

Next Morning, about Eight o'Clock, I was attacked from Van to Rear, with the whole Force of the Enemy. (29 Sail) for nearly Two Hours, without having the least visible Impression made upon my Line. The French Ships then wore, and stood off again, and in the Afternoon began a second Attack upon my Center and Rear, with no better Success than before: Since which the Count de Grasse has kept at a safe Distance. Many of the French Ships must have suffered very considerably, and the Ville de Paris was upon the Heel all the next Day, covering her Shot Holes.

By Information from the Shore, the French Ships have sent to St. Eustatius upwards of 1000 wounded Men.

I think my Situation perfectly secure here against the Enemy's present Force, superior as it is; and am happy to find, by a Letter I have received from Governor Shirley, that Brimstone Hill, to which his Excellency retired, is in the most perfect Security. I have not a Thought of moving, and think the Count de Grasse will not venture to attack me again, unless he should attempt something by Fire-Vessels, which I am prepared against as much as possible: If therefore Brimstone Hill can hold out, which I have not a Doubt of, the Marquis de Bouillie, (who landed with 8000 Men upon the Island) as well as the Count de Grasse, will, I think, be glad to retire. When I sent an Officer to Brimstone Hill, he was accompanied by one from General Prescott, (who embarked with the 28th Regiment, and two Companies of the 13th, from Antigua, at my Request, knowing well Brimstone Hill and every Part of the Island) who brought the following Message from that brave old Soldier General Frazer: "That as he had taken the Trouble to come with Troops to his Assistance, he should doubtless be glad of the Honor of seeing him; but that he was in no Want of him or his Troops." Upon my being made acquainted with this spirited Message from General Frazer, I proposed to General Prescott his taking a Post on Shore in the Vicinity of Basse-Terre, and offered to land two Battalions of Marines, of 700 each, Rank and File, with the 69th Regiment, which, with the 28th Regiment, and

the two Companies of the 13th, would make a Body of 2400 Men: His Answer was, He did not think it practicable to maintain a Post, but was sanguine in his Wishes to be put on Shore, with his Antigua Troops and the 69th Regiment. They were accordingly landed on the 28th, immediately got into Action, and drove the Enemy with considerable Loss. He remained on Shore all Night, and next Morning the Marquis de Bouillie appeared at the Head of upwards of 4000 Men; but not caring to attack General Prescott, on a Hill he possessed just to the Eastward of Frigate Bay, where he landed, led his Troops back to his Encampment under Brimstone Hill: And as it then appeared to me, that no solid Purpose could be answered by the Continuance of our Troops on Shore, I submitted it to the General's Consideration, whether it would not be adviseable to reembark, and he readily concurring, all were taken off that Evening without the Loss of a Man. The General had about Forty killed and wounded in his Skirmish with the Irish Brigade.

General Skeene landed with the 69th Regiment, and had his full Share in putting the Enemy to the Rout.

All Communication being now cut off with Brimstone Hill, I thought it expedient, as did the General also, to send him and the Antigua Troops back, and they sailed in the Convert and Fortunée on the 1st instant.

On that Day the Tisiphone joined me, and I propose shall return to England with an Account of the Situation of Things here, which I think of Importance their Lordships should know.

I send the Copy of my Line of Battle, and an Account of the killed and wounded. I have much Pleasure in telling you His Majesty's Ships under my Command are very immaterially injured in their Masts and Yards, perfectly healthy, and the People in the highest Spirits.

The Count de Grasse appears one Day with 32 Two-decked Ships (the whole of the present Force in this Country) and another with only 29, so that I imagine two or three are constantly watering at Old Road.

THE following are Copies of Sir Samuel Hood's Line of Battle, and of his Accounts of the Number of Officers and Men killed and wounded in each of the Ships under his Command.

LINE OF BATTLE.

The St. Alban's to lead on the Starboard, and the America on the Larboard Tack.

| Frigates. | Rate. | Ships. | Commanders. | Cuns. | Men. | Division. |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------|--|-------------------|------|--|
| | 3d | St. Alban's | Captain Inglis | 64 | 500 | Francis Samuel Drake, Esq; Rear-Admiral of the Blue, &c. |
| | — | Alcide | Thompson | 74 | 600 | |
| | — | Intrepid | Molloy | 64 | 500 | |
| | — | Torbay | Gidois | 74 | 600 | |
| Eurydice to repeat. | — | Princessa | { Rear-Admiral Drake } { Captain Knatchbull } | { 70 } { 577 } | | |
| | 2d | Prince George | Williams | 96 | 750 | Sir Samuel Hood, Bt. Rear-Admiral of the Blue, &c. |
| | 3d | Ajax | Charrington | 74 | 550 | |
| La Nympe. | — | Prince William | Wilkinson | 64 | 500 | |
| Gros Islet Schooner. | — | Shrewsbury | Knight | 74 | 600 | |
| | — | Invincible | Saxton | 74 | 600 | |
| Champion to repeat. | 2d | Barfleur | { Sir Samuel Hood, Bt. } { Captain Hood } | { 90 } { 767 } | | |
| | 3d | Monarch | Reynolds | 74 | 600 | Edmund Affleck, Esq; Commodore, &c. |
| Expedition, Schooner. | — | Bellicieux | Rt. Hon. Lord Cransloun | 64 | 500 | |
| | — | Centaur | Captain Inglefield | 74 | 650 | |
| | — | Alfred | Bayne | 74 | 600 | |
| | — | Ruffel | Stanhope | 74 | 600 | |
| | — | Resolution | Rt. Hon. Ld. R. Manners | 74 | 600 | |
| Solebay to repeat. | — | Bedford | { Commodore Affleck } { Captain Graves } | { 74 } { 617 } | | |
| | — | Canada | Hon. Wm. Cornwallis | 74 | 600 | Edmund Affleck, Esq; Commodore, &c. |
| Sybil. | — | Prudent | Captain Barclay | 64 | 500 | |
| | — | Montagu | Bowen | 74 | 600 | |
| | — | America | Thompson | 64 | 500 | |

All Accidental Frigates to be to Windward of the Center Division.

Given under my Hand, on Board His Majesty's Ship Barfleur, at Sea, January 24, 1782,

S A M. HOOD.