

Admiralty-Office, February 26, 1814.

COPIES of three letters received at this office, from Rear-Admiral Durham, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's ships and vessels at the Leeward Islands, addressed to John Wilson Croker, Esq.

SIR, *Venerable, at Sea, Dec. 31, 1813.*

I HAVE to acquaint you, for their Lordships information, that in the execution of my orders, the Venerable this day captured the French letter of marque brig *Le Jason*, of two hundred and sixty-four tons, pierced for twenty-two guns, but mounting only fourteen, twelve of which had been thrown overboard in the chase. She left Bourdeaux five days since, bound for New York, with a cargo composed of silks, wines, and other articles of merchandise: sixty-four persons were found on board, ten of whom are passengers; this is the first time of her having been at sea. She is a fine new vessel, copper-bottomed, and sails so well that I take her under protection to Barbadoes, for adjudication.

I have the honour to be, &c.

P. C. DURHAM, Rear-Admiral.

J. W. Croker, Esq.

SIR, *Venerable, at Sea, Jan. 16, 1814.*

I HAVE the satisfaction of stating, that this day, at nine, A.M. the *Cyane* made the signal for two strangers in the north-east, which were immediately given chase to, and owing to the very superior sailing of the Venerable, I was enabled to come up within gun-shot of them at the close of the day, leaving the *Cyane* far astern. On ranging up with the leewardmost, (the night was too dark to distinguish her colours) desirous of saving her the consequences of so unequal a contest, I hailed her twice to surrender, but the evasive answer returned, obliged me to order the guns to be opened, as they would bear; upon this the enemy immediately put his helm up, and, under all sail, laid us on board, for which temerity he has suffered most severely.

The promptitude with which Captain Worth repelled the attempt to board, was not less conspicuous than the celerity with which he passed his men into the enemy's frigate, and hauled down her ensign. I have much pleasure in naming the petty officers who distinguished themselves on this occasion, Messrs. Maltman, Walker, and Kuevill, master's mates, and Mr. Gréy, midshipman.

This ship proves to be the *Alcimedé*, a beautiful French frigate of forty-four guns, having a complement, at the commencement of the action, of three-hundred and nineteen men, commanded by Captain Ducrest de Villeneuve, an officer of much merit, and who was wounded at the time of boarding.

To his determined resistance, aided by the darkness of the night, the other frigate for the present owes her escape, but I have every hope that the *Cyane* will be enabled to observe her until I have shifted the prisoners, and repaired the trifling injury done to the rigging, during the period of the enemy being on board.

Our loss consists of two seamen killed and four

wounded; that of the enemy two petty officers and thirty seamen killed, and fifty wounded.

Lieutenant George Lince, whom I have placed in the frigate, is an old and very deserving officer, who has served twenty years under my command.

I have, &c.

P. C. DURHAM, Rear-Admiral.

J. W. Croker, Esq.

SIR, *Venerable, at Sea, Jan. 20, 1814.*

IT affords me much pleasure to communicate to you, for their Lordships information, the capture of the French frigate that escaped on Sunday night.

The vigilance of Captain Forrest enabled him to keep sight of her during the night, and two following days, when, having run one hundred and fifty-three miles, in the direction I judged the enemy had taken, the Venerable's superior sailing gave me the opportunity of again discovering the fugitive, and, after an anxious chase of nineteen hours, to come up with and capture.

She is named the *Iphigénia*, a frigate of the largest class, commanded by Captain Emerie, having a complement of three hundred and twenty-five men, and, like her consort the *Alcimedé*, perfectly new.

Every means to effect her escape were resorted to, the anchors being cut away, and her boats thrown overboard.

On our coming up we had run the *Cyane* out of sight from the mast-head.

These frigates sailed in company from Cherbouurg on the 20th October last, and were to cruise for six months.

It becomes me now to notice the very meritorious conduct of Captain Forrest, not only in assiduously keeping sight, but repeatedly offering battle to a force so superior; nor less deserving of my warmest approbation is Captain Worth of this ship, whose indefatigable attention during the many manoeuvres attempted by the enemy in this long and arduous chase, was equalled only by the exemplary behaviour of every officer and man under his command.

I have the honour to be, &c.

P. C. DURHAM, Rear-Admiral.

J. W. Croker, Esq.

Admiralty-Office, February 26, 1814.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Dundas, of His Majesty's Ship *Pyramus*, addressed to Admiral Lord Keith, and transmitted by his Lordship to John Wilson Croker, Esq.

His Majesty's Ship *Pyramus*,

MY LORD, 18th February, 1814.

THE French privateer schooner *La Ville de L'Orient*, of 14 guns, and 97 men, was captured this day by the frigate under my command.

She is only two months off the stocks, five days out, and has taken nothing.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. W. D. DUNDAS, Captain.

The Right Hon. Admiral Lord Keith, K. B.