



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1796.

*Parliament-Street, November 3, 1796.*

**A** Dispatch, of which the following is a Copy, was this Day received by the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Major-General Craig, commanding His Majesty's Troops at the Cape of Good Hope, dated Camp on the Shore of Saldanha Bay, August 19, 1796.

S I R,

I Have great Satisfaction in reporting to you the Event of an Attempt which has been made by the Enemy, and which has terminated to the Honor of His Majesty's Arms, in the entire Capture of the Squadron of Dutch Ships of War, destined for the Purpose of retaking this Settlement.

Having made every Arrangement within my Means, by the Establishment of a small Post, and the laying the Road by a sufficient Number of the few Men which I had been able to mount, for watching Saldanha Bay, I received a Report on the 3d Instant, transmitted in Fourteen Hours, that Nine Ships had appeared off that Coast on the preceding Afternoon, which I immediately communicated to Vice-Admiral Sir George Keith Elphinstone. By the same Report there appeared to be the strongest Pro-

bability that His Majesty's Brig the Hope had been captured by them; and as there was no further Account of them the next Day I concluded that the Information which they had received, by that Means, of our Strength here, had induced them to continue their Route, and that they would stand far to the Westward before they doubled the Cape, to avoid Sir George's Fleet, which had put to Sea as soon as was possible after the Receipt of the Intelligence.

In order, however, to omit no Precaution, I sent up Lieutenant M<sup>r</sup>Nab, with a few mounted Men, to watch the Bay more narrowly; and from him I received a Report, on Saturday Night the 6th Instant, at Twelve o'Clock, that the same Number of Ships which had formerly been reported had anchored that Morning in the Bay, and that there was no Doubt of their being Enemies. I lost not a Moment in sending Directions to Simon's Town, from whence, by the general Willingness and Activity which prevailed amongst all Ranks, Five Vessels were dispatched by Nine o'Clock, in Quest of the Admiral, with the Information.

As it fortunately happened that the 25th and 27th Light Dragoons, with Part of the 19th and the Whole of the 33d Regiments, were in Simon's Bay, I could

[ Price Nine pence. ]