

My Lord, *Sylph, at Sea, Nov. 18, 1798.*
I Beg Leave to acquaint your Lordship, that we last Night fell in with Two Armed Luggers, the Escort of a small Convoy from Nantes to Brest, one of the former, La Fouine, of Eight Guns and Twenty-six Men, we took, and ran the other on Shore. The Convoy escaped in Hodierno.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

J. C. WHITE.

*Right Honorable Admiral
 Lord Bridport, K. B.
 &c. &c. &c.*

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Charles Patey, commanding His Majesty's Hired Cutter the George, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated at Plymouth, the 20th November, 1798.

SIR,

I Beg Leave to acquaint you, for the Information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, of my having fallen in with, Yesterday Afternoon off Alderney, and captured, after a short Chace of Four Hours, L'Entreprise French Privateer Luger, mounting Two Swivels, with Muskets, Pistols, Swords, Half-Pikes, &c. Jacques Adam, Master, with Sixteen Men. Only Two Days from Granville, quite new, and had not taken any Thing.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

CHARLES PATEY.

Admiralty-Office, November 24, 1798.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Thomas Thompson, of His Majesty's late Ship the Leander, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated on board the Lazaretto, at Trieste, the 14th October, 1798.

SIR,

UPON my Arrival at this Place, I immediately acquainted Sir Horatio Nelson with the Capture of His Majesty's Ship Leander under my Command, and beg Leave to inclose you a Copy of my Letter to the Rear-Admiral, for the quicker Information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

THOMAS THOMPSON.

Admiralty-Office, November 24, 1798.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Thompson, late Commander of His Majesty's Ship Leander, to Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson, K. B. dated Trieste, the 13th October, 1798.

IT is with extreme Pain I have to relate to you the Capture of His Majesty's Ship Leander, late under my Command, by a French Seventy-four Gun Ship, after a close Action of Six Hours and a Half. On the 18th August last, being within Five or Six Miles of the West End of Goza, near the Island of Candia, we discovered at Day-break a large Sail on the S. E. Quarter, standing directly for the Leander; we were then becalmed, but the Stranger bringing up a fine Breeze from the Southward, we soon made him to be a large Ship of the Line. As the Leander was in Officers and Men upwards of Eighty short of Complement, and had on board a Number which were wounded on the 1st, I did not consider myself justified in seeking an Action with a Ship that appeared of such considerable Superiority in point of Size; I therefore took every Means in my Power to avoid it: I however soon found that our Inferiority of Sailing made it inevit-

able, and I therefore with all Sail set, steered the Leander a Course which I judged would receive our Adversary to the best Advantage, should he bring us to Battle. At Eight o'Clock the strange Ship (still continuing to have the good Fortune of the Wind) had approached us within a long random Shot, and had Neapolitan Colours hoisted, which he now changed to Turkish; but this Deception was of no Avail, as I plainly made him to be French. At Nine he had ranged up within a Half Gun-shot of our Weather Quarter; I therefore hauled the Leander up sufficiently to bring the Broadside to bear, and immediately commenced a vigorous Cannonade on him, which he instantly returned. The Ships continued nearing each other until Half past Ten, keeping up a constant and heavy Firing. At this Time I perceived the Enemy intending to run us on board, and the Leander being very much cut up in Rigging, Sails, and Yards, I was unable, with the light Air that blew, to prevent it. He ran us on board on the Larboard Bow, and continued alongside us for some Time: A most spirited and well-directed Fire, however, from our small Party of Marines, (commanded by the Serjeant,) on the Poop and from the Quarter-Deck, prevented the Enemy from taking Advantage of his good Fortune, and he was repulsed in all his Efforts to make an Impression on us. The Firing from the Great Guns was all this Time kept up with the same Vigour, and a light Breeze giving the Ships Way, I was enabled to steer clear of the Enemy, and soon afterwards had the Satisfaction to luff under his Stern, and passing him within Ten Yards, distinctly discharged every Gun from the Leander into him. As from henceforward was nothing but a continued Series of heavy Firing within Pistol-shot, without any Wind, and the Sea as smooth as Glass, I feel it unnecessary to give you the Detail of the Effects of every Shot, which must be obvious from our Situation; I shall therefore content myself with assuring you, that a most vigorous Cannonade was kept up from the Leander, without the smallest Intermision, until Half past Three in the Afternoon. At this Time, the Enemy having passed our Bows with a light Breeze, and brought himself on our Starboard Side, we found that our Guns on that Side were nearly all disabled by the Wreck of our own Spars that had all fallen on this Side. This produced a Cessation of our Fire, and the Enemy took this Time to ask us, if we had surrendered? The Leander was now totally ungovernable, not having a Thing standing but the shattered remains of the Fore and Main-Masts and the Bow-sprit, her Hull cut to Pieces, and the Decks full of killed and Wounded; and perceiving the Enemy, who had only lost his Mizen-Topmast, approaching to place himself athwart our Stern; in this defenceless Situation, I asked Captain Berry if he thought we could do more? He coinciding with me that further Resistance was vain and impracticable, and, indeed, all Hope of Success having for some Time vanished, I therefore now directed an Answer to be given in the Affirmative, and the Enemy soon after took Possession of His Majesty's Ship.

I cannot conclude this Account without assuring you how much Advantage His Majesty's Service derived during this Action from the Gallantry and Activity of Captain Berry of the Vanguard; I