

July 29. It would be the basest Ingratitude to attempt any Derogation from the Praise due to the truly honourable General Blakeney, for his gallant Defence of Fort St. Philip; yet the Merit of one of his Officers must stand in a glorious Light when known. Capt. Cunningham, a Scotch Gentleman, being second Engineer of the Place when Mr. Armstrong left it, he was thereupon appointed by General Blakeney to succeed him *pro Tempore* till a Commission for that Purpose should arrive from England, of which no Doubt was made. However, an old decrepit Gentleman came out as Chief Engineer, and superseded Mr. Cunningham, who thereupon begged Mr. Blakeney's Leave to resign and retire to his Regiment, as he could not with Honour serve there under such a Person. General Blakeney, though greatly concerned, could not refuse so reasonable a Request, and Mr. Cunningham immediately embarked for Nice, together with two Children, and his Lady ready to lye in of a third. She was brought to-bed at Nice; and Mr. Cunningham, during the Stay thereby occasioned, hearing of the French Designs against Minorca, and recollecting that the Platforms of the Batteries in Fort St. Philip were in such a rotten and ruinous Condition, that they could not stand any hot Service, he instantly laid out all the Money he was Master of, about 1600l. in purchasing Timber fit for repairing them, hired a Vessel, put it on board, and sailed directly with it himself for Portmahon, leaving his Lady and Children at Nice. His Arrival with such a Supply in such a critical Conjuncture gave General Blakeney infinite Pleasure. He told Capt. Cunningham, that the Service he had done his Country out of pure Zeal was so considerable, that he did not know how he could be sufficiently rewarded for it; that in the mean time to shew his own Sense of it, he would venture to take a very irregular Step by superseding the old Gentleman as superannuated and unfit for Duty, and appointing him in his Place, not only as a Testimony of his Approbation of what he had done, but to engage a Man of his known Abilities to exert them still farther in the Defence of the Place. How well Capt. Cunningham has seconded General Blakeney's Views all the World knows.

From the MONITOR, Saturday, June 19.

"The Execution of Kirby and Wade will always be mention'd to the Praise of Queen Anne, who thereby shew'd as a good Prince ought, a true Regard to her Subjects in Preference to all other Considerations. As she did not doubt but those who had rais'd such worthless Commanders to the Trust they had betray'd, would interest themselves to solicit their Pardon, under false Representations, her Majesty did not suffer them to set Foot on British Ground before they had with their Lives atoned for their Cowardice in the Service of their Queen and Country; and what seems strongly to justify the Uprightness of that Measure of the Queen's, is the Opinion of Dean Swift, who asserts (and happy for this Nation would it be were it invariably practis'd) 'That it is unwise to punish Cowards with Ignominy; for if they had regarded that, they would not have been Cowards: Death is their proper Punishment, because they fear it most.'"

Several Persons were afraid lest Byng, encouraged by so great a Majority of Naval Force as we now have in the Mediterranean, should have ventured to seek the Enemy before Hawke arrived to supersede him; but on the other Side it is observed, That a Coward never thinks his Sword long enough.

The Character, acquired by a certain Admiral upon the Credit of having formerly fought a Duel or two, now serves to confirm that duelling is no Proof of Courage. 'Tis said of Capt. Kirby, who was shot at Portsmouth for Cowardice in a late Reign, that being asked just before his Execution, "How he who had fought several Duels, could have been capable of the particular Kind of Mif-behaviour for which he suffered." He replied, "He knew how to parry a Small Sword, but not a Cannon Ball."

July 31. It is confidently reported that Admiral West, has waited on his Majesty, being introduced by Lord Anson, First Commissioner of the Admiralty, and was very graciously received. It is added, that the Admiral gave a very fair and true Account of the late Action with Monsieur Galissoniere, to his Majesty's great Satisfaction, who approv'd of Mr. West's Conduct therein, saying, That if every one had done their Duty as he did, St. Philip's would have been relieved, and Minorca saved.

