

to any of His Majesty's Settlements in South America; provided the Merchant Exporter shall first verify, upon Oath, that the Articles so exported are intended for the Use of a particular Plantation or Settlement, to be named in the Entry Outwards, and not for Sale; and that the said Plantation or Settlement has not before been furnished with any Supply of the said Articles during the same Season; and provided also that the Exportation of the said Articles shall in no Case, exceed the Value of Fifty Pounds Sterling for any given Plantation or Settlement, whether by one or more Shipments within the same Season: And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, and the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, are to give the necessary Directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

W. Farquhar.

Admiralty-Office, February 4, 1809.

Copy of a Letter from Rear-Admiral the Honourable Sir Alexander Cochrane, K. B. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at the Leeward Islands, to the Honourable W. W. Pole, dated on board the *Neptune*, at Barbadoes, 19th December, 1808.

SIR,

I INCLOSE, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the Copy of a Letter which I have received from Captain Collier, of His Majesty's Ship *Circe*, the senior Officer of the blockading Squadron stationed from the Diamond to the Pearl Rocks, Martinique, giving an Account of the Destruction of the French Corvette *Le Cygne*, which had sailed from Cherbourg on the 12th November, with the *Papillon*, another Corvette, and *La Verjus*, *La Junon*, and *L'Amphitrite* Frigates.

In performing this Service I am sorry to send the inclosed Report of the Loss which has been sustained by the several Vessels engaged, owing to the Corvette having been supported by the Batteries, Field-Pieces, and Musketry from the Shore, in her Attempt to reach St. Pierre's; but the Object is fully accomplished, as she is bilged in such a Situation as to render it impossible to recover the Vessel, or the Flour with which she was loaded. One of the Schooners in Company with her was burnt, and the other drove on Shore and destroyed; each of them also having been loaded with Flour and Provisions.

Captain Collier deserves great Praise for his Perseverance in overcoming the Obstacles which the Enemy presented by the numerous Batteries which lined the Shore in that Part of the Coast; and he speaks in the highest Terms of Captain Brenton of the *Amaranthe*, as well as of the Gallantry and good Conduct of Lieutenant Wright, and a Party of the Royal York Rangers, who were serving as Marines.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. COCHRANE.

His Majesty's Ship *Circe*, off St. Pierre's, Martinique, December 14, 1808.

ON Monday, at Eleven A. M., His Majesty's Brig *Morne Fortunée* informed me by Signal that

an Enemy's Brig and Two Schooners were at Anchor off the Pearl. I immediately recalled the lookout Vessels named as per Margin \*, and made all Sail towards the Enemy. On our nearing St. Pierre's, I perceived a large French Schooner towing along Shore, under Cover of a Number of Troops. The Schooner finding it impossible to get between St. Pierre's and the *Circe*, the Stork closing fast, they ran her on Shore under a Battery of Four Guns, flanked by Two smaller ones, and the Beach lined with Troops. The Signal was then made to close with the Enemy, and engage in Succession, the *Circe* leading, followed by the Stork and *Morne Fortunée*; being within Pistol-shot the small Batteries were soon silenced, and the Troops driven from the Beach. Seeing the Brig and Schooner unloading, I directed the *Morne Fortunée* to watch the Schooner in Shore, and to give similar Orders to the *Epervier* on her coming up. We then made Sail towards the Brig and the other Schooner, which were lying well to Windward close to the Beach, under Cover of Four Batteries and an immense Number of Troops and Field Pieces, which they had brought down on the Beach to protect her. Having placed the Barge and Two Cutters under the Command of Lieutenant Crook, Mr. Collman, Purser, Mr. Smith, Master, and Mr. Thomas, Carpenter, who handsomely volunteered with Sixty-eight Men to bring the Brig out, I then made Sail with the Stork and Express towards her, and directed the Boats to lay off until the Brig's Fire slackened. It getting late, the Vessels lying close in with the Rocks, and having no Pilot on board, I stood in, and was handsomely seconded by Captain Le Geyt of the Stork. The Ships did not commence Action until our Men were wounded from the Beach with Musketry. We then bore up under a heavy Fire of great Guns and small Arms. Having passed the Batteries and Brig, the *Circe*'s Boats not waiting for the Stork's to come up, boarded in the most gallant Manner; and it is with extreme Concern I have to add, that their Gallantry did not meet with its Reward; they were beat back with dreadful Slaughter; one Boat taken and one sunk, the other entirely disabled. Our Loss in the Boats are killed, wounded, and missing, Fifty-six. By this Time it was Dark; I stood off until Daylight, determining to persevere and destroy the Brig if possible. In the Evening I was joined by the *Amaranthe*, who watched the Brig during the Night.

At Eight A. M. we perceived she had weighed; Captain Brenton, in the most handsome Manner, volunteering to bring her out, she was then towing and sweeping close in Shore towards St. Pierre's; the Boats of the *Circe* and Stork, and Men from the Express, were sent to tow the *Amaranthe* up, who was at this Time sweeping and using every Exertion to close with the Enemy. At Ten, the French Brig grounded near several Batteries, to the Northward of St. Pierre's; the *Amaranthe* tacked and worked in under a heavy Fire from the Batteries and Brig, from which she suffered considerably, having One killed and Five wounded, followed by the *Circe*, the Rest of the Squadron engaging the Batteries to Leeward. From the *Amaranthe*'s well directed Fire, she soon obliged them to quit the Brig. Lieutenant Hay, of the *Amaranthe*, on this

\* Stork, *Epervier*, and Express.