

Cover of the Leviathan and Centaur. On the 11th, I ordered the Centaur off Ciudadella to prevent Reinforcements being thrown in, and anchored the Leviathan at Fournelles, landed some Twelve Pounder Field Pieces and Howitzers, the Sailors drawing them up to the Army, shifted my Pendant to the Leviathan, and left the Argo at Addaya, ordering Captain Bowen to continue there till all the Depots were re-embarked and removed, which was effected that Day. Late that Evening I received Information from the General that Four Ships, supposed to be of the Line, were seen between Minorca and Majorca. In the Middle of the Night the General sent me another corroborating Report from the look-out Man, of the Four Ships seen being of the Line. I instantly put to Sea (though One-fifth of the Crews were on Shore) with Two Ships of the Line, a Forty-four, and Three Armed Transports, and stood towards Ciudadella; when at Day-light the next Morning, that Place bearing S. E. by S. Eight or Nine Miles, Five Ships were seen from the Mast-head standing directly down for Ciudadella. I instantly made the Signal for a general Chace, when I soon observed the Enemy haul their Wind for Majorca; but I continued the Pursuit to prevent the Possibility of their throwing in Succour to Minorca; and at Noon I discovered the Enemy from the Fore-yard to be Four large Frigates and a Sloop of War; this latter keeping her Wind, I made the Argo's Signal to haul after her, and Captain Bowen, by his Letter of the 15th, informs me he took her at Half past Three that Afternoon, and proved to be His Majesty's Sloop Peterell, which had been captured the preceding Forenoon by the Squadron of Frigates I was in Chace of. For further Particulars on that Head I shall refer you to Captain Bowen's Letter, where I am convinced you will observe with great Concern the very harsh Treatment the Officers and Crew of the Peterell met with when captured; and he has since added, that One Man, who resisted the Spaniards plundering him of Forty Guineas, was murdered and thrown overboard. I continued the Chace till Eleven o'Clock that Night, when I was within Three Miles of the Sternmost Frigate; but finding the Wind become Light I feared it would draw me too far from the Island of Minorca; I therefore hailed the Centaur, and directed Captain Markham to pursue the Enemy, steered directly for Ciudadella, which I made the subsequent Afternoon, (the 14th,) with the Calcutta and Ulysses. The next Morning (the 15th) at Day-break, the Argo joined us off Ciudadella. Having had no Com-

munication from the General, I sent the First Lieutenant, Mr. Jones, though a very hazardous Night, in the Ship's Cutter, with a Letter to the General, proposing to cannonade Ciudadella if it would facilitate his Operations. In the Morning of the 16th, Lieutenant Jones returned with Duplicates of Two Letters I had previously received by Captain Gifford, the General's Aide-de-Camp, acquainting me that he had summoned the Town on the 14th, and that Terms of Capitulation were agreed upon on the 15th to surrender to His Majesty's Arms. When I went on Shore I signed the Capitulation the General had made, on which fortunate Event I most truly congratulate your Lordship.—The Centaur joined, not having been so fortunate as to capture either of the Spanish Frigates, though within Four Miles of the Sternmost, Captain Markham being apprehensive the Continuance of the Chace would carry him to a great Distance from more essential Service. From the 10th in the Morning, when Fort Charles was put into our Possession, and Lord Mark Kerr in the Cormorant, with the Aurora, Captain Caulfield, entered the Port, those Ships have been employed for the Defence of the Harbour, guarding the Prisoners; and I have the Pleasure to assure your Lordship, in the Performance of the various Services incident to the Movements I have stated, I cannot pass too high Encomiums on the Captains, Officers, and Seamen under my Command. From Captains Poulden and Preffland, Agents of Transports, I received every possible Assistance in their Departments; and when it was necessary I should proceed to Sea to bring to Action a reputed superior Force, they shewed great Spirit and used every Exertion to accompany me in their armed Transports, as did Lieutenant Simmonds, the other Agent in his. I must now beg Leave to mention my First Lieutenant Mr. George Jones, who, in the various and hazardous Services he had to undergo during the Attack of the Island, has proved highly deserving my Praise; I have therefore put him to act as Commander of the Peterell, which Ship I have presumed to recommission to convey the present Dispatches. There is also high Merit due to my Second Lieutenant, Mr. William Buchanan, whom I landed as second in Command under Captain Bowen, with more than Two Hundred and Fifty Seamen: There were likewise the Leviathan's and Centaur's Marines with the Army, to the Number of One Hundred; but other essential Service calling Captain Bowen on board his Ship, the Command of the Seamen devolved on Lieutenant Buchanan, and, as will appear by the strongest

