

about Four Leagues N. E. of the South Foreland, that had left Fecamp on the 20th Instant, but had not taken any Thing.

Sir John further acquaints me that this Privateer had been boarded by the Dolphin Armed Cutter off Dungeness, and that he himself had examined her, and suffered her to proceed as an American Vessel in Ballast, bound to London; but observing that she afterwards altered her Course and steered for the French Land he stood after her, and on boarding her a second Time, and strictly examining the Ballast with a Spit, he found Eight Men concealed, with Pistols and Cutlasses, in a Place made for that Purpose, with a Hole barely sufficient for them to breathe through.

I am, Sir, &c. &c. &c.

JOHN BAZELY.

Admiralty-Office, February 28, 1797.

Copy of a Letter from Commodore Nelson to Admiral Sir John Jervis, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, dated December 20, 1796.

LAST Night at Ten o'Clock I saw Two Spanish Frigates, and directed Captain Cockburne, in the Minerve, to attack the Ship, which carried a Poop-Light; the Blanche bore down to attack the other. I have not yet received from Captain Preston an Account of his Action, but as I saw the Blanche this Morning to Windward with every Sail set, I presume she had not suffered much Damage.

Captain Cockburne brought his Ship to close Action at Twenty Minutes before Eleven, which continued without Intermission till Half past One, when La Sabina, of Forty Guns, Twenty-eight Eighteen-Pounders on her Main-Deck, Two Hundred and Eighty-six Men, Captain Don Jacoba Stuart, having lost her Mizzen-Mast, (as she did after the Action) Main and Fore Mast, One Hundred and Sixty-four Men killed and wounded, struck her Colours.

You are, Sir, so thoroughly acquainted with the Merits of Captain Cockburne, that it is needless for me to express them; but the Discipline of the Minerve does the highest Credit to her Captain and Lieutenants, and I wish fully to express the Sense I entertain of their Judgment and Gallantry: Lieutenant Culverhouse, the First Lieutenant, is an old Officer of very distinguished Merit; Lieutenants Hardy, Gage and Noble deserve every Praise which Gallantry and Zeal justly entitle them to, as do every other Officer and Man in the Ship. You will observe, Sir, I am sure, with Regret, amongst the wounded, Lieutenant James Noble, who quitted the Captain to serve with me, and whose Merits, and repeated Wounds, received in fighting the Enemies of our Country, entitle him to every Reward which a grateful Nation can bestow, the Minerve's Opponent being commanded by a gallant Officer, was well defended, which has caused her List of Killed and Wounded to be great, as also her Masts, Sails and Rigging to be much damaged.

I have the Honor to be, Sir, &c. &c.

(Signed) HORATIO NELSON.

Killed. Seven.

Wounded. Thirty-four.

Missing. Four, supposed to be in the Prize.

Officers wounded. Lieutenant J. Noble, Mr. Merryweather, Boatswain.

Petty Officers killed and wounded.

Killed. One Midshipman.

Wounded. Captain's Clerk, and Serjeant of the 11th Regiment, serving as Marines.

Damages. All her Masts shot through, and Furniture much cut.

(Signed) HORATIO NELSON.

Copy of a Letter from Commodore Nelson to Admiral Sir John Jervis, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in the Mediterranean, dated December 20, 1796, Seven P. M.

IN Addition to my Letter of this Morning, I have to acquaint you, that Lieutenants Culverhouse and Hardy, with a proper Number of Men, being put in Charge of the Sabina, and she taken in tow, at Four A. M. a Frigate was seen coming up, which, by her Signals, was known to be Spanish: At Half past Four she came to Action with the Minerve, who cast off the Prize, and Lieutenant Culverhouse was directed to stand to the Southward; after a Trial of Strength of more than Half an Hour she wore and hauled off, or I am confident she would have shared the Fate of her Companion. At this Time Three other Ships were seen standing for the Minerve; Hope was alive, that they were only Frigates, and also that the Blanche was one of them; but when the Day dawned it was mortifying to see they were Two Spanish Ships of the Line and Two Frigates, and the Blanche far to Windward. In this Situation, the Enemy frequently within Shot, by bringing up the Breeze, it required all the Skill of Captain Cockburne, which he eminently displayed, to get off with a crippled Ship: And here I must also do Justice to Lieutenants Culverhouse and Hardy, and express my Tribute of Praise in their Management of the Prize; a Frigate repeatedly fired into her without Effect, and at last the Spanish Admiral quitted the Pursuit of the Minerve for that of La Sabina, who was steering a different Course, evidently with the Intention of attracting the Notice of the Admiral, as English Colours were hoisted over the Spanish. The Sabina's Main and Fore Mast fell overboard before she surrendered. This is, Sir, an unpleasant Tale; but the Merits of every Officer and Man in the Minerva and her Prize were eminently conspicuous through the Whole of this arduous Day. The Enemy quitted the Pursuit of the Minerve at Dark.

Killed. None. *Wounded.* Ten.

Officer wounded. Mr. Hinton, Gunner.

Mainmast much damaged, Sails and Rigging much cut.

(Signed) HORATIO NELSON.

Copy of a Letter from Commodore Nelson to Admiral Sir John Jervis, K. B. dated December 24, 1796.

S I R,

YESTERDAY the Minerva took, off the South End of Sardinia, a French Privateer called the Maria, of Six Nine-Pounders, and Sixty-eight Men, Three Days from Marfeilles, on a Cruize, taken nothing.

I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

HORATIO NELSON.

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