

General Rochambeau had made Proposals for capitulating, which, though inadmissible, I thought soon must lead to others more reasonable; the Event has justified my Opinion; but I am sorry to say that Officer, whose Actions are too extraordinary to account for, had, on the 19th Ultimo, (previous to his Proposals to Captain Loring, through the General of Brigade, Boyé, and Commodore Barré) actually entered into a Capitulation with the Black General Dessalines, to deliver up the Cape to him, with all the Ordnance, Ammunition, and Stores, on the 30th; I conclude, flattering himself that the tremendous Weather, which our Squadron was then and had been experiencing for three Weeks, would offer an Opening for Escape, but the Perseverance and Watchfulness thereof precluded him from even attempting it. On the 30th, the Colours of the Blacks were displayed at the Forts, which induced Captain Loring to dispatch Captain Bligh, to know General Dessalines's sentiments respecting General Rochambeau and his Troops, when, on his entering the Harbour, he met Commodore Barré, who pressed him in strong Terms to go on board the *Surveillante*, and enter into some Capitulation, which would put them under our Protection, and prevent the Blacks from sinking them with red-hot Shot, as they had threatened, and were preparing to do, which Captain Bligh complied with, when they hastily brought him a few Articles they had drawn up, which he (after objecting to some particular Parts, that they agreed should be altered to carry his Interpretation on their Arrival at Jamaica) signed, and hastened to acquaint General Dessalines, that all the Ships and Vessels in Port had surrendered to His Majesty's Arms, and with great Difficulty he obtained the Promise to desist from firing, till a Wind offered for carrying them out (it then blowing hard directly into the Harbour); this Promise he at length obtained, and the first Instant the Land-Breeze enabled them to sail out under French Colours, which, upon a Shot being fired athwart them, the Vessels of War fired their Broadfides, and hauled down their Colours, except the *Clorinde*, a large Frigate of Thirty-eight Guns, who unluckily took the Ground Aboard, and was forced to throw most of her Guns overboard, and knocked her Rudder off, when there was great Apprehension for her Safety; and I am informed by the Captains of the Squadron, that we must attribute the saving her (apparently without further Damage) to the uncommon Exertions and professional Abilities of acting Lieutenant Willoughby, with the Boats of the *Hercule*, who, I trust, will be honored with their Lordships' Protection.

Captain Loring, after seeing the Generality of the Prizes taken Possession of, left the *Theseus* and *Hercule* to fix a temporary Rudder to the Frigate, and bring the Remainder with them, bearing away for the Mole, and on the Second summoned the General of Brigade Noailles, who commanded there, to capitulate; this he declined doing, asserting he had Provisions for five Months; and herewith I transmit a Copy of his Letter. The numerous and crowded State of the Prisoners on board all the Prizes, and their being without Provisions, making it necessary for Captain Loring to proceed to Jamaica, he arrived here the Fifth with the *Elephant* and *Bianche*, also the *Surveillante* and *Vertu* Thirty-eight Gun Frigates, and various other Prizes, leaving the *Pique* to blockade the Mole, who anchored in this Port the

Eighth, and acquainted me that General Noailles had evacuated the Night he refused to capitulate, bringing in with her Five out of the Six Vessels in which the Garrison had embarked, a Brig with the General on board only escaping. I send a Vessel of War to England, with General Rochambeau and those Officers who are said to have participated in his Cruelties at the Cape.

I am, &c. &c. J. T. DUCKWORTH.

Sir Evan Nepean, Bart.

ARMÉE DE SAINT DOMINGUE,

Division de Droite du Nord.

*Au Quartier-General du Mole, le 10 Frimaire,
An 12 de la Republique Française.*

Louis Noailles, General de Brigade, au Commodore Loring.

MONSIEUR,

J'AI reçu la Lettre dont vous m'avez honoré sous la Date du 10 Frimaire. Je desire que vous me fassiez connoître les Termes auxquels vous m'offrez de traiter avec vous.

J'ai l'Honneur d'être avec la plus haute Consideration, Monsieur, votre tres humble and obeissant Serviteur,

(Signé) NOAILLES.

*Shark, Port Royal, Jamaica,
20th Dec. 1803.*

SIR,

ACCOMPANYING this you will receive, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Copies of various Letters, &c. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, relative to the Proceedings of Captain Loring of His Majesty's Ship *Bellerophon*, while Senior Officer of the Squadron blockading Cape François.

I am, &c. J. T. DUCKWORTH.

Sir Evan Nepean, Bart. &c. &c. &c.

*Bellerophon, off Cape François,
23d Nov. 1803.*

SIR,

HAVING received Information that General Rochambeau's Intentions are to endeavour to make his Escape in a Schooner, and observing Yesterday Afternoon several Boats pass and repass between the *Surveillante*, and an armed Schooner laying in the Caracol Passage, I made the Signal for the Launches armed to assemble on board the *Blanche*, and ordered Captain Mudge to proceed with them off the Entrance of that Passage to intercept her, should she attempt to come out. I directed the Launches to be under the Command of Lieutenant Pilch of the *Bellerophon*, and at Two A. M. she was very judiciously boarded and taken by the Launches of the *Bellerophon* and *Elephant*, without the Loss of a Man killed or wounded, though for a short Time under a very smart Fire from the Enemy's great Guns and small Arms; she proves to be the French National Schooner *La Decouvert*, commanded by Monsieur Froyan, Ensign de Vaisseau; she had mounted Six Six-Pounders, and Six Brass Swivels, and Fifty-two Men; the Enemy had two Men wounded. The Officer commanding the *Desirée's* Launch being anxious to secure the Passage, got so far to the Eastward of the Entrance as not to observe the Motions of the other Boats, that he unfortunately could not join them, or get near the Schooner till Daylight, or I am sensible from