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## FOREIGN.

### PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 16.

By the arrival of the ship *London Packet*, captain M'Dougall, from London, at this port, in 30 days, our files of European papers are extended to the ninth of August, inclusive, from which we have extracted much interesting matter.

### FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

LONDON, August 2, 1805.

"Our best informed politicians have no expectation of peace, until some material change takes place, or a blow has been struck.

"In the mean time, America is reaping a rich harvest. Mr. Monroe is returned from Madrid—report says, "re infecta." But I cannot conceive what induces the Spaniards to act hostilely, as they appear to do, and as I think they would not dare, unless encouraged elsewhere."

LONDON, August 8th, 1805.

"The probability of a war on the continent, is of late greatly increased; the discontents between Austria and France are fast ripening into a rupture—and the return of the Russian minister, Novozilzoff, without entering on negotiation, is considered as decisive of the disposition of the emperor Alexander, and as marking the ascendancy which Great Britain and Austria have obtained at the court of St. Petersburg.

"The annexation of Genoa to France, and the disposition discovered by the emperor Napoleon to extend his dominion in every direction, has excited great alarm among the continental powers; even Prussia is said to be dissatisfied.

"Fears are entertained for the safety of Portugal, now threatened with invasion by a French and Spanish army. The show of invading this country is also renewed on the coasts of Holland and France, where all appears to be activity and preparation—but I believe it is mere show.

"The present military force of Great Britain and Ireland, is greatly superior, both in numbers and appointment, to that of any former period—and is certainly more than a match for any army that could *steal a march across the channel*, as to forcing the passage, in the present state of the marine defence, it is altogether out of the question. It is even supposed, by professional men, that the British gun boats and other small vessels, which line the shores, and defend the harbors, would be more than sufficient to prevent a landing, should the enemy's flotilla escape the cruising squadrons, which occupy the channel in every direction.

"You may form some idea of the naval force, when I tell you, that, without counting lord Nelson's fleet, or the ships in the Mediterranean, there are upwards of sixty sail of the line from Ushant to Finistère, besides the fleets in the Downs and North Sea. Numerous cruisers are stretched along the western part of England, and the Irish coast—and, from the Lizard to the Nore, the men of war are every where within signal distance of each other.

"The attitude of this country, compared with its population, and contrasted with the physical force of its adversaries, is truly dignified and formidable.

"The expense, however, attending this defensive war is enormous; but the nation consoles itself by saying that all is at stake—that the money is levied on a monopoly of commerce—and that the expenditure is altogether at home. There may be truth in these remarks; but it is scarcely possible that any commerce should continue to flourish such an expense, or that a war conducted on these principles should not be ruinous.

"A war on the continent, which is anxiously looked for, would relieve the pressure and enable England to act with powerful effect, by means of her large disposable military force.

"There have been considerable differences in the cabinet and parliament; but Mr. Pitt's influence has triumphed, (even in changing the prosecution of lord

Melville to an impeachment) and it is not supposed that his influence will decline during the present reign. The retirement of lord Sidmouth, who is personally, a favorite with the King, is a strong proof of Mr. Pitt's predominance.

"The account of Sir Robert Calder's victory over the combined fleet of France and Spain, has given an additional spring to the naval character, and greatly elated the spirits of the people. That it should operate an opposite effect on the enemy, may be readily supposed."

## FOREIGN NEWS.

Received by the *London Packet*, as above mentioned.

## VICTORY

### OVER THE COMBINED FLEET.

PLYMOUTH, July 31.

