

Admiralty-Office, May 9, 1800.

*Copy of another Letter from the Right Honourable Lord Keith, K. B. Vice-Admiral of the Red, and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to Evan Nepean Esq. dated on board the Audacious, Leghorn Roads, the 3d April 1800.*

SIR,

I Enclose a Copy of a Letter from Captain Cockburne of His Majesty's Ship La Minerve, reporting the Capture of the Furet French Privateer, and the recapture of an English Vessel her Prize.

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

KEITH.

MY LORD,

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordship that His Majesty's Ship under my Command captured this Morning, Le Furet French Brig Privateer of Fourteen Guns and Eighty Men, belonging to Nantes, out Seventeen Days; has only taken the Alert of North Yarmouth, which we have retaken.

I have, &c. &c. &c.

GEORGE COCKBURNE.

*The Right Honourable Lord Keith, K. B.*

*Es. Es. Es.*

*La Minerva at Sea, the 2d March 1800.*

Admiralty-Office, May 9, 1800.

*Copy of another Letter from Vice-Admiral Lord Keith, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean to Evan Nepean, Esq. dated in Leghorn Roads, 3d April 1800.*

SIR,

I Request that you will lay before their Lordships the enclosed Letters from Captain Austen of His Majesty's Sloop the Petterell to Captain Oliver of His Majesty's Ship Mermaid, and from Captain Oliver to me, reporting the Capture of One French Vessel of War; and the driving on Shore of Two others.

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

KEITH.

MY LORD,

I Have the Honor to enclose your Lordship a Letter from Captain Austen of the Petterell, who, in Company with His Majesty's Ship under my Command, on the Evening of the 21st Instant, captured La Ligurienne French Brig of War of Fourteen Six-Pounders and Two Thirty-Six Pounder Howitzers, and drove away the Cerf Ship Corvette of the same Force, as well as the Joillet Xebecque of Six Six-Pounders and Thirty Men, in the North East Part of the Bay of Marseilles, and not more than Six Miles from that Town, after a well contested Action of more than an Hour and a Half, within point-blank Shot of Two Batteries, and at One Time the Petterell's Stern touched the Rocks where she stopped for a few Minutes; it is impossible for me to express in Terms strong enough, the gallant Conduct of Captain Austen, his Officers, and Ship's Company on this Occasion, in a Contest against so superior a Force; for, having desired Captain Austen the Evening before to keep close in

*Mermaid, Mahon, 25th March 1800.*

Shore by Way of Deception, (and by which Means the Two Vessels laden with Corn mentioned in Captain Austen's Letter were taken in the Morning,) the Mermaid was so far to Leeward as to be able to afford but little Assistance, until the Brig was completely beaten.

I think La Ligurienne will be found well adapted for His Majesty's Service.

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

R. D. OLIVER.

*Right Honourable Lord Keith, K. B.*

*Es. Es. Es.*

SIR,

*Petterell at Sea, March 22, 1800.*

I Have to inform that the Vessels with which you I saw me engaged Yesterday Afternoon, near Cape Couronne, were a Ship, Brig, and Xebecque, belonging to the French Republic; Two of which, the Ship and Xebecque, I drove on Shore, and after a running Action of about One Hour and Half, during which we were not more than a Cable's length from the Shore, and frequently not Half that Distance, the Third struck her Colours. On taking Possession found her to be La Ligurienne French Brig of War, mounting Fourteen Six Pounders and Two Thirty-six Pounder Howitzers, all Brass, commanded by Citizen Francis Auguste Pelabon, Lieutenant de Vaisseau, and had on board at the Commencement of the Action One Hundred and Four Men. Though from the spirited Conduct and Alacrity of Lieutenant Packer, Mr. Thompion the Master, and Mr. Hill the Purser, (who very handsomely volunteered his Services on the Main Deck,) joined to the Gallantry and determined Courage of the Rest of the Officers, Seamen, and Marines of His Majesty's Sloop under my Command, I was happily enabled to bring the Contest to a favorable Issue; yet I could not but feel the Want, and regret the Absence of my First Lieutenant Mr. Glover, the Gunner and Thirty Men, who were at the Time away in Prizes. I have a lively Pleasure in adding that this Service has been performed without a Man hurt on our Part, and with no other Damage to the Ship than Four of our Carronades dismounted, and a few Shots through the Sails.

La Ligurienne is a very fine Vessel of the Kind, well equipped with Stores of all Sorts, in excellent Repair, and not Two Years old; is built on a peculiar Plan, being fastened throughout with Screw Bolts, so as to be taken to Pieces and set up again with ease, and is said to have been intended to follow Buonaparte to Egypt. I learn from the Prisoners that the Ship is called Le Cerf, mounting Fourteen Six Pounders, and the Xebecque Le Joillet, mounting Six Six Pounders, that they had failed in Company with a Convoy, (Two of which, as per Margin\*, I captured in the Forenoon,) that Morning from Cette for Marseilles. I enclose a List of the Killed and Wounded, as far as I have been able to ascertain it.

And am, &c.

F. W. AUSTEN.

*R. D. Oliver, Esq. Captain of His Majesty's Ship Mermaid.*

\* A French Bark, (Name unknown), laden with Wheat, about Three Hundred and Fifty Tons: abandoned by the Crew.

A French Bombarde, (Name unknown), laden with Wheat, about One Hundred and Fifty Tons: left by the Crew.