

*On Board His Majesty's Ship the Inconstant,  
Leghorn Road, June 27.*

MY LORD,

IN consequence of the Intelligence which I received on the 24th Instant, from the Honorable William Frederick Wyndham, His Majesty's Minister at Florence, and from my different Emissaries on the Roads, that there was a considerable Probability that the French would enter Leghorn, I immediately called a Meeting of the Gentlemen of the Factory, and communicated to them the abovementioned Information; and if equal Attention had been paid to it by all as was done by the principal Members, the Loss would have been far less considerable. I am happy, however, to be able to inform your Lordship, that by the extraordinary Exertions which have been made, and in particular by Captain Freemantle, commanding His Majesty's Ship the Inconstant, every English Ship in the Mole, Twenty-three in Number, together with great Part of the valuable Effects in the Warehouses, and about Two Hundred and Forty Oxen for the Use of His Majesty's Fleet, have, in the Course of Two Days and Nights, been saved.

I have the Honor, &c.

JOHN UDNY.

*Victory, off Toulon, July 1, 1796.*

MY LORD,

HAVING seen the Factory and English Subjects, and the Convoy, with their valuable Effects, safe into Corsica, I proceeded in His Majesty's Ship Inconstant, Captain Freemantle, to receive the Commander in Chief's Instructions for my future Government in the Service of His Majesty's Fleet; and having received Sir John Jervis's Orders, I am returning immediately to Corsica, in His Majesty's Ship Inconstant, to rejoin the Factory and execute his Commands.

I am, &c.

JOHN UDNY.

Admiralty-Office, July 22, 1796.

*Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Macbride to Mr. Neptun, dated on Board His Majesty's Ship Russell, in Yarmouth Roads, July 21, 1796.*

PLEASE to inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of the Arrival of His Majesty's Ship Glatton, after having had an Action with Six French Frigates, a Brig, and Cutter, off Helvoetsluys. Enclosed is a Letter from Captain Trollope, giving an Account of that spirited Affair: I have ordered her to the Nore to refit.

*Extract of a Letter from Captain Trollope, of His Majesty's Ship the Glatton, to Vice-Admiral Macbride, commanding His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in Yarmouth-Roads, dated the 21st Instant.*

I BEG Leave to inform you, that, in pursuance of your Orders, I sailed in His Majesty's Ship Glatton on the 15th of July from Yarmouth-Roads, in order to join Captain Savage and a Squadron under his Command; and on the 16th at One P. M. we observed a Squadron about Four or Five Leagues off Helvoet. Owing to light Winds and Calms it was Seven P. M. before we were near enough to discover the Squadron to consist of Six Frigates, One of which, the Commodore's Ship, appeared to

mount near Fifty Guns; Two others appeared about Thirty-six Guns, remarkably fine long Frigates; and the other Three smaller, and might mount about Twenty-eight Guns each. There were also a very fine Brig and Cutter with them. We soon suspected, from their Signals and their not answering our private Signals, that they were Enemies, and immediately cleared for Action, and bore down to them. From their manœuvring it was Ten at Night before we got close alongside the third Ship in the Enemy's Line, which from her Size we supposed to be the Commodore; when, after hailing her, and finding them to be a French Squadron, I ordered him to strike his Colours, which he returned with a Broadside, and I believe was well repaid by One from the Glatton within Twenty Yards; after which the Action became general with the Enemy's Squadron, the Two Headmost of which had tacked, and One of the largest had placed herself alongside, and another on our Weather Bow, and the Sternmost had placed themselves on our Lee Quarter and Stern: In this Manner we were engaged on both Sides for a few Minutes, with our Yard-Arms nearly touching those of the Enemy on each Side; but I am happy to acquaint you that in less than Twenty Minutes the Weight of our Fire had beat them off on all Sides; but when we attempted to follow them, we, much to our Regret, found it impossible. I have no Doubt, from the apparent Confusion the Enemy were in, we should have gained a decisive Victory, but unfortunately, in attempting to wear, we found every Part of our Running Rigging totally cut to Pieces, and the major Part of our Standing Rigging; every Stay, except the Mizzen, either cut or badly wounded, and our Masts and Yards considerably damaged. In this Situation, although every Officer and Man exerted themselves to the utmost the whole Night, it was Seven in the Morning before the Ship was in tolerable Order to have renewed the Action. The Enemy, who appeared in the Morning in a close Line, seemed to have suffered very little in their Rigging, although I am certain they must have much Damage in their Hulls, at which the whole of our Fire was directed. As they did not chuse to come near us again, although they must plainly have seen our disabled State, but made the best of their Way for Flushing, and we followed them as close as we could till the 17th at Nine A. M. when they were within Three Leagues of that Port, with the Hopes of meeting with some Assistance to enable me to destroy them; but it coming on to blow hard at West, in the disabled State the Ship was in, we were forced to haul off the Shore; but although we were not able to take any of them, I trust you will think the Officers and Men whom I have the Honour to command in the Glatton, to whom I have Reason to give every Merit for their steady, gallant and cool Behaviour in the Attack, have done their utmost, and also some Good, in driving so very superior a Force into Port to refit, that might have done very considerable Damage to our Trade had they got to Sea. I cannot conclude this without recommending to your Notice, in the strongest Manner, Lieutenant Robert Williams (2d), my First Lieutenant, who gave me every Assistance in his Power on the Upper Deck; and also Lieutenant Schomberg, Second Lieutenant, and Lieutenant Pringle, Third Lieutenant, who commanded on the Lower Deck; and also Captain Strangeways, of the Marines, who, I am very sorry to acquaint you, has received a bad Wound from a Musquet Ball in his

Thigh,