

gour the continued Encroachments on the Part of the French Government, which threaten every Day more and more the Liberty and Independence of all the Nations of Europe.

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which the Lord Chancellor said ;

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

*B*Y Virtue of His Majesty's Commission under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in His Majesty's Name, and in Obedience to His Commands, prorogue this Parliament to Thursday the Twenty second Day of August next, to be then here holden ; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday the Twenty-second Day of August next.

Admiralty-Office, July 13, 1805.

*Copies of Three Letters from Rear-Admiral Dacres, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Jamaica, to William Marsden, Esq.*

SIR, *Hercule, Port Royal, April 21, 1805.*

**H**EREWITH you will receive the Copy of a Letter transmitted to me by Mr. Smith, Midshipman of the *Hercule*, commanding the Schooner *Gracieuse*, Tender to my Flag, giving an Account of the Destruction of a French National Schooner that had just sailed from Santo Domingo.

I am, &c. J. R. DACRES.

*His Majesty's Schooner Gracieuse, 11th April 1805.*

SIR,

**I**BEG Leave to inform you, at One P. M. on the 9th Instant, I fell in with and captured a large Spanish Schooner, from St. Domingo to Porto Rico with Passengers. At Six A. M. saw a strange Sail to the Eastward. She proved to be a Sloop under French Colours. I chased her, firing several Shots at her, within Gun-shot of the Forts of St. Domingo. Finding it impossible to take her, I gave Chace to a Brig to the Westward. She proved to be an American. At half past Four, saw a Schooner standing out of St. Domingo, steering direct for us. I was informed by the Spaniards on board that she was a French National Schooner. I immediately hauled out with my Prize, that I might have Sea-Room in case she attempted to retreat: this being accomplished, at Eight shortened Sail and hove to, with the Prize under the Lee Quarter. At half-past Eight, the Schooner, Windward, edged down within Musket-shot, and opened a very heavy Fire of Musketry and Great Guns, which was immediately returned by the *Gracieuse* under my Command. At Nine, he bore down with an Intention of boarding, but met with so warm a Reception, that obliged him to haul his Wind; he continued the Engagement. At Twenty Minutes past Nine made a Second Attempt to board. Finding it impossible, made all Sail, firing his Stern Chasers and Musketry. At Eleven he tacked, and stood in for the Land. I immediately opened a very heavy Fire of Grape and Cannister, with small Arms, which continued till half-past Three A. M., at which Time he run on Shore on Point Vizoa. Finding the Reef all round him I hove-to, within Half a Mile from the Reef, until half past Four: I then saw him going along Shore with his Sweeps; made all Sail

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in Chace. At half-past Seven, observed him haul in for the Land. At a quarter past Eight run her on Shore on Point de Selina, and landed her Crew off the Bowprit. I run in, and came to in Four Fathoms Water, with Springs on the Cable; out Boat, and sent a Hawser on board her, with an Intention, if possible, to get her off; but when I got on board, from the Number of Shot Holes between Wind and Water, she had completely filled. She was as fine a Vessel of her Class as ever I saw, and would have done for His Majesty's Service. Her Force consisted in a beautiful long Brass Twelve-Pounder, mounted on a Circle in Midships, which I have got on board; Two long Brass Four-Pounders, and Four Brass Swivels, Three-Pounders, with Ninety-six Men, armed with small Arms. Finding it impossible for the Boats to do any Thing, from the heavy Surf on the Beach, I continued here until Morning, and sent the Boats, at half-past Three A. M. under the Command of Messrs. Higgins and McGill, in order to take out the long Gun, and destroy the Vessel, which was effectually completed by them. It is impossible to find Words sufficient to express the general good and gallant Conduct of the Officers and Crew. I feel Pleasure in informing you we have not a Man killed; the only Persons wounded were Mr. Robert Marley, Midshipman; Thomas Knox and Joseph Ligo, Seamen, which deprived me of a truly brave Officer and Two Men; having on board Three sick and Three wounded; an Officer of our Seamen on board the Prize. The Number of the Enemy's killed and wounded is unknown, but must have been considerable, as I could plainly see them carrying the Wounded in the Bushes.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) T. B. SMITH

*J. R. Dacres, Esq; Rear-Admiral of the Red, &c. &c. &c.*

SIR, *Hercule, at Sea, May 17, 1805.*

**I**HAVE the Honor to enclose, for their Lordships' Information, the Copy of a Letter I have received from Captain Woolley, of His Majesty's Sloop *Papillon*, acquainting me of his having, by Stratagem, caused one of the Felucca-rigged Privateers to be captured, that annoy the Coast of the Island of Jamaica.

I am, &c.

J. R. DACRES.

*Papillon, Savanna La Mar, April 15, 1805.*

SIR,

**H**AVING anchored at Savanna La Mar, I gained Intelligence from the Master of a Droger, that a Spanish Felucca-rigged Privateer was off the West End to the very great Annoyance of the Coast, and being very apprehensive she might make her Escape should I go after her in the *Papillon*, I judged it best to try and take her by Stratagem; I accordingly got one of the Merchant Ships' Shallops, and dispatched Lieutenant Prieur, with Twenty-five Men disguising her as a Droger; at Eight the same Evening, he fell in with the Privateer close under the Land; Lieutenant Prieur, in a very cool and brave Manner allowed her to row alongside, and make herself fast before the Enemy discovered his Mistake, he then ordered the Men from below, fired a Volley of Musketry into her and boarded; and I am happy to inform you, in Four Minutes she was completely in our Posses-