

Fexeyron. She was charged with Dispatches from the Governor of Pensacola, which were thrown overboard previous to her surrendering.

Having received Information that there were Three French Privateers in the Harbour of Mariel, (a small convenient Port, a little to the Westward of the Havannah,) which had annoyed most considerably the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects, transiently passing through the Gulph, I determined, if possible, to rout this Band of Pirates; for, from their plundering and ill treating the Crew of every Vessel they met with, most particularly the Americans, they were nothing better; and Lieutenants Oliver and Campbell having, in the most handsome Manner, volunteered their Service on this hazardous Occasion, I dispatched these excellent Officers, accompanied by the Honorable Almericas De Courcy, Midshipman, on the Evening of the 5th Instant, in Two Boats; and as it was absolutely necessary to gain Possession of a Round Tower near Forty Feet high, on the Top of which were planted Three long Twenty-four-Pounders, with loop Holes round its Circumference for Musketry, and manned with a Captain and Thirty Soldiers, I gave Directions to attack and carry the Fort previous to their entering the Harbour, so as to enable them to secure a safe Retreat. Lieutenant Oliver, the senior Officer, being in the headmost Boat, finding himself discovered, and as not a Moment was to be lost at such a critical Period, most nobly advanced, without waiting for his Friend, landed in the Face, and in Opposition to a most tremendous Fire, without condescending to return the Salutation, mounted the Fort by a Ladder which he had previously provided, and fairly carried it by a Coup de Main with Thirteen Men, leaving Mr. De Courcy, with Three others, to guard the Boat, with an Accident to only One brave Man (George Allison) wounded, who was unfortunately shot through the Body before the Boat touched the Ground, but I am happy to say, from the Care and Attention of Mr. Williams, the Surgeon, he is already rapidly recovering; the Enemy had Two killed and Three wounded.

Lieutenant Oliver, leaving Serjeant Denflow, of the Marines, (who, from his Bravery and good Conduct, deserves great Praise,) with Six Men to guard the Fort, and having been rejoined by Lieutenant Campbell, dashed on to attack the Privateers, but to their great Mortification found they had sailed the Day previous on a Cruise; he was therefore obliged to be contented with taking Possession of Two Schooners, laden with Sugar, which he most gallantly brought away from alongside a Wharf, in spite of repeated Discharges of Musketry from the Troops and Militia which poured down in Numbers, from the surrounding Country.

I should not have been thus particular in recounting a Circumstance which was not attended with ultimate Success, were it not to mark my Admiration of the noble Conduct of Lieutenant Oliver in so gallantly attacking and carrying a Fort which, with the Men it contained, ought to have maintained its Position against Fifty Times the Number that were opposed; but nothing could withstand the prompt and manly Steps taken by that Officer and his gallant Crew on this Occasion; and as, in my humble Judgment, the Attempt was most daring and hazardous, and had the Privateers been there, I doubt not but Success would have attended them, so I

humbly solicit the Honor of Notice to this most gallant Officer.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

C. DASHWOOD.

To Rear-Admiral Dacres, Commander in Chief, &c. &c. Jamaica.

*Admiralty Office, June 15, 1805.*

COPIES of Two Letters from Captain Lake, Commander of His Majesty's Ship the Topaze, to William Marsden, Esq.

SIR, *Topaze, at Sea, May 7, 1805.*

I HAVE the Honor to transmit, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a Copy of my Letter to Admiral Lord Gardner of this Date.

I am, &c. W. T. LAKE.  
William Marsden, Esq.

MY LORD, *Topaze, May 7, 1805.*

I HAVE the Honor to acquaint you, that His Majesty's Ship under my Command has just captured the Spanish Ship Privateer Napoleon, of St. Sebastian, pierced for Twenty Guns, and mounting Ten Nine-Pounders and Four Eighteen-Pound Carronades, with One Hundred and Eight Men on board.

She sailed Fifty-seven Days since from Bourdeaux, and has taken in this her first Cruise, the Westmorland an outward-bound Letter of Marque, of Liverpool, after a smart Action, and the Brig Brunswick from Honduras.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

W. T. LAKE.

Admiral Lord Gardner, &c. &c. &c.

SIR, *Topaze, at Sea, May 20, 1805.*

I ENCLOSE herewith, for their Lordships' Information, a Copy of a Letter I have written this Day to Admiral Lord Gardner.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

William Marsden, Esq. W. T. LAKE.

MY LORD, *Topaze, at Sea, May 20, 1805.*

I HAVE the Satisfaction to acquaint you, that His Majesty's Ship under my Command, has been again successful, having this Day captured El Fenix a Spanish Privateer Brig of Fourteen Guns and Eighty-five Men, of St. Sebastian, out from Vigo Ten Days, without making a Capture.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

W. T. LAKE.

Admiral Lord Gardner, &c. &c. &c.

*Whitehall, June 15, 1805.*

The King has been pleased to constitute and appoint Cornelius Smelt, Esq; to be Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man.

The King has been pleased to present the Rev. Alexander Stewart to the Church and Parish of Dingwall, in the Presbytery of Dingwall and County of Ross, vacant by the Death of Mr. Daniel Rose.

*Carlton House, May 17, 1805.*

The Prince of Wales has been pleased to appoint the Rev. James Stanier Clarke, F. R. S. and Chaplain to His Royal Highness's Household, to be Librarian to His Royal Highness.