

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF SIR EDWARD BERRY, Knt. CAPTAIN OF THE VANGUARD.

[Concluded from our last.]

When Admiral Nelson was first informed by the dispatches brought him by Capt. Hardy of the *La Mutine*, "That Capt. Trowbridge had been detached with ten sail of the line and a 50 gun ship, to reinforce them, he went up to Capt. Berry who was on the quarter-deck, and in a transport of joy exclaimed, "Now I shall be a match for any hostile fleet in the Mediterranean, and the wish of my heart is to encounter one."

During the action, which happened soon after, and which shines and will for ever shine in the annals of British Glory, Capt. Berry's courage and presence of mind never forsook him. As soon as ever he saw the *Le Spartiate* dismasted, he sent an Officer with a party of Marines to take possession of her, which he effectually did, and on that Officer's returning with the French Captain's sword, Capt. Berry immediately delivered it to the Admiral, who was then below in consequence of the severe wound which he had received in the head during the heat of the attack.

When the *L'Orient*, the French Admiral's ship was on fire, and which soon increased with such rapidity, that the whole of the after part of the ship was in flames, Capt. Berry's humanity prompted him instantly to communicate this intelligence to the Admiral, to see what could be done towards saving the lives of the unhappy crew. The Admiral was at that time under the hands of the Surgeon, who was dressing the wound he had received in the beginning of the action; but the call of humanity soon made him overlook his own danger; he instantly came upon deck, and ordered Capt. Berry to make every practicable exertion in their favour. In consequence a boat, the only one which could swing, was instantly dispatched from the Vanguard; other ships that were in a condition to do so, soon followed the example, by which means, from the best possible information, the lives of above seventy Frenchmen were saved from their impending fate.

We mention these particulars to shew the cordial co-operation between the Rear-Admiral and Capt. Berry, and the high confidence, the former entertained in the latter's abilities, which appeared in many instances, particularly in never changing his ship, though at one time in a perilous situation, and always concerting with him, the best mode of attack, under all the possible situations of the enemy; but the strongest confirmation of these facts was the Admiral's own dispatch, when after mentioning the wound he received in the beginning of the action, which obliged him to leave the deck, he pays the handsomest eulogium on the spirit and conduct of his Captain.

Soon after this action, Capt. Berry was dispatched by the Admiral, in the *Leander*, Capt. Thomson, to bring the account of this glorious victory to Europe; but unfortunately was met by a French ship of much superior force, both in guns and men. Here, perhaps, strict prudence should have dictated a quiet surrender; but the conquerors of the Mouth of the Nile could not brook submission to any enemy. It was resolved by both Captains to fight her; and the contest was, perhaps, one of the bloodiest which has been fought this war. Capt. Berry found himself at one time, with six of the ship's company falling around him in all the agonies of death, when he himself received a wound from part of a man's skull being driven through his arm. He was then obliged to retire, in order to have his wound dressed, when the carnage increasing, from the great force and freshness of the enemy, opposed to the inferior and crippled state of the *Leander*, she was, after a severe contest of several hours, obliged to surrender, but in this surrender, every thing honorable was obtained but victory.

When Capt. Berry was carried down from the deck to have his wound dressed, he found himself so covered over with the blood and brains of his unfortunate ship-mates, that he was under a necessity of changing his cloths and putting on his full-dress uniform. This afterwards turned out rather a lucky circumstance, as, on the surrender of the *Leander*, the French Sailors made rather free with the loose ward-robe of the ship's company.

Such were the hair-breadth escapes of this gallant Officer; it now remains for him to reap the honorable rewards of his services:—on his exchange and return to this country, he met the praises of his countrymen, and a cordial reception from his Sovereign, who honored him with knighthood, and the fullest approbation of his conduct.

Capt. Berry by the advice of his physicians, went to Bath for the benefit of his health, which had suffered considerably from the variety of fatigues which he had undergone in the service, but which, we are happy to add, he has since recovered by the waters.

We shall now give our readers some particulars of this gentleman's family.

Sir Edward Berry was born in the year 1766. He married a few months before he last went out with Admiral Nelson, a young lady of the name of Foster, a daughter of Dr. Foster, of Norwich, who is his own cousin-german.

Mrs. Berry his mother, married a second time the late Mr. Godfrey, the celebrated chemist of Southampton Street, who, dying in less than two years after his marriage, left her a jointure of 500l. per year, with which she now lives at Kennington in very great respect and character. She is reckoned very amiable in her person and manners, and, being now only in the meridian of life, is fully capable of feeling and participating with her son, the honors and rewards of his services.

