to the Texel, he proceeded off the Jutland Coast, and on the Morning of the 9th got Sight of them. He kept near them all Day, but lost Sight of them about Ten o'Clock that Night; and judging it proper to make me acquainted therewith, directed Captain White, of the Sylph, to steer a different Course to himself in order to fall in with me, and luckily they both joined. Having consulted with Captain Donnelly, and found they could not be many Leagues from us, I immediately dispatched Captain Halsted in the Phoenix, together with the Leopard, Pegasus and Sylph, to proceed to the Northward of the Texel, and spread the rest of the Squadron. All the Ships had just made Sail about Five o'Clock, when the Signal was made for seeing the Dutch Frigate and Brigs; made the Signal for a general Chace, it then blowing strong at W. N. W. with very hazy Weather. At a little before Nine o'Clock the Phoenix got up with the Dutch Frigate Argo, mounting 36 Guns and manned with 237 Men, and, after a very smart Action of about Half an Hour, (during which Time she made every Effort

to get off) she struck to the Phoenix's superior Fire; for the Particulars of which must beg to refer their Lordships to Captain Halsted's Letter herewith inclosed, who, I have the Pleasure to say, has on this and every other Occasion, whilst under my Command, shewn himself to be a most active, zealous and excellent Officer.

We continued in Chace of the Brigs, leaving the Powerful to assist Captain Halsted in shifting the Prisoners, &c. At Ten o'Clock we saw the Leander and Pegasus near Two of the Brigs, (which I have since found to be the Echo of 18 Guns, and the De Gier of 14 Guns) but it was so hazy and blowing so hard, we soon lost Sight of them; however, by the inclosed Letter I received from Captain Donnelly, their Lordships will be informed they were both run on Shore near Bosch, about Ten Leagues to the Eastward of the Texel.

The Leander, I find, stood so near the Shore as she could with Safety, and saw one of the Brigs aground; and from the Report of the Master of one of the Cutters I sent in Shore, after, find one of them was completely lost; the other had beat over a Shoal, and got to an Anchor, but as it blew a perfect Storm the next Day on Shore, have Reason to believe she is lost also.

We stood after the other Brig, and a little before Eleven she struck to the Sylph; she proves to be the Mercury of 16 Guns, (all of which except Two she had thrown overboard during the Chace) and manned with 85 Men. We then found ourselves far to the Eastward, with the Wind on Shore, which obliged us to carry a Press of Sail, and in the Night it came to blow a very hard Gale of Wind, which continued the whole of the next Day; and the Day following, being more moderate, was rejoined by the Powerful, Phoenix and Brilliant, together with the Dutch Frigate and the Duke of York Bye-Boat from Yarmouth to Hamburgh, which had been captured by the Argo the Day before, and retaken by the Phoenix on the 12th. The Frigate is in excellent Condition, and in a few Days might be got ready for Sea and made a complete Cruizer.

I am, &c.

ADAM DUNCAN.

*Pegasus, Texel, S. S. W. distant 20 Leagues,
May 12, 1796.*

SIR,

I Have the Honor to inform you, that Two of the Dutch Brigs which we chased this Morning got close in with the Land about Bosch, on the Coast of Frizeland, and finding by our outfalling them that they had no other Means of Escape, run on Shore close to us; one of them floated off, but she afterwards took the Ground, and, having touched it ourselves, we found it necessary to stand off, leaving them with Signals of Distress in their Foretop-Mast Shrouds, and firing Guns.

We should have endeavoured to get between them and the Land, but could not haul sufficiently up without shortening a great deal of Sail, which would have been the Means of letting them fore-reach upon us so as to get away. My Motive for giving this Information is in the Event of the Ships after not having been sufficiently near to have ascertained it.

As it would have taken some Time to work up to you, I judged it prudent to proceed in pursuance

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