



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1805.

Admiralty-Office, November 11, 1805:

THE Letter, (and its Enclosures,) of which the following are Copies, were received at this Office last Night, from Captain (now Rear-Admiral) Sir Richard John Strachan, Bart. Commander of His Majesty's Ship the *Cæsar*, addressed to William Marsden, Esq.

SIR,

Cæsar, November 7, 1805.

THE accompanying Copy of a Letter, addressed to the Honorable Admiral Cornwallis, I request you will be pleased to lay before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, with my Apology for the hasty Manner in which it is written.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

R. J. STRACHAN.

Cæsar, West of Rochfort 264 Miles,

SIR,

Nov. 4, 1805, Wind S. E.

BEING off Ferrol, working to the Westward, with the Wind Westerly, on the Evening of the 2d, we observed a Frigate in the N. W. making Signals; made all Sail to join her before Night, and followed by the Ships named in the Margin*, we came up with her at Eleven at Night; and at the Moment she joined us, we saw Six large Ships near us. Captain Baker informed me he had been chased by the Rochfort Squadron, then close to Leeward of us. We were delighted. I desired him to tell the Cap-

* *Cæsar, Hero, Courageux, and Namur.*

Bellona, Æolus, Santa-Margarita, far to Leeward in the South East.

tains of the Ships of the Line astern to follow me, as I meant to engage them directly; and immediately bore away in the *Cæsar* for the Purpose, making all the Signals I could, to indicate our Movements to our Ships; the Moon enabled us to see the Enemy bear away in a Line abreast, closely formed; but we lost Sight of them when it set, and I was obliged to reduce our Sails, the *Hero*, *Courageux*, and *Æolus* being the only Ships we could see. We continued steering to the E. N. E. all Night, and in the Morning observed the *Santa Margarita* near us; at Nine we discovered the Enemy of Four Sail of the Line in the N. E. under all Sail. We had also every Thing set, and came up with them fast; in the Evening, we observed Three Sail astern; and the *Phoenix* spoke me at Night. I found that active Officer, Captain Baker, had delivered my Orders, and I sent him on to assist the *Santa Margarita* in leading us up to the Enemy. At Daylight we were near them, and the *Santa Margarita* had begun in a very gallant Manner to fire upon their Rear, and was soon joined by the *Phoenix*.

A little before Noon, the French finding an Action unavoidable began to take in their small Sails, and form in a Line, bearing on the Starboard Tack; we did the same, and I communicated my Intentions by hailing to the Captains, "that I should attack the Centre and Rear," and at Noon began the Battle; in a short Time the Van Ship of the Enemy tacked, which almost directly made the Action close and general; the *Namur* joined soon after

we tacked, which we did as soon as we could get the Ships round, and I directed her by Signal, to engage the Van; at half-past Three the Action ceased, the Enemy having fought to admiration, and not surrendering till their Ships were unmanageable. I have returned Thanks to the Captains of the Ships of the Line and the Frigates, and they speak in high Terms of Approbation of their respective Officers and Ships' Companies. If any Thing could add to the good Opinion I had already formed of the Officers and Crew of the *Cæsar*, it is their gallant Conduct in this Day's Battle. The Enemy have suffered much, but our Ships not more than is to be expected on these Occasions. You may judge of my Surprise, Sir, when I found the Ships we had taken, were not the Rochfort Squadron, but from Cadiz.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

R. J. STRACHAN.

*Honorable William Cornwallis, Admiral
of the White, and Commander in Chief,
&c. &c. &c.*

FIRST LINE.

STARBOARD TACK.

British Line.

Cæsar, of 80 Guns.

Hero, of 74 Guns.

Courageux, of 74 Guns.

French Line.

Duguay Trouin, of 74 Guns, Captain Toufflet.

Formidable, of 80 Guns, Rear-Admiral Dumanoir.

Mont Blanc, of 74 Guns, Captain Villegrey.
Scipion, of 74 Guns, Captain Barouger.

SECOND LINE

(When the *Namur* joined).

LARBOARD TACK.

British Line.

Hero, of 74 Guns, Honorable Captain Gardner.

Namur, of 74 Guns, Captain Halked.

Cæsar, of 80 Guns, Sir Richard J. Strachan,

Courageux, of 74 Guns, Captain Lec.

French Line.

Duguay Trouin,

Formidable.

Mont Blanc.

Scipion.

N. B. The *Duguay Trouin* and *Scipion* totally dismasted; the *Formidable* and *Mont Blanc* have their Foremasts standing.

Our Frigates—*Santa Margarita*, *Æolus*, *Phoenix*, and *Revolutionaire*.

The *Revolutionaire* joined at the Time the *Namur* did, but, with the rest of our Frigates, in consequence of the French tacking, were to Leeward of the Enemy.

I do not know what is become of the *Bellona*, or the other Two Sail we saw on the Night of the 2d Instant.

The Reports of Damage, Killed, and Wounded, have not been all received. The Enemy have suffered much.

Printed by ANDREW STRACHAN, Printers Street, Gough Square.

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