Capt. Berry had an uncle who went out early to India, and returned with a very considerable fortune; but dying unmarried, he bequeathed the greatest part of it to his nephews and nieces, which is supposed at least to have amounted to two or three thousand pounds a piece; so that all the immediate branches of this gentleman's family may be said to be in a very independent situation.

LONDON, Nov. 27.

Bonaparte adopts every possible measure for the consolidation and stability of his government. The palace of the Tuilleries is now subject to a system of management and regulation purely military, and St. Cloud is to be appropriated to the country residence of the First Consul. The sum destined to defray the expenses for fitting up this place for the occasional reception of the Consular Court, will amount to nearly forty thousand pounds Sterling.

It is confidently reported, that a few changes of importance will take place in the course of a few weeks in certain departments of administration:—Among those whom Mr. Addington is said to be desirous of associating with himself and his principal colleagues, the names of Lord Moira and Mr. Tierney, are mentioned. The former has, however pledged himself not to act with the Duke of Portland; but the latter is under no specific engagement, and his talents must be found highly useful in the financial branches of the public service. Mr. Addington, in employing the talents of such men shows himself above the mean and petty prejudice of party enmity, and does essential service to the country.

Gen. David Dundas is appointed to the office of Commander in Chief, in Scotland; and Colonel Brownrig is to succeed him as Adjutant-General.

At the fete at Cherbourg, in honor of the peace, the following, among many other toasts, was given:—"To the peace between France and England, and may these two celebrated Nations be rivals in virtue, as they have been rivals in glory!"

Naval Intelligence.

Letters from the *Galatea*, of 32 guns, Capt. Byng, dated Cork, 9th inst. state her arrival there in great distress, after experiencing dreadful weather, in a cruise of 28 days, to the West of Cape Clear. She encountered 15 severe and heavy gales of wind, and was in the hurricane of the 2d inst. in which she nearly foundered. The violence of the wind carried away her mizen-mast close to the deck, and her fore and main-top-masts went over the side at the same time, though there was not a rag of sail left upon her. Fortunately only one seaman was carried over and drowned, though several were severely hurt, one dangerously. In the statement of the storm, Capt. Byng had the wreck cleared, and the *Galatea* arrived safe at Cork the 7th inst.

NEW-YORK, MARCH 12.

Extract of a letter from a Supercargo at Aux Cayes to his correspondent in Philadelphia, dated 13th Feb. 1802.

"We are in the utmost confusion here—afraid of the Black Troops, and momentarily expecting the arrival of the French troops to our assistance. The orders given by the Black General are to kill all the whites and people of color, which order has been executed in several places—in Leogane only five escaped—for my part I am in a distressed situation; 2,000 dollars out, a quantity of goods on hand, and not one dollar by me."

Extract of a letter from Washington.

Advices have been received officially here of the arrival of a French fleet and army at St. Domingo, and of the destruction of the Cape.

The fleet arrived in different parts of the Island, is said to amount to 32 sail of the line, 14 frigates and 40,000 troops. Col. Lear has been very well received by the Admiral, who has recognized his official character, and promised to issue his exequator, so soon as the offices are arranged, and has further assured him of the fullest protection to the persons and property of our citizens—there were two reports in circulation respecting Port Republican, one that an obstinate resistance had been made, and the town destroyed.

The other, that a landing had been made, and the town, persons and property saved.

The Admiral had given assurances that the vessels (American) should be permitted to depart as soon as the offices could be established. In the interim centinels were placed on board, and a strict examination of all the vessels was ordered.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at the city of Washington, to his friend in Delaware, dated March 3, 1802.

"The French are certainly about immediately to take, or have taken possession of New-Orleans and Louisiana, with a large army. A French officer is now here, who sailed from France 13 days after the fleet, destined for St. Domingo and part for this continent; other squadrons were to sail for New-Orleans, with troops, as soon as they could be got in readiness. This is not a common settlement of farmers and their families, but a settlement of disciplined veterans, nothing to lose, and wanting every thing but arms and military stores. One of two things must unquestionably happen, and shortly too—The United States must take possession of New-Orleans, and thus obtain the command of the navigation of the Mississippi, or our western country on the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi will separate from us, and join those who do command it; for this is their only outlet, and they must and will have the free use of it. If the loss of our western country was the only inconvenience likely to attend the settlement of this colony of soldiers upon our lines, I should, as a citizen of the United States, be disposed to submit to it rather than enter into a war at this time; but there are well grounded apprehensions, that consequences much more injurious will result from it to our country."

