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Admiralty-Office, August 2, 1806.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of St. Vincent, K. B. Admiral and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Fleet employed in the Channel, Soundings, &c. to William Marsden, Esq; dated on board His Majesty's Ship the Hibernia, off Ushant, the 27th July 1806.

SIR,

I INCLOSE the Relation of a very gallant Action in which the most intrepid Valour has been manifested, and the National Character highly sustained, but I greatly lament the Loss of a Number of brave Men in the Performance of it, flattering myself however that Sixteen of them are Prisoners. I am, &c. St. VINCENT.

Centaur, off Rochfort,
July 19, 1806.

MY LORD,

I BEG Leave to inclose to your Lordship, a Letter I have received from Captain Rodd, of His Majesty's Ship Indefatigable, giving an Account of an Attack made by a Boat from each Line of Battle Ship of this Squadron, and those of His Majesty's Ships Indefatigable and Iris, on Two Corvettes and a Convoy, in the Entrance of the River Garonne. Le César, the largest Corvette, was boarded and carried by the Division of Boats led on by Lieutenant Sibly, First Lieutenant of the Centaur, in a Style highly honorable to the National Character. The Western Breeze that sprung up after the Boats left the Indefatigable, and blowing stronger as they advanced, was truly perplexing, for it was the only Circumstance that could have prevented the Whole falling into our Hands; they took Advantage on the first Attack, and made sail, and escaped before the Wind and Tide up the Garonne; it was impossible for the Boats to prevent them. The firm Resistance made by the Corvette caused a greater Loss than could be expected, but nothing could withstand the Bravery of the Officers and Seamen employed.

To Lieutenant Sibly's Gallantry no Words of mine are equal to do justice, every one speaks of him in Terms of the highest Commendation, and I had before, in the West Indies, experienced his brave Conduct, and now has Seven severe Wounds, but I hope none mortal, and I beg Leave to recom-

mend him as an Officer truly deserving the Attention of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

To Lieutenant Parker, First of the Indefatigable, much Praise is due, and given him by Lieutenant Sibly, for his brave Support and able Conduct in managing the Corvette after he was wounded.

The Loss of the Boats was unavoidable, of that of the Revenge, with her Officer and Crew, no certain Account can be obtained; there is a faint Hope she may have been driven up the Garonne.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) SAM. HOOD.

Right Hon. the Earl of St Vincent, K. B.

&c. &c. &c.

Indefatigable, off Rochfort,
17th July, 1806.

SIR,

I HAVE the Honor to acquaint you, in obedience to your Orders of the 14th Instant, I gave the Command of the Boats of the Squadron you sent me by the Iris, for the Purpose of endeavouring to capture or destroy the French Convoy, in the Entrance of the River of Bourdeaux (with the Addition of Three from the Indefatigable, and Three from the Iris,) to Lieutenant Sibly, of the Centaur, with all the Information I was in possession of respecting their Situation on the Evening of the 15th, it appearing a favourable Time to make the Attempt; though some Time after the Boats had quitted the Indefatigable, the Wind shifted to the Westward and came on to blow fresh, notwithstanding the Boats proceeded to Verdun Road, boarded and carried the French Brig Le César, of Eighteen Guns, and by the Roile d'Equipage, Eighty-six Men, commanded by Monsieur Louis François Hector Fourré, Lieutenant de Vaisseau. The conflict was severe on both Sides, the Frenchmen being in every Respect well prepared, expecting the Attack. The Wind coming on to blow fresh, and the Tide running very strong, was much against the Boats; but nothing could withstand such Men led on by the Officers who commanded them.

Lieutenant Sibly, I lament to say, is badly wounded in several Places, though, from the Reports of the Surgeon, I trust, will recover. To this gallant Officer, (whose Conduct is spoken of by all who were under his Command with Admirable,) I beg to refer you for Particulars. The Con-