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Admiralty-Office, March 5, 1814.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral Lord Keith, K. B. to John Wilson Croker, Esq. dated on board His Majesty's Ship York, in Cawsand Bay, the 2d inst.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a letter from Captain Phillimore, reporting the capture of *La Clorinde* French frigate, after a most severe conflict, on the evening of the 25th ultimo, between her and the *Eurotas*; an action which reflects the highest honour upon the bravery and professional skill of Captain Phillimore and his officers, and upon the valour and good conduct of his crew. Captain Phillimore has been severely wounded on the occasion, but I entertain a flattering hope that His Majesty's service, and the country at large, will not long be deprived of the services of so valuable an officer.

I have the honour to be, &c.

KEITH, Admiral.

His Majesty's Ship Eurotas, Plymouth Sound, My Lord, March 1, 1814.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that His Majesty's ship under my command, parted company from the *Rippon* on Monday night, the 21st ultimo, in chase of a vessel which proved to be a Swedish merchant ship, and on Friday the 25th, in endeavouring to rejoin the *Rippon*, being then in latitude 47. 40. north, and longitude 9. 30. west, we perceived a sail upon the lee beam, to which we gave chase. We soon discovered her to be an enemy's frigate, and that she was endeavouring to outmanœuvre us in bringing her to action; but having much the advantage in sailing, (although the wind had unfortunately died away) we were enabled at about five o'clock to pass under her stern, hail her, and commence close action.

When receiving her broadside and passing to her bow, our mizen mast was shot away. I then ordered the helm to be put down to lay her aboard, but the wreck of our mizen mast lying on our quarter, prevented this desirable object from being accomplished.

The enemy just passed clear of us, and both officers and men of the *Eurotas* renewed the action with the most determined bravery and resolution, while the enemy returned our fire in a warm and gallant manner. We succeeded in raking her again, and then lay broadside to broadside; at 6. 20. our main mast fell by the board, the enemy's mizen mast falling at the same time; at 6. 50. our foremast fell, and the enemy's mainmast almost immediately afterwards. At ten minutes after seven she slackened her fire, but having her foremast standing, she succeeded with her fore sail in getting out of range. During the whole of the action we kept up a heavy and well-directed fire; nor do I know which most to admire, the seamen at the great guns, or the marines with their small arms, they vying with each other who should most annoy the enemy.

I was at this time so much exhausted by the loss of blood, from wounds I had received in the early part of the action from a grape shot, that I found it impossible for me to remain any longer upon deck. I was therefore under the painful necessity of desiring Lieutenant Smith (First Lieutenant) to take command of the quarter deck, and to clear the wreck of the foremast and mainmast, which then lay nearly fore and aft the deck, and to make sail after the enemy; but, at the same time, I had the satisfaction of reflecting that I had left the command in the hands of a most active and zealous officer.

We kept sight of the enemy during the night by means of boat sails and a jigger on the ensign staff; and before twelve o'clock the next day Lieutenant Smith reported to me that, by the great exertions of every officer and man, jury courses, topsails, staysails, and spanker, were set in chase of the enemy, who had not even cleared away his wreck, and that we were coming up with her very fast, going at the rate of six and a half knots; that the decks were perfectly clear; and that the officers and men were as eager to renew the action as they were to commence it; but, to the great mortification of every one on board, we perceived two sail on the lee bow, which proved to be the *Dryad* and *Achates*, and they having crossed the enemy (we only four or five miles distant) before we could get up to her,