

Admiralty-Office, June 14, 1806.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Dacres, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Jamaica, to William Marsden, Esq; dated at Port Royal, April 1, 1806.

SIR,

I HAVE great Pleasure in transmitting, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Copies of Two Letters received from Captain Rols, of His Majesty's Ship Pique: the Brigs appear very well adapted for His Majesty's Service, and not more than Nine Months old; if found adequate thereto by the Officers of the Yard, I shall direct them to be purchased, and intend giving Lieutenant Ward the Command of One, as a Commander, till the Pleasure of their Lordships is known, who I am sure will highly approve of his Conduct in boarding and carrying the Armed Schooner Santa Clara, and it will in some Degree alleviate the very severe Wound he has received in boarding the French Brig of War.

I am, &c. (Signed) J. R. DACRES.

His Majesty's Ship Pique, off Ocoa Bay, 17th March 1806.

SIR,

I Have the Honour to inform you, that Lieutenant Ward of His Majesty's Ship under my Command, in the Gig assisted by Mr. Eveleigh (Midshipman) in the Yawl, most gallantly boarded and succeeded in capturing, after a very smart Resistance; (and without Loss on our Side), the Spanish Armed Schooner Santa Clara, of One Nine-Pounder, and Twenty-Eight Men, completely equipped for War.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

C. B. H. ROSS.

To James Richard Dacres, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the White, Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

His Majesty's Ship Pique, off Saint Catherine's, 27th March 1806.

SIR,

I Have the Honour to inform you, that Yesterday, crossing over from Santo Domingo to Curacoa, I fell in with Two Men of War Brigs, standing in for the Land; at One P. M. being within long Range, I commenced firing to prevent their getting in with the Shore, and from superior sailing closed with them at Two, when a most destructive Fire continued for about Twenty Minutes, but a Flaw of Wind favouring us, the Helm was put down, which placed us immediately across the Hawse of the Commodore; she was directly boarded by Lieutenants Ward and Baker, and Mr. Thompson, and every Inch of her Decks most obstinately defended; the Slaughter on both Sides was dreadful, and it is with real Concern I state the Loss of Mr. John Thompson, the Master, who was killed with Eight Seamen, and Lieutenants Ward and Baker, with Twelve Seamen and Marines wounded; the Contest was very severe, but in about Five Minutes the Colours were hauled down; the other struck after a few Broadfides more, and we took Possession of the Phaeton and Voltigeur, of Sixteen Guns and One Hundred and Twenty Men each, French Brigs of War, beautiful Vessels, and only Nine Months old. It was impossible for two Vessels to be more obstinately defended, every Thing being cut to Pieces, and nearly One Half of their Crews killed or wounded. I understand they had been roughly

handled by an English Man of War Brig (Reindeer) the Day before.

I beg Leave to recommend to your Notice my First Lieutenant Ward, whose good Conduct at all Times has merited the highest Approbation; he is, am afraid, dangerously wounded.

The Death of Mr. Thompson I most sincerely lament; in him his Country has lost a brave and most excellent Officer; he is the same so handsomely spoken of by Captain Bissett in the Ragoon; he has left a Wife to lament his Loss, and almost a Stranger in this Country. The Wound of Lieutenant Baker I rejoice to say will only lay him by for a short Time.

The Assistance I received from Lieutenant Craig of the Royal Marines (who is also wounded) and his Party deserve the highest Praise, for the steady and well directed Fire kept up by them, and their Soldier-like Behaviour at all Times. We had only one Man wounded on board, all the others were killed and wounded on the Brigs' Decks. The Ship's Company behaved uncommonly well, and I trust the Conduct of all will merit your Approbation.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

CHARLES B. H. ROSS.

James Richard Dacres, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the White, Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

Le Phaeton, 16 Guns, 120 Men, Freyanet, Lieutenant de Vaisseau.

Le Voltigeur, 16 Guns, 115 Men, M. St. Craig, Lieutenant de Vaisseau.

I beg Leave to enclose you a List of the Killed and Wounded on board His Majesty's Ship under my Command. I have had no Account from the Prizes, but their Loss has been very great. The Commodore has lost his right Arm.

CHARLES B. H. ROSS.

List of Officers, Seamen, and Marines killed and wounded on board His Majesty's Ship Pique, Charles B. H. Ross, Esq; Captain, in Action with the French National Brigs Le Voltigeur and Phaeton, on the 26th Day of March 1806.

Killed,

Mr. John Thompson, Master.
Alexander Mackintosh, Yeoman of the Sheets.
Matthew Meyler, Able Seaman.
Cornelius Carmody (1), Landman.
Thomas Watkins, Second Gunner.
Thomas Reid, Landman.
Jacob Reid, Able Seaman.
James Shaw, Landman.
George Collier, Supernumerary.

Wounded.

Mr. William Ward, First Lieutenant.
Mr. P. H. Baker, Third Lieutenant.
Mr. W. H. Craig, Lieutenant of Marines, slightly.
William Marshal, Boatswain's-Mate.
James Mills, Able Seaman.
Thomas Scott, Ordinary Seaman.
Ralph Harrison, Able Seaman.
William Pickoran, Able Seaman.
Bryan White, Quarter-Master.
Daniel Hall, Able Seaman.
Christopher Hake, Supernumerary.
William Carnes, Private of Marines.
Jof. Wright, ditto.
Henry Davis, ditto.

Total—9 killed and 14 wounded.