Captain Howes, who arrived here last Thursday from Havanna, informs, that the day he sailed, one of the French frigates which went out from France with the squadron to the West-Indies arrived at the Havanna. She was sent to demand of the Spaniards 11,000 troops, and provisions, to assist in the reduction of St. Domingo. Several other French ships of war, were expected at Havanna to refit, and to take in provisions for the supply of the West-India Squadron.

CONFLAGRATION of the CAPE.

BALTIMORE, MARCH 3.

Arrived last evening, captain Rogers, of the schooner *Nelly*, from Cape Francois, which he left on the 14th February. The news by captain R. is most distressing, both on account of the American property which has been destroyed at the Cape, and the scenes of horror and bloodshed which have and will take place.

It appears that a division of the French fleet consisting of 14 sail of ships of the line, and 11 other ships of war, with about 20,000 men, arrived off the Cape on the 3d of February, when negotiations were entered into by

the commandants on each side, as to the terms on which the one party were to be permitted to land, and the tenure by which the other was to hold their liberty and property. During those negotiations, Gen. Leclerc refused to receive any such character as a governor of the island, whose sanction, it was intended by the blacks, was wanting to permit him to land. This important step immediately roused the feelings of the negroes who peremptorily made him to land, and threatened if he were used, to repel it by force—to the town and murder the whites.

On the evening of the following day one of the ships hove in near the shore and was fired on by the battery with great hot shot; which was at the same time the signal for the conflagration of the town. Fire and saggois lighted up the flames in many parts at the same time, and the place, during the night, exhibited a scene of horror and destruction beyond the power of description, and equalled only by the dreadful fate experienced in the year 1792. Many massacres took place, and the brutal vagueness of the negroes spared neither age nor sex, not of their own color except Americans, one of whom, a young man from Charleston, was killed. With one hand the black demons of slaughter were seen holding up a writhing infant, and hacking off its limbs with the sword in the other.

Those that escaped the sword were preserved to witness more horrid scenes, being dragged by the negroes (who evacuated the town during the fire, and the demolishing of the forts to their strong places in the mountains, to serve as hostages or to glut their fury.

On the morning of the 5th, of 2000 houses, 59 only had escaped the ravages of the flames, and their tenants, except a wretched few on board the American shipping, were no where to be seen. Sgars and other property either rolled a liquid fire along the streets, or mounted in cloudy volumes to the skies. All the plantations of the extensive and once flourishing plain round the Cape for many miles, exhibited the same tremendous appearance. Port de Pau was also consumed, and every town in the Island except Port Dauphin, it was expected would share a similar fate with the Cape. Port Dauphin had been preserved, by another division of the fleet taking possession of it without molestation—four divisions having arrived at different points of the Island about the same time.—Besides the two mentioned, one had gone into the bite of Leogane.

After the total evacuation of the Cape by the blacks, the French shipping huddled into the harbour and took possession of the town and forts. Capt. Rogers was permitted by the Intendant to sail on the 14th with dispatches, we learn—but all other Americans were still detained.

It was not known where Toussaint was, during the conflagration, but he was supposed to have been at the Cape incog. directing the hand of destruction. He is now at the head of his army in the mountains in a place strong by nature, and which he had for some time been fortifying and rendering impregnable, by art. To this strong post he has retired with his treasury and his myrmidons; and from it will make his murderous excursions and harass his assailants. Rigaud, his old and implacable rival, was with his enemies, and much was expected from his knowledge of the Island and his influence with the inhabitants of the south.

It was reported at Cape Francois that the fleet destined for Guadaloupe had arrived, and that the same tragic scenes had occurred there.

Extract of a letter from a Capt. at Cape Francois, to his owner in this City, dated Feb. 10.

"On the 3d inst. the French fleet arrived off the harbour, and sent in a cutter to know on what terms they were to be received; when General Christopher thought proper not to let them come into the harbour, and sent out the cutter again with orders to the Admiral, that if he attempted to come in by force, he would set fire to the town.—On the 4th there being very little wind all day until afternoon, one of the French ships came very near the fort, intending, we supposed, to have come in, when the fort immediately fired on them, and obliged them to haul off again, and in one hour afterwards the town of Cape Francois was set fire to in several places, when it had exhibited the most shocking sight I ever saw."