August 3. Yesterday about 40 of the Seamen

belonging to the Greenland Ships lately arrived, coming to the Custom-House to apply for fresh Protections, two Lieutenants of the Royal Navy, with Gangs, drew near, with Design to press them. The Greenland Men resolv'd they would not be pressed, and determined to stand by each other: Upon which began a smart Battle, the Numbers on each Side being pretty equal. One Lieutenant, being hard press'd drew his Sword, and ran one of the Greenlanders through the Hand; but the wounded Man, nevertheless, getting his Sword from him, in return cut his Eye out and Part of his Cheek, and gave him a Stab in the Thigh; at the same Time one of the Gang was thrown over the Rails, and had his Arm broke; and several others were terribly bruised. At length a Messager from the Commissioners was brought to the Lieutenants, ordering them to withdraw, which they did accordingly, carrying off three of the Greenland Men. The rest obtained the Protection they sought.

August 14. A new 84 Gun Ship, called the Princess Amelia, will soon be launched at Woolwich; and new Ships are building in every Yard with all possible Expedition.

The two new 74 Gun Ships which are building with the utmost Diligence at Deptford, are as large as the old 90 Gun Ships.

Extract of a Letter from Portsmouth, August 13.

"Yesterday arrived the Monarch, Capt. Rodney, from the Bay, where Admiral Boscawen and his Fleet are all well, and consist of 17 Ships of the Line, besides Frigates. She brought up with her the Duke d'Aguillon, of Nantz, from Granada, with 170 Hogsheds of Sugar, taken by the Leostoff, Capt. Dorrell, in Sight of the Fleet.

"Yesterday arrived the Deal-Castle, Capt. Hughes, from Guernsey, and brought several French Prisoners, taken in a Martineco Man, worth 12,000 l. sent into Guernsey by one of their Privateers.

"The Colchester, Capt. O'Bryan, is ordered for the Streights, and will sail To-day or Tomorrow."

Extract of a Letter from Capt. John Le Gros, of the Sarah Galley, on her Voyage from London to Ancona, dated off the South End of Sardinia, July 21.

"On the 19th of July, being in Lat. 38, 50. N. and Long. 7, 6. E. at Seven o'Clock in the Morning, we saw a large Ship, which gave us Chace, and at Ten o'Clock she hoisted English Colours; nevertheless we took her to be a French Cruiser; in Consequence of which we got all clear and ready to engage. About Half an Hour past One she came up within Gun-shot, haul'd down her English Colours, and hoisted French, and fired several Guns at us. We then haul'd up our Courses, and began the Engagement, which continued very warm on both Sides until Half past Five, when she bore away, and having the Advantage of us in Sailing, she got off.

"We found several six Pound Shot in our Sides, and no less than 14 lodged between two Gun Ports. She played upon us very smartly with her Small Arms; and by the great Number of Soldiers she had on board we believe her to be a King's Ship. She had 18 six Pounders mounted, and was full of Men, among whom we must have made a great Slaughter. As to our Part, I thank God, we had none killed or wounded. I must own that during the whole Time of the Action, my People behaved with the utmost Bravery. We have suffered much in our Sails and Rigging; our Main-top-mast shot half through: We have got another up, and our Rigging pretty well repaired.

"I send this by the Dolly, Captain Cole, bound for Naples, whom I have just now brought to; and as I would not detain him, you'll excuse my not writing correct."

N. B. Captain Le Gros's Crew consisted of Thirty-six Hands only.

A late EPISTLE to Mr. C-----D.

The better Part of Valour is Discretion, in which better Part, I have sav'd my Life. Shakespeare.

DEAR Sir, 'tis with Pleasure the following I write, And hope you'll impute my Mistakes to my Fright. On the eighth Day of May we set Sail for Mahon, Where we fear'd we should get (as the Wind blew) too soon, I was not in Haste; for 'tis always my Way, To be first at a Feast, and the last at a Fray. On the nineteenth, at Noon, we discern'd the French Fleet, And judg'd we must now either beat or be beat. I was then to the Windward, and such was my play, That by shuffling and shifting I spun out the Day; On the twentieth again the French Fleet was in Sight, And I found that in sight of my Fear I must Fight; On comparing our Force, we had one Ship to spare, And to take the Advantage I thought was unfair,

