

Prince George, Gibraltar Bay.

January 26: 1700.

Sir,

Since my last letter, I have an occasion of congratulating Your Majesty upon greater & more important success, our Squadron having taken most of the ships under the command of Don Juan de Langara.

After the America & the Prizes had parted company for England, we made the best of our way to Cape S. Vincent, which we saw on the 16<sup>th</sup>. We had been informed a few days before by a Dutchman, that there was a fleet of Spanish line of battle ships, cruizing between Cape S.

Vincent, & Cape S. Marij, which put us upon our guard, on  
About one o'clock in the forenoon on the 16<sup>th</sup>, the signal  
was made for a fleet; & soon afterwards for their being  
enemies. At about four o'clock the engagement began;  
soon after the S. Domingo blew up; a most shocking,  
& dreadful sight. Being not certain whether it was an  
enemy or a friend, I felt a horror all over me. We were  
three miles astern, & heard no noise, nor saw any of  
the wreck. The engagement continued till eight, when  
it began to slacken. At twelve we were coming up fast,  
& the fire became very brisk. At one the Prince George  
came into action, & fired four broad sides at a ship,  
which was making her escape & had lost her Main  
Top Mast. We carried away her Main Yard, after  
which she struck. We sent for the Spanish offi-  
cers, who told us her name was S. Julian, a ship  
of 70 Guns, commanded by the Marquis de Me-  
dina, who, being wounded, was excused coming

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on board. An officer & some men went on board of her.  
Next morning we parted company from her, & saw her in  
the course of the next night, making signals of distress.  
We have not seen her since, & are afraid she has fal-  
len into the hands of the Spaniards.

Thus far in the year O O, for-  
tune has crowned us with success; I hope it will go on  
so thro' the year: that our enemies, who have so un-  
justly taken up the war to assist rebellious sub-  
jects, may feel the effects of our arms.

Two days after our victory  
we anchored in Gibraltar Bay, where I passed my  
time very agreeably. I have been three times on shore  
& received very affectionately on Your Majesty's account.  
I have walked over all the town & garrison, dined with  
General Eliot, & have seen the batteries, & Spanish  
Lines: The idea of the Spaniards was to take Gibra-  
tar by famine, but, as long as we keep a superiority at sea,

it is impossible. To take it by storm, would be hardly practicable, for it is too strongly fortified both by nature & art.

This news of our victory will, I am sure, give great pleasure to the Queen, my brothers & sisters: to whom I beg Your Majesty to present my best wishes & congratulations; never believe me,

Sir,

Your Majesty's most affectionate,  
& dutiful Son,

William