

easy Sail; at near Sunset they were close in our Rear, and I was in momentary Expectation of an Attack there, and preparing to support them; but at the Close of the Day we perceived them haul to Windward. I sent Lieutenant Fowler, in the Ganges Brig, to station the Country Ships on our Lee-Bow, by which Means we were between them and the Enemy; and having done so, he returned with some Volunteers from the Country Ships.

We lay-to in Line of Battle all Night, our Men at their Quarters; at Day-break of the 15th, we saw the Enemy about Three Miles to Windward, laying-to.—We hoisted our Colours, offering him Battle if he chose to come down. The Enemy's Four Ships hoisted French Colours, the Line of Battle Ship carrying a Rear-Admiral's Flag; the Brig was under Batavian Colours.

At Nine A. M. finding they would not come down, we formed the Order of sailing, and steered our Course under an easy Sail; the Enemy then filled their Sails, and edged towards us.

At One P. M. finding they proposed to attack and endeavour to cut off our Rear, I made the Signal to tack and bear down on him, and engage in Succession—the Royal George being the leading Ship, the Ganges next, and then the Earl Camden. This Manoeuvre was correctly performed, and we stood towards him under a Press of Sail. The Enemy then formed in a very close Line, and opened their Fire on the headmost Ships, which was not returned by us till we approached him nearer. The Royal George bore the Brunt of the Action, and got as near the Enemy as he would permit him. The Ganges and Earl Camden opened their Fire as soon as their Guns could have Effect; but before any other Ship could get into Action, the Enemy hauled their Wind, and stood away to the Eastward under all the Sail they could set.—At Two P. M. I made the Signal for a general Chase, and we pursued them till Four P. M.; when fearing a longer Pursuit would carry us too far from the Mouth of the Straits, and considering the immense Property at Stake, I made the Signal to tack; and at Eight P. M. we anchored in a Situation to proceed for the Entrance of the Straits in the Morning. As long as we could distinguish the Enemy, we perceived him steering to the Eastward under a Press of Sail.

The Royal George had One Man killed and another wounded, many Shot in her Hull, and more in her Sails; but few Shot touched either the Camden or Ganges, and the Fire of the Enemy seemed to be ill directed, his Shot either falling short or passing over us.

Captain Timins carried the Royal George into Action in the most gallant Manner. In Justice to my Brother Commanders I must state, that every Ship was clear and prepared for Action; and as I had Communication with almost all of them during the Two Days we were in Presence of the Enemy, I found them unanimous in the determined Resolution to defend the valuable Property entrusted to their Charge to the last Extremity, with a full Conviction of the successful Event of their Exertions; and this Spirit was fully seconded by the gallant Ardour of all our Officers and Ships' Companies.

I received great Assistance from the Advice and Exertions of Lieutenant Fowler, whose meritorious Conduct in this Instance I hope the Honorable

Court will communicate to the Lords of the Admiralty.

From Malacca I dispatched Lieutenant Fowler in the Ganges Brig to Pulo Penang, with a Packet from the Select Committee to the Captain of any of His Majesty's Ships, soliciting their Convoy to this very valuable Fleet.

On Arrival at Malacca we were informed that the Squadron we had engaged was that of Admiral Linois, consisting of the Marengo, of Eighty-four Guns, the Belle Poule and Smillante heavy Frigates, a Corvette of Twenty-eight, and the Batavian Brig William, of Eighteen Guns.

The 28th February, in the Straits of Malacca, Lat. 4 Deg. 30 Min. N. we fell in with His Majesty's Ships Albion and Sceptre; I was then in a very poor State of Health, and Mr. Lance went on Board the Albion, and by his very able Representation to Captain Ferrier, of the great national Consequence of the Honourable Company's Ships, he was induced to take Charge of the Fleet.

On the 3d of March I dispatched the Ganges Brig with a Letter to the Right Honorable the Governor General, giving an Account of our Action, to be conveyed to the Honorable Court.

We arrived at St. Helena the 9th of June, under Convoy of His Majesty's Ships Albion and Sceptre, and sailed the 18th, under Convoy of His Majesty's Ship Plantagenet, with the Addition of the Carmarthen, Captain Dobree, and Five Whalers.

Accompanying this, I send a Chart of the Entrance of the Streights of Malacca, with the Situation of the Fleet on the 14th and 15th February, which will, I trust, convey a more distinct Idea of the Action than any written Description.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

NATH. DANCE.

Earl Camden, 6th August 1804.

William Ramsay, Esq.

Names of the Whalers.

William Fenning,

Brook Watson.

Thomas, or Young Tom,

Betsy,

Eliza.

And the Blackhouse, from the Coast of Guinea, joined us at Sea.

Crown-Office, August 11, 1804.

MEMBERS returned to serve in this present PARLIAMENT.

Borough of Truro.

The Honorable Richard Ryder, of Lincoln's Inn, in the County of Middlesex.

Borough of Barnstable.

The Honorable Hugh Fortescue, commonly called Lord Viscount Ebrington, in the Room of Sir Edward Pellew, Baronet, who, since his Election for the said Borough, hath accepted the Office of Bailiff or Steward of His Majesty's Three Chiltern Hundreds of Stoke, Newington, and Bonningham, in the County of Buckingham.

County of Middlesex.

George Boulton Mainwaring, Esq; in the Room of Sir Francis Burrett, Baronet, whose Election for the said County has been adjudged to be void.

