

few Guns in passing, which made her alter her Course. At Half-past Eleven the headmost Ship bore up athwart us, at the Distance of Half Muffet-Shot: by the Abilities and meritorious Conduct of the Officers, the steady Spirit and prompt Obedience to my Orders of the Seamen and Marines, with a well-directed Fire of Two Broadfides from the Ethalion, and a running Fight of an Hour, exchanging Bow and Stern Chaces, the latter Part within Half Pistol-Shot, I had the Pleasure of seeing her haul down Spanish Colours to His Majesty's Ship under my Command.

She proves to be the Thetis Spanish Frigate, of Thirty-Six Guns, Twelve and Six Pounders, and Two Hundred and Fifty Men, commanded by Don Juan de Mendoza, from Vera Cruz bound to any Port in Spain she could fetch, with One Million Four Hundred and Eleven Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty-six Dollars, and a Quantity of Cocoa on board. I have the additional Satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship, that not a single Man is hurt on board the Ethalion. The other Spanish Frigate is called the Brigida, commanded by Don Antonio Pillou the same Force and Lading as the Thetis. The last Time I saw the Naiad, which was just before the Action took place, was nearly within Gun-Shot of her; and I have no Doubt of her being captured.

I beg Leave to recommend to your Lordship's Notice Lieutenant Pym, the senior Officer; the able Assistance I received from him on the Quarter-Deck, and his indefatigable Exertions in shifting the wounded Masts and Yards on board the Thetis, do him the utmost Credit. I cannot pass over in Silence the Praise due to Lieutenant Jauncey and Quilliam, for their great Attention to the Guns on the Main-Deck, nor that of Mr. Ducker the Master, and Lieutenant Peake of the Marines, for their Aid on the Quarter-Deck; the Warrant and Petty Officers, Seamen, and Marines, also merit your Lordship's Notice.

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

Js. YOUNG.

Ethalion—None killed or wounded.

Thetis—One killed and Nine wounded.

Right Honorable Lord Bridport, K. B.

Es. Es. Es.

Admiralty-Office, October 24, 1799.

Copy of another Letter from Admiral Lord Bridport to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated the 22d Instant.

SIR,

CAPTAIN DIGBY, of His Majesty's Ship Alcmena, is just arrived here; he came from Plymouth by Land, charged with Dispatches from Captain Pierrepont, of His Majesty's Ship Naiad, stating, with other Occurrences, the important Capture of the Santa Brigida, Spanish Frigate, Consort of the Thetis, (as stated in Captain Young's Letter of Yesterday's Date,) Copies of which you will here-with receive for their Lordships' Information, whom I sincerely congratulate upon this fortunate Event, which does so much Credit to Captain Pierrepont, and all the Officers, Seamen, and Marines of the different Ships under his Command, for the meritorious and persevering Conduct manifested upon this Occasion.

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

BRIDPORT.

Naiad, off Cape Finisterre,

October 19, 1799.

MY LORD,

I Have great Pleasure in being able to acquaint you, that the Ships named in the Margin* (which your Lordship has done me the Honor to put under my Orders) captured Yesterday Morning, the Spanish Frigate Santa Brigida, of Thirty-six Guns, and having on board Three Hundred Men, commanded by Don Antonio Pillou.

This Frigate, my Lord, in Company with another called the Thetis, left Vera Cruz on the 21st August last, and I had the good Fortune to fall in with them both, on the Evening of the 16th Instant, in Latitude 44 Deg. 1 Min. N. Long. 12 Deg. 35 Min. W. at Eight P. M. the Naiad then a single Ship, and to which I immediately gave Chase; before Midnight I discovered them to be Vessels belonging to the Enemy, and was joined by the Ethalion: when the Day broke I was also joined by the Alcmena, when the Triton was discovered far a-stern still, owing to the superior sailing of the latter Ship; after a Chase which lasted Thirty-two Hours, I set myself down as indebted for a most valuable Capture. The Two Frigates at Seven A. M. perceiving themselves not in a State to withstand our united Force, took different Routes, upon which I made the Ethalion's Signals to pass the sternmost Ship of the Enemy, as she at that Time took the lead in Point of sailing, and stand for and engage the Headmost Vessel, which was obeyed with that Alacrity by Captain Young that I make no Doubt but she has experienced a similar Fate to her Companion; but as the Santa Brigida made a determinate Push on a Southern Course, a Separation of course took place.

The latter Frigate of the Enemy having rounded Cape Finisterre on the Morning of the 18th Instant by her fast Sailing, about Five o'Clock her Commander shoved so very close to the Rocks of Monte Lora, that the Triton, who was first in Pursuit, (Captain Gore being regardless of every Thing but closing with the Enemy,) struck upon the said Rocks, going Seven Knots at the Time. I fear her damage is considerable; however she was soon off again, and commenced an animated Fire on the Enemy, as did Captain Digby, with an Officer-like Presence of Mind keeping in that Direction to cut off the Entrance of Port de Vidre. At Eight A. M. the Three Frigates closed with the Enemy amidst the Rocks of Commaruto, at the Entrance of Morus, when the Colours were hauled down, and we found ourselves all in foul Ground together. A fortunate Breeze springing up from the Shore, and we were enabled to put the Ships Heads to the Sea, and began to shift Prisoners, when a Spanish Squadron consisting of Four large Ships, One with a broad Pendant, came out of Vigo with an Intention, I suppose, of retaking the Prize. This being the Opinion of Captain Gore and Digby also, every Exertion was made to secure the Prisoners and get the Ships under my Command ready to receive them; but on their perceiving my Determination they bore up and ran into Vigo. Light and variable Winds have kept me still in Sight of the Spanish Coast, which is To-day on continued Blaze, and as I was aware of another Squadron of Spanish Ships being in Company, have thought it my Duty

* Naiad, Triton, Alcmena.