

of Ayr, humbly beg leave to approach your Royal Highness with heartfelt congratulations, on the late glorious, important, and successful events with which it has pleased Divine Providence to crown His Majesty's arms, under the skilful enterprise of his great General the Marquess of Wellington, whose wisdom to contrive, whose ability to carry on, and whose energy to execute vast military combinations, is equally transcendent and gratifying to his admiring country.

Amidst these glorious and successful achievements of our brave countrymen, led on by their exalted commander, the battle of Salamanca claims our unbounded applause; whether we consider the bravery of the troops, the skill of their leader, or its decided effects upon the fate of the Peninsula, in which Portugal and Spain, by successful resistance to their unprincipled invader, and with the powerful assistance of British valour, yet nobly struggle for freedom and independence.

The ambitious enemy with whom we have to contend, although formidable as a foe, is more formidable as a deceitful, faithless, and unprincipled friend.

The faint-hearted and temporising powers of the Continent have sunk before him; whilst the empire over which Providence has placed your Royal Father, by proud, firm, and determined resistance, exists uninjured and entire, the bulwark of the western world.

Uninfluenced by party motives, we approach your Royal Highness, trusting and confiding in your discernment and firmness, that, unmoved by popular clamour or the intrigues of faction, you will direct the energies and resources of a brave and free people, for the safety of our native land, the happiness of Europe, and for the attainment of a safe, honourable, and lasting peace.

Signed by our Præses, in our presence and by our appointment, at Ayr, this 16th September 1812.

[Transmitted by Earl Moira, and presented by Lord Sidmouth.]

Admiralty-Office, October 10, 1812.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Sawyer to John Wilson Croker, Esq. dated on board His Majesty's Ship Africa, at Halifax, the 15th September 1812.

SIR,

IT is with extreme concern I have to request you will be pleased to lay before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the enclosed copy of a letter from Captain Dacres, of His Majesty's late ship Guerriere, giving an account of his having sustained a close action, of near two hours, on the 19th ultimo, with the American frigate Constitution, of very superior force, both in guns and men (of the latter almost double), when the Guerriere being totally dismasted, she rolled so deep as to render all further efforts at the guns unavailing, and it became a duty to spare the lives of the remaining part of her valuable crew, by hauling down her colours. The masts fell over the side from which she was about to be engaged, in a very favourable position for raking by the enemy. A few hours after she was in possession of the enemy, it was found impossible

to keep her above water; she was therefore set fire to and abandoned, which I hope will satisfy their Lordships she was defended to the last.

Captain Dacres has fully detailed the particulars of the action, as well as the very gallant conduct of, and the support he received from, the whole of his officers and ship's company, and I am happy to hear he is, with the rest of the wounded, doing well; they have been treated with the greatest humanity and kindness, and an exchange having been agreed on, I am in daily expectation of their arrival here.

A list of the killed and wounded is herewith sent, which, I regret to say, is very large.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. SAWYER, Vice-Admiral.

SIR,

Boston, September 7, 1812.

I AM sorry to inform you of the capture of His Majesty's late Ship Guerriere by the American frigate Constitution, after a severe action, on the 19th August, in latitude 40 deg. 20 min. N. and longitude 55 deg. W. At two P. M. being by the wind on the starboard tack, we saw a sail on our weather beam, bearing down on us. At three made her out to be a man of war, beat to quarters and prepared for action. At four, she closing fast, wore to prevent her raking us. At ten minutes past four hoisted our colours and fired several shot at her; at twenty minutes past four she hoisted her colours and returned our fire, wore several times to avoid being raked, exchanging broadsides. At five she closed on our starboard beam, both keeping up a heavy fire and steering free, his intention being evidently to cross our bow. At twenty minutes past five our mizen-mast went over the starboard quarter and brought the ship up in the wind; the enemy then placed himself on our larboard bow raking us, a few only of our bow guns bearing, and his grape and riflemen sweeping our deck. At forty minutes past five, the ship not answering her helm, he attempted to lay us on board; at this time Mr. Grant, who commanded the fore-castle, was carried below, badly wounded. I immediately ordered the marines and boarders from the main deck; the master was at this time shot through the knee, and I received a severe wound in the back. Lieutenant Kent was leading on the boarders, when the ship coming too, we brought some of our bow guns to bear on her, and had got clear of our opponent, when at twenty minutes past six our fore and main-masts went over the side, leaving the ship a perfect unmanageable wreck. The frigate shooting ahead, I was in hopes to clear the wreck and get the ship under command to renew the action, but just as we had cleared the wreck, our spritsail yard went, and the enemy having rove new braces, &c. wore round within pistol-shot, to rake us, the ship laying in the trough of the sea, and rolling, her main deck guns under water, and all attempts to get her before the wind being fruitless; when calling my few remaining officers together, they were all of opinion that any further resistance would only be a needless waste of lives; I ordered, though reluctantly, the colours to be struck.

The loss of the ship is to be ascribed to the early fall of the mizen-mast, which enabled our opponent to choose his position. I am sorry to say we suf-