It is now conjectured that the fleet seen by the Prussians, which spoke the *Caroline*, Lieut. Denby, in the Bay, about 14 days since, was the combined fleet lying to for intelligence to push for Rochefort or Ferrol. Admiral Cornwallis expecting their return to Europe, from all the information he received, detached, by orders from the admiralty, the Rochefort squadron on Friday the 19th inst. to reinforce Calder's squadron off Ferrol. This addition made him 45 sail of the line, 3 frigates, a sloop of war, and two cutters. He fell in with and chased the enemy all Sunday the 21st, and Monday the 22d inst. till 4 P. M. when Villeneuve's fleet kept the weather gage to avoid close action, in the old French style; but their centre and rear being pressed hard, an action commenced, as the British in two divisions, attempted to close with them, and became general at half past 4 with our van; the *Windfor Castle*, capt. Boyles, an 80 gun ship, the *Barfleur*, 98, and a 74 gun ship. The brunt of the battle, four hours close fighting was between the above ships and 6 sail of Spaniards, when Villeneuve, finding our fire too hot, and having the wind, hauled off, and left them to their fate. The *San Raphael*, of 84, *La Firme*, 74, and two other Spanish ships, were near 4 hours on the *Windfor Castle*, 98, whose fire was dreadfully tremendous on both sides, as the *Barfleur* of 98, and other ships engaged; but they had five at one time of the enemy's van and centre upon them. At the close of the action, the *La Firme*, and *San Raphael*, not having a stick standing, except the stump of the foremast, struck to the *Windfor Castle*, of 98, the *Malta* opening again her fire. The two Spanish ships have, in killed and wounded, 600 men; the crew of each consisting of 950 men, teamen and soldiers. The loss of the *Windfor Castle*, of 98, capt. Boyles, is as follows: Lieut. Carey, Navy; lieut. Rose, Royal Marines; Mr. Forester, midshipman, and 7 men killed. Lieut. Moineux, navy, and 46 men wounded. Of the other ships no account has been yet received. The action happened off Finistère, July 22, which bore S. E. and by E. 43 leagues. Admiral Calder, with 14 sail of the line, was left pursuing the enemy, which were seen Wednesday morning, the 24th, early, having two disabled ships in tow, and every rational hope may be entertained that Villeneuve's fleet may still be defeated by Calder or Collingwood, who is off Cadiz, and Nelson is near hand; so if they escape, it must be into Lisbon, for Cornwallis with 28 sail of the line, is cruising from Rochefort to Ushant, in extended orders to keep both ports in check. The Spanish prizes, *Windfor Castle*, *Africane*, and *Syrius*, which were dispatched on the 24th to take care of the prizes, are put under strict quarantine in Homozze, and many persons who went on board to see their friends, are obliged to remain there for the 40 days quarantine. A signal is now up 2 P. M. at Maker for five sail at the westward.

Another letter same date.

The two Spanish ships, *La Firme* and *San Raphael*, came up the harbour last evening, and were safely moored in the Homozze, amidst the loudest plaudits and cheers of a vast concourse of spectators, who assembled on the shores of the Hoe, Mount Wife, and the Stonehouse Hills, to witness this pleasing scene; the

weather was extremely fine, which enhanced the beauty of the fight.

Another ship of the line (supposed to be the *Pluto*, of 80 guns) struck to the *Windfor Castle* and *Malta*, but was immediately towed off by a frigate, and escaped.

The *Windfor Castle* remains in Cawford Bay, and the *Syrius* frigate in the sound, performing quarantine. The Egyptian frigate failed this afternoon for Portsmouth; the mizen topmast of the latter was carried away by a shot from one of the enemy's line of battle ships which she engaged.

The ships mentioned in my last to have been seen from the heights near Loe, have been in fight from Maker Tower the whole of this day, and are supposed to be homeward bound East India ships.

Minutes of the action between the combined fleet of France and Spain, and the British Squadron, under the command of Vice Admiral Sir Robert Calder.

"H. M. ship *Windfor Castle*, lat. 44 deg. 10 min long. 11 deg. 22 min—Cape Finistère S. E. 112 miles. One hundred leagues off Ushant.

"P. M. Moderate breezes, and thick foggy weather. At two o'clock, admiral Calder made the signal for an enemy being in sight, and to prepare for battle—at 3 do for the line of battle in open order—45 minutes after four, the van ships having tacked, signal was made to engage the enemy's centre in close order—55 after four, the cannonading commenced by ships a head—the fog being so thick, could not discover what ships were engaged—10 minutes past five, being on the starboard tack, observed the *Barfleur* on the starboard tack, tacked ship on her wake—the fog having cleared away a little, discovered two French line of battle ships, a frigate and a brig opposed to us, when we opened our fire, with an almost incessant cannonading—at 45 minutes after six, a Spanish ship of the line dropped down to support the above ships; they hauling their fore and main halyards on board, made sail windward from us, at the same time kept up a heavy fire—two other ships of their line took their stations; the *Prince of Wales* coming up, partially engaging two ships of the line, their foremast directed at us, and the aftermost at the *Prince of Wales*. At seven, our fore topmast and main top gailant masts shot away. At 45 after seven, observed the ship opposed to us before the beam, with the main and mizen masts gone, which ship struck her colours, and dropped a stern; sent a boat with lieutenant Moineux to take possession, who was prevented by the heavy fire from the *Prince of Wales*, not observing she had struck her colours to us. The headmost of the two ships, whose fire was divided between us and the *Prince of Wales*, appeared much disabled, bore up and dropped down upon our line, under a very heavy fire from ships astern, her lower masts then standing. About half past eight the enemy ceased firing at us, but continued engaging a stern, until three quarters past eight, when they made sail to windward. Our disabled situation, the standing and running rigging shot away, our masts and yards much wounded, rendered it impracticable to pursue them; at 11, the *Dragon* informed us she was ordered to remain by, and assist us, if necessary, to take us in tow. A. M. moderate and fine—at 30 minutes past four, observed the *Malta* man of war, *Syrius* and Egyptian frigates coming up from the leeward, with two of the enemy's line of battle ships in tow—the remainder of the enemy's ships, thirty in number, being hauled down to windward: The British Squadron, consisting of thirteen ships of the line, two 64 gun ships, and two frigates, a lugger and cutter. The enemy's fleet, consisting of twenty-two ships of the line, six frigates, and two brigs, one store ship, and a captured English South Seaman, under a heavy press of sail to windward.

