

Men, who, having been sworn and enrolled in HIS MAJESTY'S MILITIA FORCES, have made Default, by not appearing and joining their respective Regiments, Battalions, Corps, or Independent Companies when ordered to be embodied, or by deserting or absenting themselves therefrom, and who might be induced to return to their Duty by an Offer of HIS MAJESTY'S GRACIOUS PARDON, and that such an Instance of His Royal Clemency would have a due Influence upon their future Behaviour; HIS MAJESTY has accordingly been graciously pleased to grant HIS FREE PARDON to all MILITIA-MEN having so made Default by not appearing, or by Desertion, or Absence from Duty, who shall return to and join their respective Regiments, Battalions, Corps, or Independent Companies, on or before the 14th Day of July next, or who shall deliver themselves up at the Head-Quarters of any other Regiment, Battalion, Corps, or Independent Company of Militia, or to any Detachment of HIS MAJESTY'S other Forces, or to any Military-Post, on or before the said 14th Day of July next, and be from thence marched to their proper Regiments, Battalions, Corps, or Independent Companies.

Any Soldier who may desert from the Militia after these HIS MAJESTY'S gracious Intentions are made public, shall not be included in the above Pardon, but shall be proceeded against with the utmost Severity; as shall also all the said Defaulters, Deserters, and Absentees who shall not have joined their proper Regiments, Battalions, Corps, or Independent Companies of Militia, or delivered themselves up to some other Regiment, Battalion, Corps, or Independent Company of Militia, or to some Detachment of His Majesty's other Forces, or to some Military Post, by the said 14th Day of July next.

And all Justices of the Peace, Magistrates, Constables, and Peace-Officers, and all other Persons whatsoever, are hereby enjoined and required, in pursuance of the Act just passed, "for more speedily completing the Militia of Great Britain;" to apprehend, seize, take, and detain such Defaulters, Deserters, and Absentees, for the Purpose of delivering them into safe Custody at any Military Head-Quarters, or into Gaol near to the Place where they shall be apprehended, in order that they may be dealt with according to Law: and all such of the said Defaulters, Deserters, or Absentees, as were enrolled as Substitutes or Volunteers in the Militia, shall, upon being identified before any General, Regimental, or Detachment Court Martial, be forthwith sent to serve in HIS MAJESTY'S Regular Forces stationed Abroad, until duly discharged therefrom; and the Person or Persons who shall apprehend and detain any such Defaulter, Deserter, or Absentee from the Militia, and deliver him into safe Custody as aforesaid, shall receive the Sum of Twenty Shillings over and above the Reward of Twenty Shillings to which such Person or Persons will also be entitled under the Mutiny Act, and shall be paid the same in like Manner as is directed in Respect to the Reward last-mentioned.

By His Majesty's Command,

C. YORKE.

Admiralty-Office, July 5, 1803.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral Sir John Colpoys, K. B. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Plymouth, to Sir Ervan Nepean, Bart. dated the 1st Instant.

SIR,

I TRANSMIT, for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a Letter from Captain Maitland, of His Majesty's Ship Loire, giving an Account of the Success which has attended an Enterprize he sent the Boats of that Ship on, under the Orders of Lieutenants Temple and Bowen. The good Conduct and Intrepidity of the Officers and Men employed on that Service make it unnecessary for me to add any Comment, persuaded that it cannot be lost Sight of by their Lordships.

I am, &c. JNO. COLFOYS.

SIR, Loire, off L'Isle de Bas, June 28, 1803.

I HAVE the Pleasure of informing you, that, last Night, Three of the Boats of His Majesty's Ship Loire, commanded by Lieutenants Temple and Bowen, in a most gallant Manner boarded, and, after a very severe Conflict of nearly Ten Minutes on her Deck, carried the National Brig Venteux, bearing Four long Eighteen-Pounders, and Six Thirty-six-Pound Brass Carronades, commanded by Monf. Montfort, Lieutenant de Vaisseau, lying close under the Batteries of the Isle of Bas.

When it is considered that the Venteux, perfectly prepared, manned with Eighty-two Men, all of whom were upon Deck, and covered with two heavy Batteries, was opposed to the Crews of Two of our Boats, (as the Third, from rowing heavy; did not get up till the Brig was completely gained Possession of,) I feel confident that you will view it in the Light that I do, as one of those brilliant Exploits which add Lustre to the British Arms, of which, though so many Instances occurred during the late War, no one has before been happy enough to have thrown in his Way during the present.

The Success of Mr. Temple's daring Attempt speaks sufficiently for his Conduct, and that of every one under his Command, to render it superfluous for me to enter into any Eulogium on the present Occasion.

Mr. Bridges has served his Time and passed for Lieutenant nearly a Year; of whose Conduct Mr. Temple speaks in the highest Terms, together with that of every Officer and Man under his Command.

I am very sorry to add that the Loss on our Side is rather heavy, as Mr. McGwire, the Boatswain, is so severely wounded as to render him incapable of doing his Duty for a considerable Time. Four Seamen and a Marine are also badly wounded, Two of the Seamen, I fear, past Recovery.

The Venteux had her Second Captain and Two Seamen killed: The Captain, with Four Officers, all she had, and Eight Seamen, wounded. She was stationed at the Isle of Bas to guard the Coast, and regulate the Convoys of Stores, &c. bound to Brest: is a Vessel of large Dimensions, being Seventy-four Feet long and Twenty-four wide, and perfectly in a Condition immediately to be employed.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

F. MATTLAND.

Sir John Colpoys, K. B.  
 &c. &c. &c.