

cellency to the House of Commons, signifying his Pleasure that they should immediately attend His Excellency in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, His Excellency gave the Royal Assent to

An Act for the Reduction of Drawbacks and Bounties now allowed on the Exportation of Sugar, and to prevent the excessive Price of refined Sugar in this Kingdom.

An Act for the Government of the Militia of Great Britain serving in this Kingdom during their Continuance therein.

Admiralty-Office, July 14, 1798.

*Extract of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Vandeput, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Halifax, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated on board the Asia, Halifax Harbour, June 23, 1798.*

ON the 15th of April, I put to Sea with the Squadron, and proceeded to the S. E. as far as Latitude 29 Deg. 30 Min. and Longitude 76 Deg.; on the 22d we fell in with La Amiable Juana, a Spanish Privateer of Six Guns and 46 Men, which was captured by the Hind, and was sent to Halifax. On the 27th we fell in with, and, after a Chace of fifteen Hours, the Resolution captured a Schooner French Privateer from Curaçoa, of Four Guns and 35 Men; this Privateer had some Time before taken an American Vessel belonging to Baltimore. On the 15th of May, with the Topaze and Hind in Company, having gotten Intelligence that three Privateers were cruising off Charles-Town I ordered Captain Larcom to go in Search of them, and then, with the Topaze, I proceeded towards this Port, where we arrived on the 28th Ultimo. On the 7th Instant arrived a French Schooner Privateer called the Revênge, of 14 Guns and 84 Men, a Prize to the Thetis, who took her in Latitude 38. Longitude 72; she had not taken any Thing. On the Day following came in the Thetis and Rover, the former from a Cruize, in which she had taken a French Privateer of Six Guns, which was sent to New Providence. The Rover, on her Passage towards Bermuda, on the 17th of May, captured and sent in a French Sloop Privateer of 14 Guns with 57 Men; she was last from Porto Rico, and had taken three American Ships, as per Margin\*.

\* Ship Thomas, from Liverpool to Philadelphia.  
Ship Merchant, from New York to Bristol.  
Ship Diana, from New York to Demarara.

Admiralty-Office, July 14, 1798.

*Copy of a Letter from the Right Hon. Admiral Lord Bridport, K.B. to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated on board the Royal George at Sea, July 11, 1798.*

THE inclosed Copies of Letters will inform their Lordships of the taking of La Seine, and the Loss of His Majesty's Ship La Pique. On both these Events I can add nothing more than to express my Satisfaction on this important Capture, and real Concern for the Accidents that have attended it. Captain Milne, with all his Officers and People, are on board La Seine.

I am, &c.

BRIDPORT.

My Lord,

*Jafon, Pertuis Breton,  
July 2, 1798.*

ON Friday last, at Seven A. M. His Majesty's Squadron under my Command, consisting of the Ships named in the Margin †, gave Chace to a French Frigate off the Saintes, at Eleven at Night; the Pique brought her to Action, and continued a running Fight, till the Jafon passed between the two. At this Instant the Land near the Point de la Trenche, was seen close on our Larboard Bow, and before the Ship could answer her Helms, she took the Ground close to the Enemy, which we immediately perceived had grounded also, most unfortunately, as the Tide rose, we hung only forwards, and, therefore fixing with our Stern close to the Enemy's Broadside, who, although he was dismasted, did not fail to take Advantage of his happy Position; but a well-directed Fire was kept up from a few Guns abaft, and at Half past Two she struck. Our Opponent, called La Seine, was commanded by Le Capitaine Brejot, her Force 42 Guns, Eighteen and Nine Pounders, with Cannonades; and 610 Men, including Troops; she sailed from L'Isle de France Three Months ago, bound to L'Orient.

In the early Part of the Battle, I had the Mortification to be wounded, and was obliged to leave the Deck; but my Misfortune is palliated by the Reflection that the Service did not suffer by my Absence, for no Man could have filled my Place with more Credit to himself, and Benefit to the State, than my First Lieutenant, Mr. Charles Inglis; whom I beg to recommend in the strongest Manner for his Bravery, Skill, and great Exertions.

I come now, my Lord; to the painful Part of my Narrative, which I am necessitated to make more prolix than I otherwise should, from the peculiar Circumstances attending the Engagement; and first I mention the Loss of the Pique, whose Officers and Crew deserved a better Fate. Captain Milne had led her to the Fight in an Officer-like Manner, but it was his Misfortune, that the Main-Topmast being carried away, he was obliged to drop a-ster: Ardour urging him on to renew the Combat, he did not hear me hail him to anchor, and the Ship therefore grounded on our Off-side, near enough to receive the Enemy's Shot over us, although very awkwardly situated for returning the Fire. In the Morning every Attempt was made to get the Ships off, but the Jafon was alone successful: I therefore, on finding the Pique was bilged, directed the Captain to destroy her, and to exert his Abilities and Activity to save the Prize; which he, with great Difficulty, got afloat Yesterday Evening, after throwing her Guns, &c. overboard.

The Carnage on board La Seine was very great; 170 Men were killed, and about 100 wounded, many of them mortally. I inclose a List of the Sufferers on board the Jafon; and it is with great Concern that among the Killed I place the Name of Mr. Anthony Richard Robotier, my Second Lieutenant, who died fighting gloriously, and by whose Fall is lost a most amiable Man and excellent Officer. Lieutenant Riboleau commanded on the Main Deck afterwards, and behaved with great Spirit, as did Mr. Lockwood, the Master, and Lieutenant Symes, of the Marines; my other Officers of every Description

† Jafon, Pique, and Mermoid.