

worthy of the beloved Country in whose Cause they have been so nobly engaged;—the public Gratitude will be commensurate with their eminent Services.

I learn that the St. Fiorenzo had arrived with her Prize in Safety at Colombo, from whence she may shortly be expected at this Fort.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

EDWARD PELLEW.

SIR,

*His Majesty's Ship St. Fiorenzo, at Sea,
9th March 1808.*

IT is with great Regret I have to inform you of the Death of Captain Hardinge, late of His Majesty's Ship St. Fiorenzo, who fell gloriously in the early Part of an Action on the 8th inst. between His Majesty's Ship St. Fiorenzo and the French National Frigate La Piedmontaise.

The St. Fiorenzo sailed from Point de Galie on Friday the 4th inst. at Half past Eleven A. M. On the 6th, at Seven A. M. passed Three Indiamen, and, shortly after, saw a Frigate bearing N. E. We immediately hauled our Wind in chase, and made all Sail, being at that Time in Latitude 7° 32' Longitude 77° 58'. We made the private Signal, which was not answered; and at Five shewed our Colours, which the Enemy took no Notice of. At Forty Minutes past Eleven P. M. we ranged alongside of him on the Larboard Tack, and received his Broadside. After engaging till Fifty Minutes past Eleven P. M. within a Cable's Length, the Enemy made sail a-head, out of the Range of our Shot; we ceased firing, and made all Sail after him; continuing to come up with him till Daylight, when finding he could not avoid an Action, he wore, as did we also. At Twenty-five Minutes past Six recommenced the Action at the Distance of Half a Mile, gradually closing with him to a Quarter of a Mile. The Fire was constant and well-directed on both Sides, though that of the Enemy slackened towards the latter Part of the Action. At a Quarter past Eight P. M. the Enemy made all Sail away; our Main-top-mast-Yard being shot through, the Main Royal mast, and both Main-top-mast-Stays, the Main-spring-Stay, and most of the standing and running Rigging, and all our Sails shot to Pieces, and most of our Cartridges fired away, (as our Guns were directed at his Hull he was not much disabled about his Rigging,) we ceased firing, and employed all Hands in repairing the Damages sustained, and fitting the Ship again for Action. From the great Injury our Masts, Yards, and Sails had received, I am sorry to observe that it was not in our Power to chase to renew the Action immediately; we, however, succeeded in keeping Sight of him during the Night; and at Nine A. M. on the 8th, the Ship being perfectly prepared for Action, we bore down upon the Enemy under all Sail; he did not endeavour to avoid us till we hauled athwart his Stern, for the Purpose of gaining the Weather Gage, and bringing him to close Fight, when he hauled up also, and made all Sail; but perceiving that we came fast up with him, and that an Action was inevitable, he tacked, and at Three we passed each other on opposite Tacks, and recommenced Action within a Quarter of a Cable's Length. With Grief I have to observe that our brave Captain was killed by a Grape-Shot the second Broadside. When the Enemy was abast our Beam he wore, and, after an Hour and Twenty Minutes close Action, struck their Colours, and waved their

Masts for a Boat to be sent them. She proved to be La Piedmontaise, commanded by Monsieur Epron, Capitaine du Vaisseau; she mounts Fifty Gun, long Eighteen-Pounders on her Main Deck, and Thirty-six-Pounder Cannonades on her Quarter Deck. She had Three Hundred and Sixty-six Frenchmen on board, and nearly Two Hundred Lascars, who worked their Sails. She sailed from the Isle of France on the 30th December. In the Action she had Forty-eight killed and One Hundred and Twelve wounded. The St. Fiorenzo has Thirteen killed and Twenty-five wounded; most of the latter are in a most promising Way. A List of them I have the Honour to inclose for your Information. The Enemy was cut to Pieces in His Masts, Bow-sprit, and Rigging; and they all went by the Board during the Night.

It is now a pleasing Part of my Duty to recommend to your particular Notice the cool, steady, and gallant Conduct of Lieutenants Edward Davis and Henry George Moyley; the latter, I am sorry to add, was severely wounded about Ten Minutes before the Enemy struck. I also experienced very great Assistance from Mr. Donovan, the Matter, by the judicious and Seaman-like Manner in which he laid us close alongside the Enemy. To Lieutenant Samuel Ashmore, of the Royal Marines, I am much indebted, for the cool and determined Courage evinced by him through the whole Action. Indeed every Officer, Petty Officer, Seaman, and Marine in the Ship behaved in the most brave and gallant Manner, and nobly maintained the Pre-eminence of the British Flag. In the first Boat from the Prize came Mr. W. F. Black, Assistant-Surgeon of His Majesty's 86th Regiment, captured by the Piedmontaise on his Passage to Madras, who rendered the Surgeon great Assistance.

I am also much indebted to the Officers of the Army, and the Captains and Officers of the Country Ships, who were Prisoners on board the Enemy, for the great Assistance they afforded us with their Lascars in erecting Jury Masts, and working the Ship into Port, as from our weak State, and the great Number of Prisoners on board us, we could spare but few Hands from our own Ship to tend on board the Prize.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

WILLIAM DAWSON.

*To Sir Edward Pellew, Bart. Rear-Admiral
of the Red, and Commander in Chief of His
Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the East Indies.*

*List of Officers, Seamen, and Marines killed and wounded
on-board His Majesty's Ship St. Fiorenzo, in Action
with La Piedmontaise French National Frigate, on
the 6th, 7th, and 8th of March 1808.*

Wounded on the 6th.

William Pitt, Seaman; slightly.
John Treacy, Supernumerary Seaman; ditto.
William Miller, Seaman; ditto.

Killed on the 7th.

Thomas Martin, Seaman.
Charles Smallwood, ditto,
Robert Currell, ditto.
John Middleton, ditto.
William Mead, Supernumerary Seaman.
William Martin, Marine.
John Luff, ditto.
Joseph Litchfield, ditto.