

that this Our Proclamation seen, ye forthwith pass to the Market Cross of Edinburgh, and all other Places needful, and there, in Our Name and Authority, make Publication hereof; that none pretend Ignorance: And Our Will and Pleasure is, That Our Solicitor do cause printed Copies hereof to be sent to the Sheriffs of the several Shires, Stewarts of Stewartries, and Bailiffs of Regalities, and their Clerks, whom We ordain to see the same published: And We appoint them to send Copies hereof to the several Parish Churches within their Bounds, that upon the Lord's Day immediately preceding the Day above mentioned the same may be published and read from the Pulpits immediately after Divine Service.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the Twenty-fourth Day of January, One thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, in the Thirty-eighth Year of Our Reign.

GOD save the KING.

Admiralty-Office; February 6, 1798.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral the Earl St. Vincent, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed on the Coast of Portugal, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated on Board the Ville de Paris in the Tagus, the 20th of January, 1798.

SIR,

I Enclose Letters from the Captains of L'Aigle, Alcmené and Mercury, Speedy and King's Fisher Sloops, reciting the Captures of French and Spanish Privateers made by the Ships and Sloops under their Commands. The Judgment displayed by Captain Pierrepont, joined to his spirited Conduct, and that of the Officers and Crew of His Majesty's Sloop King's Fisher, in the Action with the Betsey, does Credit to them and Honor to His Majesty's Arms; and the Activity of all the Cruizers under my Command is worthy of Commendation.

I am, &c.

ST. VINCENT.

L'Aigle, at Sea, January 5, 1798.

My Lord,

I HAVE the Honor to inform your Lordship, on the 4th Instant, off the Coast of Coruña, I chased and captured a French Privateer Ship, of 20 Guns and 90 Men; been out Eight Days from L'Orient; she is coppered and a fast Sailer; not made any Capture.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

CHA. TYLER.

*Right Hon. Admiral Earl St. Vincent,
K. B. &c. &c. &c.*

Alcmené, at Sea, January 9, 1798.

My Lord,

I HAVE the Honor of informing your Lordship, that the Buonaparte French Privateer, carrying 2 Guns, some Swivels, and 40 Men, was last Evening chased by the Squadron under my Command, and captured, after a few Hours Chace, by His Majesty's Ship Lively; she has been out Nine Days from Cadiz, without taking any Thing.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

GEO. HOPE.

Right Hon. Admiral the Earl St. Vincent.

*His Majesty's Ship Mercury, at Sea,
January 15, 1798.*

My Lord,

I HAD the Honor to acquaint you, in my Letter of the 6th Instant, of having captured Le Benjamin French Ship Privateer, belonging to Bordeaux. I have now the Satisfaction to inform your Lordship, that this Morning, Cape Finisterre bearing East Half North 40 Leagues, we discovered Two Sail to Leeward, and, upon chasing them, soon found they were armed Vessels. They continued near together until the Mercury came almost within Gun-Shot of the Sternmost, intending, as I supposed, to support each other; but, upon being close pressed, they steered different Courses, and I was enabled to come up with only one of them, after a Chace of Eight Hours, who fired a few Shot, and struck his Colours: She proves to be Les Trois Sœurs French Brig Privateer, belonging to Rochelle, pierced for 18 Guns, but mounting 16 Six-Pounders, and 100 Men, Copper-bottomed, sails remarkably well, and only Five Days out of Port on her first Cruise.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

THO. ROGERS.

*To the Earl of St. Vincent,
&c. &c. &c.*

Speedy, off Oporto, January 4, 1798.

My Lord,

I Have the Honor to acquaint you, that His Majesty's Sloop Speedy, having under Convoy the Brigantine Sally and Active, to see them clear of the Coast from the Spanish Row-Boats, captured, on the 1st Instant, Fifteen Leagues West of Viana, La Oliva, a Spanish Schooner Privateer, mounting 4 Carriage Guns and 12 Swivels, and manned with 40 Men; she is new, and coppered, out from Vigo Ten Days; and has not taken any Thing. I have the Honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordships most obedient
Humble Servant,

HUGH DOWNMAN.

Earl St. Vincent.

King's-Fisher, Tagus, January 12, 1798.

My Lord,

I Have the Honor to acquaint your Lordship, that on the Morning of the 8th Instant, the Burlings bearing East, distant Fifty Leagues, at Day-Light we discovered a Ship in our Weather Quarter, and soon after perceived her to bear up, and stand towards us; at Nine we tacked, and at half past she hoisted French Colours, and began firing, which we returned as we passed on different Tacks, but at too great a Distance to do much Execution, she then wore: Finding we could not weather her as I wished, we shortened Sail for her to get abreast of us, when we began to engage, and continued for an Hour and a Quarter: Falling little Wind, and our Jib-Boom being carried away, she shot ahead of us, and endeavoured to make off, crowding all Sail, and firing her Stern Chasers: Having got out another Jib-Boom, and the Wind freshening, at One P. M. we were enabled to renew the Action, which was continued for Half an Hour, when she struck. She is called La Betsey, a Ship Privateer, fitted out at Bourdeaux, Copper-bottomed, pierced for 20 Guns, but mounting only 16 Six Pounders, and had on Board 118 Men, 7 of whom was killed; the First and