

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, January 25, 1749.

*From the Jamaica Gazette, November 12, 1748*  
 An interesting account of a late voyage of the *Canterbury* and *Strafford* to the East Indies, and of the *Spanish* and *Portuguese* ships, which were engaged off the Havanna (which is pretty just); and that your compliance in respect of an exact account of that Action to give the Public, in order to supply that Difficulty in your next, I have sent you the following.

**A**dmiral Knowles, with six Ships, viz. the *Cornwall*, *Tilbury*, *Canterbury*, *Strafford*, and *Oxford*, having been cruising for some time between the *Portuga* and *Cape* *Canterbury*, in order to intercept the *Galions* and *Flota* coming from *La Vega* *Cruz* to the *Havanna*, was joined on the 28th of September, at night, by the *Warwick* (whom when we first chased her, we hoped had been one of them); and on the 30th about noon the *Lenox*, and her convoy join'd us. Capt. Holmes informed the Admiral of his being chased the day before by eight sail of Spanish men of war, (that by the bye they proved but seven), who took one of his crew, and might easily have taken him and all the rest, had they not been poltroons: Upon this intelligence, the Admiral made a signal directly for all captains; and informing them, I suppose, of the news, we were ordered to get all our ships clear, and prepare for battle.

In the evening the Admiral rounded over for the *Cuba* shore, and by day-light next morning fell in with them, where a signal was made for the line of battle, which we formed very expeditiously, and then jacked and stood after them.

The *don* at first bore down upon us, but after making us plain, ran away as fast as they could; but we crowded after them with all the force we could muster, it was for the *Lenox* she met with us, or she and all her convoy would have been gone). By noon our headmost ships got pretty near, within random shot of the enemy, but we were obliged to stop for our sternmost to come up; and soon after it fell almost calm, and proved but little wind the rest of the afternoon.

At three o'clock, or thereabouts, the Spanish vice-admiral hoisted a Spanish flag at his main-top-mast, and began to engage the *Strafford* and *Tilbury*, as did the two ships ahead of him (one of which was a great admiral); but our admiral thinking us too far off, (as indeed we were, for both our shot and theirs fell short), made the signal to come to a closer engagement, and bore down upon them near half an hour himself, without firing a gun; till the sternmost Spanish ships kept pelting at him. When he got near, and began, the *Cornwall* look'd like *H—ll*, for she vented nothing but fire and smoke: In about an hour, or a half she beat the vice-admiral out of the line, and set him a-tossing; but the *Strafford* and she had made one of the ships a-take to them before (his prize we have taken), but like a *cal* he hoisted his colours again, because no boat went on board him.

Next the admiral followed the *Lenox*, then the *Warwick* and *Canterbury*, agreeable to the line, who took up the sternmost ships as they came up with them: The *Oxford* the admiral turned out of the line, and sent her to assist the *Tilbury*; I suppose, because he saw the Spanish admiral turn that dog *Garriacochee*, who has done so much mischief, out of their line; tho' he fired at the *Strafford* and *Cornwall* too, but ran away like a thief when his admiral ran, as indeed they all did: I am sure I never was so vexed as I now, to see that rogue *Mark Fort* get clear off, for we wanted much to have hang'd him. As the Spaniards began to run, our admiral had his main-top-mast shot by the cap, and his fore-top-sail yard had been shot down some time before, and the yard hung like a *Welshman's* dagger, so that the *Cornwall* could not pursue

the fugitives: But the signal was pulled down for the line, and made to chase to leeward; and immediately we stood after them. The *Canterbury* and *Strafford* soon got up with the vice-admiral, and beat him to rags; for he lost all his main, and was drove to near the shore, we were obliged to leave him for fear of being ashore ourselves. It was excessive dark, but by the firing we saw several of our ships engaged, till near ten at night, when the breaking rogues got clear off. Two days after we espied the vice-admiral's ship at an anchor, in a small bay, or windward of the *Havanna*, as long as a thief in a mill; however our active admiral found him out, and went in with a design to burn her; but Jack saved us the trouble, for when we got within gun-shot, they set fire, and a delightful bonfire she made, tho' I never saw, in my life, the burnt of a ship, and then they run; they had not time to save their dead and wounded, so that they were all consumed, in a crowd the number of near 1000 men, who were all on board. The next day we all went to the *Havanna*, and landed all the prisoners from the *Conquistadore*; where we found the other four ships got up much more. Their rear-admiral's top-masts were all shot away, and we heard by the boat-men that went ashore, we had kill'd six captains, three of ships, and three of soldiers; for they were as full of soldiers as they could crowd, tho' those I saw on board the prize were meer *—*. But the best joke was, those fellows were to have carried us into the *Havanna*; they may thank their faints that carried them there; for bad day-light lasted but two hours longer, we'd a had every man of them.

When our admiral lost his top-masts, and could not follow the fleet, he bore down to the *Conquistadore* as the *bay* like a *—*, and we all thought he was going to board her, and cut the dogs to pieces, for hoisting their colours again; but he only fired a broadside or two at her when he got close to her; then she struck directly, and cry'd out for quarters, tho' 'tis pity they had any, just as the prize struck, there was a 64 gun-ship coming to help her; but the *Cornwall* gave her such a dose, she turn'd upon her side, and wheel'd off, set her top-sails, and ran for it as fast she could.

The next day we met a Spanish sloop from *Cadiz*, going into the *Havanna*, who told us of the peace; I send him for coming in our way; for we should have gone and taken all the *galions*, &c. and been as rich as princes: I am sure we deserv'd it; for we liv'd at short allowance all the cruise, and but two quarters of water a day to make it hold out, in hopes of meeting them (but short allowance of grog was worst of all); and now we have brought this prize here, we are told she will be given up to the Spaniards again; so we have fought them for nothing.

Indeed we took a *prize* from *Carthagena*, with some money on board, but that's but a bad campaign to what we expected.

The Spaniards compute their loss at about 1000 men killed and near as many more wounded; whilst ours do not exceed 100: And they had the superiority by 14 guns, and 1500 men.

P A R I S, September 27.

**T**HE letters from *Genoa* of the 24th instant, import, that the suspension of arms has been published in *Cornica* even with the rebels, and that it is made for six months. And the republic hath sent thither signor *Balbi*, with power under the king's auspices, to make some accommodation; it is presumed thole *Islanders*, not to expose themselves to the king's resentment, at a time when his majesty will have it in his power to crush them at once, will at last return to their obedience, it is only to be wished their submission may be sincere and durable, of which we cannot easily persuade ourselves.

According