Extract of a letter from an officer on board one of the frigates in Sir Robert Calder's fleet.

"On the 22d July, about 11 A. M. the *Defiance*, one of the look-out ships, made a signal for a fleet N. W. directly to windward of our fleet; shortly after

the signal for their being the enemy's fleet, and that they consisted of ships of the line and frigates, to the number of 30. At this time we were to windward of the *Defiance*, and four or five leagues to windward of our fleet. About half past 12, P. M. we could plainly count from our deck from 25 to 30 sail, apparently lying to. The *Defiance* setting nearly within gun shot, returned to our fleet, who were then forming in line of battle. About 2, we were considerably within gun-shot of the enemy's advanced squadron, which then tacked and stood to windward of their fleet, then formed in line. We bore up to leeward of their advanced ship, and passed within half gun-shot of their whole line, which was formed in a masterly style, and consisted of 17 sail of the line and 3 line of battle ships to windward for the protection of their rear. They had likewise 7 large frigates, 2 brigs, and a very valuable galleon, which one of their frigates had in tow; the frigates were likewise to windward (with their 3 ships of the line) of their sternmost ship. Our fleet was at this time about 6 miles to leeward, on the starboard tack, under a press of sail, the enemy at the same time under easy sail—a thick fog intervening, prevented the two fleets from seeing each other. Seeing the galleon in tow by the frigate, and observing the sternmost ships of the enemy's line, we tacked with the intent of attempting to cut her off. A sudden manœuvre threw the enemy's frigate into alarm, and she immediately commenced firing signal guns in quick succession, which caused three line of battle ships stationed to cover the rear, to edge down for her protection. Our attempt being thus frustrated we were compelled to edge down to our fleet—The fog at this time cleared a little, and we perceived that our fleet tacked for the enemy, and the admiral had given the signal to attack their centre. As we were edging away, we observed the van of the enemy, had wore for the protection of the galleon likewise, and when we observed their leading ships (three quarters past four) were in a very critical situation. On passing, they hoisted Spanish colours, and we received the whole fire of their three leading ships, upwards of 120 pieces of heavy artillery discharging on our frigate, whilst we could only return 20. Thus the action commenced: our leading ship, the *Hero*, 74, tacked immediately, the enemy opened their fire on us, and we commenced a heavy cannonading on them in return. It continued with unremitting fury for three hours and a half, when we saw, on the clearing of the fog at intervals, the French line to windward, and 2 ships disabled, although we could not at the time distinguish whether they belonged to the enemy or to us. At half past eight the firing ceased on both sides; the admiral hoisted his distinguishing lights, as did the rest of the squadron, when we could plainly observe our fleet to be in tolerable good order, considering the extreme foginess of the weather, and had apparently suffered but little, altho' the firing on both sides was extremely heavy. We being just to leeward of the admiral, were ordered into the rear to take possession of the two prizes, at ending on which duty has been our constant employment ever since. About 9, the admiral made the signal to bring to on the starboard tack, which was complied with by the whole line. The two Spanish ships that have surrendered, had 600 men killed and wounded; their lower masts shot away by the board so that they were rendered totally unmanageable, and gave us immense trouble in towing them. Had the weather been clear, I have no hesitation in saying, they would have been completely defeated, but the fog prevented our ship getting near enough (they not being discernable but at intervals) and the French being to windward, were too wise to come nearer to us. On the 24th, the wind shifted to the eastward, which brought our fleet to windward of the enemy. At this time we were so far to leeward with our prizes that we could not see the enemy, though our fleet could.

BOSTON, Sep. 10.  
Combined Fleets.—Capt. Elwell, who failed from Lisbon August 4th, informs;