

*Centaur, Carlisle-Bay, Barbadoes,
22d March 1804.*

SIR,

I BEG leave to enclose you, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, an Account from Captain O'Bryen, of His Majesty's Ship Emerald, and Lieutenant Forrest, of the Capture of the Mosambique French Schooner Privateer, of Ten Eighteen Pounder Carronades, from under the Batteries, near the Pearl, which was executed in a most spirited and steady Manner by Lieutenant Forrest, and those that accompanied him in the Fort-Diamond, on this Service.

I also send Copy of a Letter from Captain Ferris, acting in His Majesty's Ship Blenheim, giving an Account of Two Boats of that Ship, under Lieutenant Furber, attacking the Curieuse French National Schooner, moored, and, I have since learned, chained to the Beach, under a Battery at St. Pierres.

I likewise subjoin the Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant King, First of this Ship, now acting in His Majesty's Sloop Drake, to Captain Nash, commanding the Blockade of the North Part of the Island of Martinique, giving an Account of his carrying, with Thirty Men only, the Fort at Trinité, when opposed to much superior Force.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

William Marsden, Esq.

SAM. HOOD.

*His Majesty's Sloop Drake, off Trinitie,
25th February 1804.*

SIR,

I HAVE the Honor to acquaint you, that on the Night of the 19th Instant, Lieutenant Compston and Mr. Robson, Master, voluntarily offered to bring out of the Harbour of Trinitie, Three American Vessels, that were taking in Cargoes, in Defiance of the Blockade, which they attempted in a very gallant Manner, having Possession of Two Brigs and a Schooner, under the Fire of the Fort, for a considerable Time, but from having no Wind, could succeed only in bringing out the Schooner.

The Anchorage being within Pistol-Shot of the Fort, I saw no Probability of Success if another Effort was made, unless the Fort was reduced; for which Purpose I, last Night, landed with Thirty Men, including Nine Marines, and succeeded in spiking the Guns. Three Thirty-two-Pounders, and Two Field-Pieces, which commanded the Entrance into the Fort.

I am sorry to add, One Seaman expired from his Wound this Morning, and that Lieutenant Compston and One Seaman, are each wounded in the Arm, but are doing very well, which are all that were hurt on the Occasion.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

SAM. W. KING.

Captain Nash, &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

Blenheim, March 5, 1804.

I BEG Leave to acquaint you, Two Boats (the Barge and Pinnace) of His Majesty's Ship under my Command, with Fifty Officers and Men, under the Orders of Lieutenant Furber, on the Night of the 4th, made a most gallant, but unsuccessful Attempt, to cut out a French National Schooner, laying close under a Fort at the Town of St. Pierre. She had made formidable Preparations; her Boarding Nettings, being traced up to the lower Mast

Heads, and so fastened, that it was almost impossible to get in, and her Sweeps rigged out on each Side, notwithstanding all this, and the Beach lined with Soldiers, the Forts, an armed Sloop, and several other small Vessels near, keeping up a heavy Fire of Guns and Musquetry, those brave Officers and Men in the Two Boats, persevered and cut her Cables, but it being perfectly calm, she swung and grounded on the Beach, when all Hopes of bringing her out were given up, and from the Number killed and wounded, as per enclosed List, the Commanding Officer very properly ordered the Boats off.

I lament sincerely our Loss, but I trust you, Sir, will think the Character of British Seamen was well supported on this Occasion, for surely never was greater Spirit displayed.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

W. FERRIS.

*Commodore Hood, Commander in Chief,
&c. &c. &c.*

*A List of Officers and Men killed and wounded in the
Blenheim's Boats.*

1 Seaman and 2 Marines, killed; 5 Officers, 11 Seamen (Three of which severely), and 3 Marines, wounded; 3 Seamen, missing.

*Off St. Pierre's, Martinique, Emerald,
March 13, 1804.*

SIR,

I HAVE the Honor to enclose you a Letter I have received from Lieutenant Forrest, First Lieutenant of His Majesty's Ship under my Command, who I this Morning sent, accompanied by Thirty Volunteers, on board the Fort-Diamond Armed Sloop, with Directions to work to Windward Seas, to enable the Sloop to Weather the Pearl Rock, and to bear down on an Armed Schooner, which had, finding it impossible to get into St. Pierres, this Ship being to Leeward, anchored close in Shore, under the Cover of the Battery at Seron. I at the same Time sent the Boats of this Ship in a different Direction, in order to take off the Attention of the Battery from the Manœuvre in Contemplation, to be performed by Lieutenant Forrest.

It affords me particular Satisfaction to bear Testimony to the handsome and gallant Manner in which this Service was performed, Lieutenant Forrest having laid the National Schooner on board under a heavy Fire from her and the Battery.

In the Performance of this Service great Judgment was exhibited, as, by the Mode of doing it, a Chain, by which she was fastened to the Shore, was broke, Twenty Feet of which is now hanging to the Schooner's Bow. The Crew of this Vessel, finding it impossible to withstand British Intrepidity, jumped overboard and swam ashore, which they were enabled to do from her being moored close to it.

It affords me particular Pleasure to inform you, Sir, that this gallant Service was performed without any Loss on our Part, Two Men only being slightly wounded. I have been rather more circumstantial in this Detail, than perhaps the mere Capture of a Privateer justifies, but I feel I should not do Justice to the gallant Conduct of Lieutenant Forrest, the Judgment he exhibited, the brave and cool Conduct of the petty Officers and Men under his Command, which he speaks of in high Terms, had I neglected relating every Circumstance that took place, which has excited Admiration and Emulation in the Breast of the Specta-