

attended to during this Chace and Engagement, she got off.

Their Lordships will find more Particulars on this Subject in the inclosed Letter to me from Captain Martin, who is safely arrived here with his Prize; which Capture is the more interesting, as she has been by far the most active and successful of all the Enemy's Cruizers against our Trade.

The Credit of the British Name has been so eminently well supported on this Occasion by the Zeal, Spirit and Judgment with which His Majesty's Ships were conducted, that it becomes wholly unnecessary for me further to express my Sense of the Merits of their Captains, Officers and Crews.

I am, Sir, &c. &c. &c.

R. KINGSMILL.

*Santa Margaritta, at Sea, June 11, 1796.*

S I R,

I Have the Honor to inform you that on the 7th Instant, being in Company with His Majesty's Ship Unicorn, Eighteen Leagues West of Scilly, we discovered, at Two o'Clock in the Morning, Three Sail of Ships about a Mile on our Lee Beam; as the Day opened we perceived them to be Frigates belonging to the French Nation, which I communicated to Captain Williams by Signal, who immediately made Sail to join me, and on his near Approach made our Signal to pass within Hail, for the Purpose of giving him Information of the Enemies Force. The Statement of their Superiority encouraged him in his eager Pursuit, having said that he would attack the largest Ship, and desiring me to engage the next in Strength. This noble Example inspired every Person with Confidence of Success, and each Ship steered for her Opponent; but the Enemy, determined to evade an Action, steered away large under a Press of Sale, the smallest Ship at the same Time making off to Windward: At Half past Eleven o'Clock, by our superior Sailing, we arrived within Gun-Shot of the Enemy; but as they appeared to close, for the mutual Support of each other, and the Unicorn being some Distance astern, I judged it prudent to postpone our Attack till she was sufficiently advanced to occupy the Attention of the French Commodore. At this Time the Enemy commenced a Fire from their Stern-Chace Guns. At One o'Clock, having approached them within Three Quarters of a Mile, we fired our Bow Guns, whenever a favourable Opportunity presented itself, the Enemy at the same Time yawing to discharge their Broadfides. At Two o'Clock, the Unicorn being on our Weather Beam, we made Sail, keeping up a running Fight till a Quarter past Four o'Clock, when the sternmost Ship finding it impossible to escape, put his Helm a-port, and endeavoured to rake us; but being fortunately baffled in this Effort afforded us an Opportunity of placing ourselves abreast of him within Pistol Shot, when a quick and well-directed Fire compelled him to surrender to His Majesty's Ship in less than Twenty Minutes. She proved to be the Thames, commanded by Citoyen Fraden, mounting 36 Guns and 306 Men. The Ship, which the Unicorn continued in Chace of, is La Tribune, of 40 Guns and 320 Men, bearing the Broad Pendant, Citoyen Moulton, Commander of a Division; the other, which made

off to Windward, is La Legere of 24 Guns and 180 Men; I am glad to observe that our Loss is very disproportionate to the Enemy, having only Two Seamen killed, and the Boatswain and Two Seamen wounded, and her's Thirty-two killed and Nineteen wounded, and many of the latter have since died.

It is with extreme Pleasure that I seek the present Opportunity of testifying my Gratitude to the Officers and Ship's Company for their active Zeal and steady Unanimity at all Times and in all Situations, but more particularly in the Capture of the Thames, on which Occasion their Courage and exemplary Conduct is worthy of the greatest Praise. The Readiness of Mr. Harrison, the First Lieutenant, and his prompt Execution of my Orders, did essentially facilitate our Success. It is my sincere Wish to particularize each Individual, but where general Merit claims the greatest Approbation, to discriminate becomes a difficult Task. In Addition to the Officers and Ship's Company, may I also be permitted to beg you will offer to the Consideration of the Admiralty the meritorious Conduct of Captain Joseph Bullen, a Master and Commander in the Navy, serving in the Santa Margaritta as a Volunteer, by Permission from Lord Spencer: His Desire to have some active Employment induced me to beg he would assist in the Management of the Main Deck Guns, as I well knew that his long Services and approved Courage in various Situations would be a proper Example to the younger Part of the Ship's Company.

I have the Honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

T. B. MARTIN.

*Vice Admiral Kingsmill,*

*&c. &c. &c.*

*L'Engageante, Cork Harbour,  
June 13, 1796, Three P. M.*

S I R,

I Send this Express to Cork, hoping it will overtake my Letter of this Date by the Post from hence, for the Purpose of giving to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty as early as possible the agreeable Intelligence that His Majesty's Ship Unicorn is now in Sight, off the Harbour, with her Prize La Tribune. I have the Honor to be,

S I R,

Your's, &c.

R. KINGSMILL.

*E. Nepean, Esq;*

*Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Kingsmill,  
Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and  
Vessels on the Coast of Ireland, to Mr. Nepean,  
dated Cork Harbour, June 14, 1796.*

THE Expectations my last Letters to you must have raised, are most happily realized. I now with peculiar Satisfaction desire you will acquaint their Lordships, that the French Frigate La Tribune, of 44 Guns and 337 Men, bearing Commodore Moulton's Broad Pendant, is captured, and brought in here by His Majesty's Ship Unicorn, commanded by Captain Williams, whose official Letter to me, containing a Detail of the Circumstances, is herewith transmitted. It is remarkable, that though they were