So I order'd the Deptford to get to a Distance, But not too far off should we want her Assistance. Mr. W---r, who loves Fighting, behav'd like a Man, Tho' he sail'd in the Rear, yet he fought in the Van: If I fought, you'll believe the Engagement was hot, But I wisely kept out of the Reach of their Shot. Th' Intrepid by Accident losing her Mast, Was a handsome Excuse for retreating at last. A Council was call'd, and we all thought it best, As they steer'd for the East, we should steer for the West. This agreed; left their Minds, when recover'd, should alter, I am failing as fast as I can to Gibraltar: So have wrote this in Haste, as I thought it expected, That News of such Moment should not be neglected. Do your best to enhance my Deferts to the King, And in all Things (but fighting) believe me, Yours, B---g.

H A L I F A X, September 25.

Thursday two Men arrived here with Expresses from Capt. Mercier, at Pisquit, to his Excellency our Governor, informing him, that as some of our Men were at Work at some Distance from the Fort, with a Guard of a Sergeant and 12 Men, four of the French Neutral's discovered themselves at a small Distance from them, upon which the Sergeant and his Party pursued them till they came to a Hollow, when they were immediately surrounded by about 100 of the French, who took the Sergeant and six of his Men Prisoners, the other six by firing and retreating in the best Manner they could, got back to the Fort, with only one wounded.

October 2. Sunday last arrived his Majesty's Ships Norwich and Success, from their Cruise; an Officer from the Success gives the following Account, viz. That on the first of September, being in the Gut of Canso, they espied a small Shallop standing along the Shore, upon which they manned out their Boats, and went in Quest of her, which they perceiving, run her ashore, quitted her, and run into the Woods, when Capt. Rous's Barge put two Hands ashore in order to get her off; upon which the French and Indians, to the Number of 100, rushed out of the Bushes, and fired upon them, which killed Lieut. Jacobs, of the Success, the Coxen, and five others; and repeating their Fire, killed the other five of the Barge's Crew, which were all in her after the two had landed, which those perceiving, took to the Water, and swam to the Norwich's Boat, and held by her till she had towed them out of Danger, and then were taken in, being both wounded, one in the Side, and the other in the Wrist: Four of the Crew belonging to the Norwich's Barge were wounded, one of which is since dead; the Success's Barge was left in Possession of the Enemy. The next Day, having a fair Wind, they passed the Gut, and stood away for Newfoundland, and arrived at the Island of Miquelon, where they espied a small French Privateer Schooner close in Shore, standing away from the Island, but the Wind blowing so hard, they could not follow her; after the Wind abated, they sent their Boats ashore, and found the Lieutenant of the Privateer, whom they in their Hury left behind them, and who had collected together near 50 Head of Cattle belonging to Capt. Cleves, Owner of said Island, which they killed and carried on board for the Use of the Ships, and then set Sail for this Place, where they arrived as above.

Wednesday last the Fogeux arrived here: We hear that when she and the Centurion were cruising in the Bay Gaspe, they, taking a favourable Opportunity, landed some of their Men under Cover of their Guns upon a small French Settlement, and burnt about 70 Houses, the Inhabitants having deserted them upon their landing, and fled to the Woods.

B O S T O N, October 18.

Captain Shippy, from Chignecto, for New-York, touched at Portsmouth last Thursday in three Days, and informed, that there had been lately discovered a large Body of French and Indians; upon which the English demolished Fort Lawrence, and Fort Monkton, at Bay Vert, and repaired with all their Force to Fort Cumberland; and that there was also a Talk of demolishing the Fort at Pisquit.

N E W - Y O R K, October 25.

By Captain Knott from the West-Indies we are informed, That the Sloop York Packet, Robert Robinson Master, from York River, in Virginia, was taken by a French Privateer on the 21st of September last, between the Island of St. John's and St. Thomas, and carried into the latter.

Fell down and failed since our last, the Privateer Snow Earl of Loudoun, Capt. Valentine; the Brig King George, Capt. Arnold; the Brig Prince George, Capt. Murray; and Sloop Charming-Sally, Capt. Harris.

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