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Admiralty, 27th December 1844.

THE Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have received from Commodore Jones, the Senior Officer of Her Majesty's squadron on the west coast of Africa, a letter, inclosing one from Commander Scott, of the *Hyacinth*, of which the following is a copy:-

H. M. S. Hyacinth, August 13, 1844.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to request that you will be pleased to bring under the favourable notice of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the following account of the gallant and dashing behaviour of the Officer belonging to the ship named in the margin*, which will, I hope, obtain for him that promotion he is, in every respect, most worthy of. On the 12th of August, in or about lat. 15 south, longitude 1° 30' east, when off Fish Bay, I sent Mr. Tottenham, in a four-oared gig with one spare hand, to communicate with the Portuguese Governor.

The weather became thick, and he missed his port, but, knowing that this ship was working along the coast, anchored for the night, and pulled to the southward. On the morning of the 13th he discovered a brig at anchor, without colours, and saw her slip and make sail, on which he gave chase, being to windward, and the breeze light, he was enabled to approach her weather beam, and fire a musket ahead to induce her to heave to, and shew her colours, this and a second was disregarded, but a port was opened and a gun run out and brought to bear on the boat, which caused the

* Mr. John Francis Tottenham, Mate.

Officer to pull into her wake, when part of the crew of the brig commenced firing musketry, while the others got the gun on the poop, and pointed it at the boat. Mr. Tottenham now commenced firing, as fast as the spare hand could load for him, being just able to keep way with the brig; having hit four of the men on board, they left the gun, and, after firing muskets for twenty minutes, finding they were unable to weather the land or tack, without being boarded by the boat, they ran the brig on shore, and abandoned her to the number of eighteen, including three wounded men, leaving another mortally wounded (since dead) on board.

In the course of the afternoon, the brig was discovered on shore from the mast head of this ship, which stood in and anchored, and hove her off, when she proved to be of two hundred tons, without papers, a Brazilian ensign in the cabin, fully equipped for conveying about one thousand slaves, two guns of four pounds calibre loaded, a barrel of powder, and a quantity of langridge shot, a number of muskets, swords, and bayonets on the deck. Almost every bullet expended in the gig was traced by me to the gun carriage, or its immediate vicinity on the poop; and I trust that the coolness, decision, and gallantry displayed by Mr. Tottenham, on this occasion, may obtain for him the rank of Lieutenant, for which he passed in 1841.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) F. SCOTT, Commander.

To Captain Jones, Commander in Chief
of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels,
West Coast of Africa.