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Copy of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Harvey, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at the Leeward Islands, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated Prince of Wales, Fort-Royal Bay, Martinique, January 22, 1799.

SIR,

I INCLOSE you, for their Lordships' Information, Copies of Two Letters, One of which I received from Captain Fahie, of His Majesty's Ship *Perdrix*, and the other from Captain Dickson, of *La Victorieuse*. The spirited Conduct of the Captains, Officers, and Men, on both Occasions, will manifest to their Lordships their Zeal and Exertion for the King's Service.

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

HENRY HARVEY.

*His Majesty's Ship La Perdrix,
Tortola, Dec. 13, 1798.*

SIR,

I Have the Honor to acquaint you, that on the 7th Instant I spoke, to Leeward of St. Thomas's, an American, who informed me that he had been boarded the preceding Evening by a French Ship of War, Seven Leagues to the Eastward of Virgin Gorda.

I used every Exertion to get to Windward of that Island, but from the strong Gales which prevailed, accompanied by frequent and heavy Squalls, I did not effect it until the 10th. On the 11th, at Daylight, a Sail was discovered from the Mast-head in the S. E. which, by our Glasses, was soon distinguished to be a Ship, and evidently a Cruiser.

Not a Moment was lost in pursuing her, and after a Chase of Sixteen Hours, I brought her to close Action, which lasted Forty-two Minutes, when she ceased firing and lay an unmanageable Wreck on the Water. She proved to be *L'Armée d'Italie*, a French Private Ship of War, mounting Fourteen 9 and Four 12-Pounder long Guns, with One Hundred and Seventeen Men, commanded by Citizen Colachy, Eleven Days from Guadalupe, and had captured the *Bittern* Brig and *Concorde* Schooner, of Martinique; Part of the Crews of which Vessels were on board.

It is impossible for me, Sir, sufficiently to express the high Sense I have of the steady and spirited

Conduct of Lieutenants Edward Ottley and James Smith, and of Mr. Moses Crawford, the Master: Mr. Samuel Piguenet, the Purser, is also entitled to my warmest Thanks, having volunteered the Danger of the Deck; in short, Sir, I cannot more forcibly acknowledge the Merit of the Officers and Crew of His Majesty's Ship at large, than by saying their Conduct was such as, even at the present Day, to render them worthy of the Name of British Seamen; and I have the Pleasure to add that but One Man was wounded. The Enemy's Loss, as far as I can obtain Information, is Six killed and Five wounded.

Our Sails and Rigging are much cut, but in other Respects we have not sustained any material Injury.

I am, Sir, &c. &c. &c.

W. CHAS. FAHIE.

Rear-Admiral Harvey,
&c. &c. &c.

*Victorieuse, off the Islands Testigos,
December 6, 1798.*

SIR,

ON the 29th of last Month I received Intelligence of Three Privateers to Leeward. I proposed to Colonel Picton, as the only sure Method of keeping the Trade open, to attack Rio Caribe and Gurupano, destroy their Forts, and bring off their Guns, as the Privateers would then have no Shelter, if chased by us. He perfectly agreed with me, and ordered Major Laureil, with Forty of the Royal Rangers, to embark and proceed with me.

On the 2d I pushed down, in Company with the *Zephyr*; and having reached Cape Three Points, we destroyed the Schooner *Proserpine*, a Dutch Privateer, of Two Guns and Thirteen Men, from Caracao, on a Cruise. On the 3d, having reached within Eight Miles of Rio Caribe, at Two in the Morning I landed the Troops, with a Party of Seamen, to attack the Forts in the Rear, while the Brigs attacked in Front. At Day-Light the Commandant sent to beg we would not fire, as he would give us Possession without resisting. We immediately re-embarked the Troops, took off the Guns, and made Sail for Gurupano, where we arrived at Four in the Evening. Observing a French Privateer in the Harbour, I sent a Flag of Truce to the Commandant to say, I was determined to take her out; and on his Peril to fire on me. He an-