

# The London Gazette.

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*Jamaica, October 31.*

**H**IS Majesty's Ship the Diamond, Captain Knowles Commander, has brought in hither two Prizes, which he took cruising to Leeward; one on the 16th of September, being a Ship said to have on board 74000 Pieces of Eight, and Cloathing for the Garrison of St. Augustine in Florida; the other a Brigantine taken on the 3d of this Month, going to Havana, there to be fitted out for a Privateer.

*Whitehall, March 15, 1739.*

On Thursday last in the Evening Captain Rentone arrived here Express with Letters from Vice-Admiral Vernon, dated on board his Majesty's Ship the Burford in Porto Bello Harbour, the 12th of December last, to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State; which give the following Account.

On the 5th of November last Vice-Admiral Vernon sailed from Jamaica with his Majesty's Ships the Burford, Hampton-Court, Princess Louisa, Worcester, Strafford, Norwich, and Sheerness, the last of which he ordered to cruise off Cartagena. On the 20th of November in the Evening he came in Sight of Porto Bello, having been delayed in his Passage by contrary Winds. There being but little Wind that Evening, though a very great Swell, he anchored for that Night six Leagues off the Shore, being apprehensive of driving to the Eastward of the Harbour.

On the 21st in the Morning, the Admiral plyed to Windward in Line of Battle, having given the proper Orders for the Attack; but the Wind proving Easterly, he was obliged to confine his Attack to the Iron Fort only; close to which the Squadron was piloted by Captain Rentone.

Commodore Brown, in the Hampton-Court, who led the Attack, executed his Part, as became an Officer of Experience and Resolution; and being well followed by Captain Herbert in the Norwich, and Captain Mayne in the Worcester, the Admiral perceived that some of the Spaniards fled from several Parts of the Fort; upon which he made the Signal for the Boats in which the Soldiers were, to make the best of their Way in order to their Landing, whilst he was coming up to the Fort to batter it. The Admiral luffing up as near to the Fort as he could, the Fire of his Small Arms commanded the Enemy's lower Batteries, and had a good Effect in driving them from those Batteries, from which they could do most Harm; and by this Means the Men were also secured at Landing: And this (as the Enemy afterwards confessed) was the principal Occasion of their deserting the lower Batteries, the Small-shot from the former Ships not having reach'd them, though their Cannon had beat down some of the upper Part of the Fort. As the Boats came near the Admiral's Ship, he called to them to

go directly on Shore under the Walls of the Fort, tho' there was no Breach made; but this answered as was expected, by throwing the Enemy into a general Consternation, the Officers and Men who had stood to the lower Battery, flying to the upper Part of the Fort, where they held up a White Signal for Capitulating. The Admiral answered with a White Flag, but it was some Time before he could stop his own Men, and those on board the Strafford, Captain Trevor, which followed him, from Firing.

In the mean time the Seamen had climb'd up the Walls of the lower Battery and struck the Colours, and then drew the Soldiers up after them, to whom the Spaniards, who had retired to the upper Part of the Fort, soon after surrendered at Discretion. Their Number was only five Officers and 35 Men, out of above 300, the rest being either killed or wounded, or having made their Escape.

The Ships that went in before the Admiral were fallen to Leeward, so as to be out of Sight of the Gloria Castle; but the Admiral's Ship lying open to the said Castle, they kept firing one of their longest Guns at him till Night; but not being within Point-blank, their Shot either fell short, or went over him; only one Shot went through the Head of his Foretop-mast, just above the Rigging, so that it did no Harm.

The Admiral finding they continued their Firing, tried some of his lower Tier at them; which being new Guns, answered beyond expectation, carrying over the Gloria Castle into the Town; none of the Shot falling short, and one of them going through the Governor's House, and some through other Houses in the Town.

This successful Beginning was attended with a very inconsiderable Loss, there being only three Men killed and five wounded on board the Admiral's Ship; the like Number were killed and wounded on board the Worcester, and one Man had both his Legs shot off on board the Hampton-Court. The other Ships had none killed or wounded, and only two Soldiers were shot going ashore, one of which died soon after of his Wounds.

The next Morning, being the 22d, the Admiral went on board Commodore Brown, to call the Captains to consult together, and give out the necessary Orders for warping the Ships up the next Night, in order to attack the Gloria Castle the Night following, as it would not have been practicable to attempt it in the Day-time. But in this he was prevented by the Enemy's putting up a White Flag at the Gloria Castle, and sending a Boat with a Flag of Truce to the Admiral, with the Governor's Adjutant, and a Lieutenant of a Man of War, who brought the Conditions signed on which they desired to capitulate. In Answer to which, the Admiral immediately drew up the Terms on which he would admit them to Capitulation, and dispatched

