

of Bourbon, and on the 17th Instant, being in expectation of falling in with the blockading Squadron off the Harbour of Port Louis, I reconnoitred that Port, and estimated the Enemy's Force at Seven Frigates and one large Corvette. Not finding the Squadron, bore up at Noon for the Island of Bourbon. At One, Two of the Enemy's Ships were observed coming out of Port, and were soon discovered to be in Chace of His Majesty's Ship; the Headmost gained fast, and the Sternmost slowly. I continued under the same Sail, endeavouring to draw them as far as possible, which also tended to extend the Distance of the chasing Ships. At Fifteen Minutes past Twelve, on the Enemy's coming along-side, I found her to be a Frigate of the largest Class. After a severe Conflict of One Hour and Ten Minutes, she hauled off and dropped altern, which I concluded was to wait her Consort's coming up.

Finding the great Superiority of Force I encountered (having drawn my Conclusion of the Enemy's Force before dark), I lost not a Moment in repairing my Rigging, which was much cut, and made sail, in hopes of reaching the Island. At Two, descried the Enemy's Second Ship. At Fifteen Minutes past Two, the Enemy's head-most Frigate coming along-side, I shortened sail to the Top-sails, and renewed the Action. At Four I had the Satisfaction to see her Mizzen-mast and Three Top-masts go by the board: a few Minutes afterwards, the Ceylon's Fore and Main Top-masts fell. At this time, His Majesty's Ship, being unmanageable, had suffered severely; the Rigging and Sails being cut to pieces, which entirely precluded all further Manœuvre. The Action was maintained and continued with great Spirit. At Five A. M. the Enemy's Fore and Main-masts standing, with the Assistance of his Fore-sail, enabled him to wear close under our Stern, and take a raking Position on our Lec quarter. His Majesty's Ship lying an unmanageable Wreck, I directed the Mizzen-Top-sail to be cut away, and endeavoured to set a Fore-stay-sail, in hopes of getting the Ship before the Wind, but without Effect. The second Ship having opened her Fire, with the great Advantage the Enemy had by having both his Ships under Command, enabled him to take and keep his raking Position, and pour in a heavy and destructive Fire, while His Majesty's Ship could only bring a few Quarter-guns to bear.

In the shattered and disabled State of His Majesty's Ship, a Retreat was impossible. The Superiority of the Enemy's heavy and destructive Fire left me no Hopes of Success. Reduced to this distressful Situation, feeling the firmest Conviction that every Energy and Exertion was called forth, under the Influence of the strongest Impressions I had discharged my Duty and upheld the Honour of His Majesty's Arms, feeling it a Duty I owed to the Officers and Crew, who had nobly displayed that Bravery which is so truly their Characteristic, when I had lost all Hopes of saving His Majesty's Ship, to prevent a useless Effusion of Blood, I was under the painful Necessity of directing a Light to be shewn to the Second Ship that we had struck.

I think it a Duty I owe to Captain Ross, of His Majesty's 69th Regiment, to thus publicly acknowledge the able Support I received from him and his Party of Men, who were acting as Marines for the Time being.

The Enemy's Force proved to be the Venus of Forty-four Guns, and Three Hundred and Eighty Men, and Victor of Twenty Guns and One Hundred and Fifty Men, the former mounting Twenty-eight Eighteen Pounders on her Main Deck, and Twelve Forty Pounders, and Four Long Nines on her Quarter-deck and Forecastle.

Subscribed is a List of Killed and Wounded.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

CHARLES GORDON.

Rear-Admiral Drury, &c. &c. &c.

Killed.

John Parish, Seaman.
William Iby, ditto.
John Grigg, ditto.
John Cook, ditto.
John Philips, ditto.
William Kent, ditto.
Patrick Kearney, Soldier.
Daniel Enlay, ditto.
John Ferguson, ditto.
John Feeland, ditto.

Dangerously wounded.

Jacob Davis, Seaman.
Otto Abraham, ditto.
James Spields, ditto.
James Turnbull, ditto.
Nathaniel Gibson, Soldier.

Severely wounded.

Captain Gordon.
Mr. Oliver, Master.
William Staggs, Seaman.
Charles Smith, ditto.
John Robinson, ditto.
John King, Soldier.
John Bradley, ditto.
Hugh Murphy, ditto.

Slightly wounded.

Mr. Graham, Boatwain.
Leven Benson, Seaman.
Richard Brownson, ditto.
Thomas Curtis, ditto.
John Braham, ditto.
John Williams (2), ditto.
William Hancock, ditto.
George Johnson, ditto.
Patrick Armstrong, ditto.
William Sprattly, ditto.
Arther Quin, ditto.
William Turner, Marine.
Captain Ross, Soldier.
Charles M'Cann, ditto.
Charles Bailie, ditto.
Samuel Philips, ditto.
James Allen, ditto.
Patrick M'Claskey, ditto.

Admiralty-Office, February 12, 1811.

VICE-ADMIRAL CAMPBELL has transmitted to John Wilson Croker, Esq; a Letter from Captain Dickens, of His Majesty's Sloop the Zephyr giving an Account of his having, on the 8th Instant captured the Victoire French Lugger Privateer, Sixteen Guns and Sixty-eight Men.

