

Admiralty-Office, August 20, 1796.

*Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Murray, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Halifax, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated on Board the Resolution, July 15, 1796.*

THE Thetis arrived here on the 1st of last Month, and brought me a Letter from Captain Evans, (of which I enclose a Copy, No. 1.) giving an Account of the Capture of the French Privateer Vulcan by His Majesty's Sloop Spencer; and on the 7th of the same Month the Esperance arrived, and brought me a Letter from Captain Rodd, (of which I also enclose a Copy, No. 2.) containing an Account of the Capture of another French Privateer, named the Poisson Volante, formerly the Flying Fish, in His Majesty's Service.

(COPY, No. 1.)

*Spencer, St. George's, Bermuda,*

SIR,

*May 19, 1796.*

I Have the Honor to inform you of our Arrival in this Port, as also that on the Morning of the 4th Instant, being in Company with His Majesty's Ships Bonetta and Esperance, in Latitude about 28 deg. N. and Longitude 69 deg. W. our Signal being made to chase to the Westward, with the Wind N. E. we made Sail, but perceiving the Chace was hauled to the Wind on the Larboard Tack, we pursued her under a Press of Sail: At Ten, A. M. she bore up, endeavouring to escape before the Wind; at Half past Eleven our Bow Chaces went over her, when she shewed French Colours, and fired several Shot from the Stern; at Twelve o'Clock, being close up with her, we began to engage her; at a Quarter past One, her Topmast being shot away, and her Sails and Rigging cut to Pieces, she surrendered. She is called the Volcan, Citizen Bremand, Commander, pierced for 16 Guns, mounting 12 long Four-Pounders, with some Cohorns and Swivels, and having between 70 and 80 Men, from Charlestown, bound to Guadaloupe. She is a National Corvette.

I am happy to say that our Loss, considering her Tops and lower Yards were manned with Marksmen, and that she had 30 Men at Small Arms, was inconsiderable, having One killed and One wounded. I cannot ascertain the Loss of the Enemy with Precision, as they endeavour to conceal it, but I find that Six have been thrown overboard during or after the Action, and that several others are wounded.

My Officers and Ship's Company deserve the highest Credit for their Conduct on this Occasion, evincing a Coolness and Obedience very meritorious. I feel a peculiar Gratification in recommending Lieutenant Lenox and Mr. Harriden the Master to your Notice.

I am informed that some Powder Flasks and a Variety of Combustibles, (which they had prepared with an Intention of boarding us) taking Fire, occasioned great Havoc amongst them.

I have to add that the Spencer's Damage, excepting the Mizen Mast and some of the Running Rigging rendered useless, is not material.

I am, SIR, &c. &c. &c.

AND. F. EVANS.

*Vice-Admiral Murray.*

(COPY, No. 2.)

*Bonetta at Sea, Tybe Light-House bearing W. S. W. Distance 10 Leagues.*

SIR,

I Beg Leave to inform you, that on the 4th of this Month, after having stood to the Southward and

Eastward in order to get hold of an Easterly Wind, that at Five A. M. I made the Spencer's Signal to chase a Sail W. by S. the Wind being then about N. by E. That the Chace had brought the Spencer nearly by the Wind, at Eight o'Clock, to the Southward and Eastward, I having previous to this hauled after her, in order to keep in Sight. About Eight the Esperance made the Signal for a Sail W. by S. At about Half past Nine saw Two Sail in the S. W. a Schooner and Sloop. At a Quarter past Ten the Bonetta and Esperance gave Chace to the Schooner, she appearing very suspicious, and, after our having kept away and made Sail, she crowded every Thing from us. The Spencer being in chase to the S. S. E. and the Bonetta and Esperance to the S. W. by W. and at the Time we gave chace being at a great Distance, we unavoidably parted Company. The Esperance being considerably to Leeward of the Bonetta, consequently much nearer the Chace, very fortunately kept Sight of her; and about One, A. M. on the 5th, after having fired several Shots at her, brought her to: She turned out to be the Republican Schooner Le Poisson Volant, from Aux Cayes to New York, which Place she had left a few Days, and Eight or Ten Days the Concorde, who was also bound for New York; she was formerly the Flying Fish in His Majesty's Service, and commanded by Lieutenant Seton, on the Jamaica Station, and was taken by Two Privateers after a smart Action. The People on Board her cut her Gunwales down, hove some of her Guns overboard, and otherwise damaged the Schooner; all of which Captain Rose will be able to give you a particular Account of; she was commanded by a Sub-Lieutenant of the Concorde, and the Prisoners in all amount to Thirty-eight.

I have the Honor to be,

SIR, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN TREMAYNE RODD.

*Vice-Admiral Murray,*

*&c. &c. &c.*

*Admiralty-Office, August 20, 1796.*

*Copy of a Letter from Admiral Peyton, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Downs, to Mr. Nepean, dated August 19, 1796.*

SIR,

I Have received a Letter from the Master of His Majesty's hired Armed Cutter Lion, dated the 17th Instant, which acquaints me that on the 16th, Beachy Head bearing E. N. E. Four Leagues, Signal being made of an Enemy at the Signal-Post, the Lion, together with the Swallow Revenue Cutter, chased a Lugger and a Sloop, recaptured the Sloop, and took the Lugger; found her to be a French Privateer, with Swivels and Small Arms, and 17 Men, Three Days from St. Valory's, and had not taken any thing but the above Sloop. I am, &c.

JOS. PEYTON.

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BY a Letter from Sir John Borlase Warren, commanding a Squadron of His Majesty's Frigates, dated the 7th Instant, Information is received that he had chased into Dovarnenez Bay, near Brest, a French Convoy, under the Protection of a Frigate of 30 Guns, and a Brig of 18, which were driven on Shore, and the latter bilged; as were also a Transport of 600 Tons, and Schooner of 80 Tons; and that Five Brigs of 250 Tons each, Two Chasse Marées of 90, and a Dogger of 100, were abandoned by their Crews and burnt.