

giving a full and clear detail of the capture of L'Etoile French frigate, consort of La Sultane; and I am quite at a loss how to express, in adequate terms, my admiration of Captain Palmer's skill and decision on so interesting an occasion, and his new ship's company, his officers and his own able and intrepid conduct.

I have the honour to be, &c.

MICHAEL SEYMOUR.

Sir Richard Bickerton, Bart. Admiral
of the Blue, &c. &c. &c. Commander
in Chief at Portsmouth.

His Majesty's Ship Hebrus, Plymouth.

SIR,
March 29, 1814.

WHEN the Hannibal and His Majesty's ship under my command separated on the morning of the 26th, in chase of the two French frigates we had fallen in with, we continued in pursuit of the one you were pleased to detach us after, the whole day, with all our canvas spread. About midnight he reached the Race of Alderney, and the wind scanting, we began to gain upon him fast; by the time he had ran the length of Point Jobourg, leading into the Bay of La Hogue, he was obliged to attempt rounding it almost within the wash of the breakers; and here, after an anxious chase of fifteen hours, and running him upwards of one hundred and twenty miles, we were fortunate enough, between one and two in the morning, to bring him to battle, we crossed his stern, our jib-boom passing over his topsail, and shot in betwixt him and the shore, in eight fathoms water, and it falling nearly calm about this time, the ships continued nearly in the same spot until the conclusion of the action. At its commencement we suffered considerably in our rigging; the enemy firing high, he shot away our foretopmast and foreyard, crippled our mainmast and bowsprit, and cut away almost every shroud, stay, and brace we had. Our fire from the first, and throughout, was directed at our opponent's hull, and the ships being as close together as they could be without touching, he suffered most severely, every shot which struck passing through him. About four o'clock his mizenmast fell by the board, and his fire ceased, when, after an obstinate contest of two hours and a quarter, he hailed us, to say that he had struck his colours. The moment we could get possession, it became necessary to put the heads of both ships off shore, as well from the apprehension of grounding, as to get them clear from a battery which had been firing at both of us during the whole action, those on shore not being able from the darkness to distinguish one from the other; fortunately the tide set us round the point, and we anchored soon afterwards in Vauville Bay, in order to secure our masts as well as we were able.

The prize proves to be L'Etoile French frigate, mounting forty-four guns, twenty-eight eighteen-pounders on the main deck, and the remainder carronades, with a complement of three hundred and twenty men; she was commanded by Monsieur Henry Pierre Philibert, Capitaine de Frigate, who was returning, together with La Sultane (the other frigate), from a four months' cruise to the west-

ward. L'Etoile is a very fine frigate, quite new, and sails well; she lost in the action forty killed, and had upwards of seventy wounded; her masts which remained are shot through, and her hull extremely shattered, having four feet water in her hold at the time she surrendered. We are also a good deal cut up, several of our guns dismantled, and I have to regret the loss of some brave men, thirteen killed and twenty-five wounded, some of them, I fear, dangerously. Amongst the former was a most promising young gentleman, Mr. P. A. Crawley, Midshipman, who fell unhappily early in the action.

I cannot, Sir, sufficiently express to you how much I have to admire in the conduct of every one whom I had the pleasure to command upon this occasion. I beg most earnestly to recommend Mr. R. M. Jackson, the Senior Lieutenant; as also to give my best testimony to the exertions of the Junior Lieutenants, Messrs. Addis and Cocks, together with Lieutenants Griffith and M'Laughlin, of the marines. To Mr. M'Gowan, the Master, I am much indebted for the skill and care with which he conducted the steerage of the ship during a period of much difficulty and peril. Mr. Maddox, the Purser, very handsomely volunteered his attendance on deck, where he rendered good service.

I cannot close this letter without observing, that I derived the greatest assistance from the professional ability of Captain William Sargent, of the Navy, who was serving on board with me as volunteer.

Herewith, Sir, you have lists of the killed and wounded; and I notice with great pleasure the care and attention of Mr. Boyter, Surgeon, not only towards our own men, but to those of the enemy also.

I have the honour to be, &c

(Signed) EDMUND PALMER,

Captain of His Majesty's ship Hebrus.

Captain Sir Michael Seymour, Bart. His
Majesty's Ship Hannibal.

List of Killed and Wounded.

Killed.

P. A. Crawley, midshipman.
Andrew Feulson, yeoman of sheets.
James Crew, captain of the mast.
Thomas Rickerby, captain of the mast.
William Boyd, ship's corporal.
William Shooley, captain of the forecastle.
Samuel Crawley, ordinary seaman.
Patrick M'Cuen, ordinary seaman.
Thomas Douglas, landman.
John Simpson, landman.
Charles Duttan, landman.
William Foster, landman.
John Belton, landman.

Dangerously wounded.

Charles Still, ordinary seaman.
John Stone, landman.
James Lawson, landman.
Samuel Ormes, boy.

Severely wounded.

John Cray, second captain of the forecastle.
Richard Powell, pilot.