

M. Corbet to Genl. Robert Bertie (by post Duke of  
Aucaster)

My Lord

Jersey 5<sup>th</sup> Oct: 1770

3090

I hope soon to hear that you are quite stout. This  
goes by a Privateer to Hampton, where he conveys a Prize  
which they intend selling there, it is the worth near  
£15,000, and our Market here is over Stock, besides  
Prizes are almost Daily coming in. A French Fleet  
sailed from their west Indies in July, with a design to  
a certain Latitude, but I believe three parts at least  
are bro't in between Jersey & Guernsey & some Port  
in England; I think I may venture to say, that Prizes  
are bro't into this Island to the amount of above Three  
hundred Thousand Pound, and most of it in Guernsey,  
and as they are all chiefly of Nantes and Bourdeaux, your  
Lordship may Judge the situation of the Merchants.

Some of our Island People taken by the French Fleet, and who  
were in different Ships in the Action with ours, having  
made their Escape, and arriv'd here 3 Days ago, have made  
a Declaration of Particulars which plainly Shows, that  
they Suffer'd much more than we imagin'd in England.

They



M. C.

They left the Castle Prison of Brest, last Friday a week, - very  
and say that the Brest Fleet returned into Port the Friday - a Letter  
before, that the Fort Frigate was taken by one of their - they  
40 Gun Ships, after an Action of four hours, being - Corbet  
Disarmed and losing 20 Men killed and many wounded and  
The Capt. was wounded in the beginning by Grenado  
Balls in a Leg, thigh & Arm, but kept the Deck to the last  
The news came to the same Prison two Days before they  
left it, and further told them, that the French Fleet, was  
so unwilling to meet ours again, that they kept in the  
Bottom of the Bay, merely to finish their Campaign.  
The return of the Fleet is confirmed to me by other accounts, their  
There is <sup>there is</sup> five Frigates in St. Malo road, and two more - five  
nearly ready and may be there in a week, 26 Transports who  
were with sails Bent, five weeks ago, and every thing ready and  
Eight Provisions not aboard, they are from 3 to 500 Tons  
armed with 12 to 16 Guns & 40 to 60 Men, and a Camp is  
near St. Malo of 20 to 25,000 Men, what they intend I have not  
been able to find out as yet. The Captain of the Fort, the people  
heard was doing well;

These former affairs are



M. Corbet to the Hon. Robert Bertie (by word Duke of  
Aucaster)

3090 (2)

very few opportunities, If your Lordship with favour will  
a Letter, it will make me very happy, this Vessel will  
stay at Hampton a few Days to settle the Prize. Mr.  
Corbet joins me in compliments to Lady Robt. Bertie  
and your Lordship and I have the Honor to be —

My Lord Your Lordships most obliged and most  
obedient Servant  
M. Corbet

Thirteen Men have been taken  
in about going into St. Malo, Some belonging  
to the Frigates & some to the Transports, with  
their Letters in their Pockets, they left St. Malo  
five weeks ago, and the Master only 14 Days  
ago Confirms the return of the French Fleet  
and says the Duke de Chartres had passed thro St.  
Malo in his way to Paris.

Right Hon. the Lord Robt. Bertie Northumberland Street  
Cavendish Square London



*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text in cursive script, possibly a letter or document fragment.]*

Mr. Collet & Co  
West. Middle  
October 5<sup>th</sup> 1770