

Capt. Sir John Jervis to the Earl of Shelburne
(last date Oct. 24 1782)

4867

Tou-droyant at Sea
16.th July 1782.

My Lord

A glorious Blow might be struck at Gibraltar; and if you will give me four Sixty four Gun Ships, in addition to the Tou-droyant, and a few Frigates, I will answer for the Success of it, supposing the whole Force cruising to complete the Blockade, to consist of no more than five Sail of the Line Spanish, exclusive of Frigates: The detachment should be made from hence, — the Sampson, Vigilant, Beinfaisant, Raisonné, Cerberus, Diana & Andromache (the three latter, Frigates) would do. — I must not be cloged with Victuallers, Transports, or Ordnance Storeships: the Queens Regiment now serving in the Fleet might be put on board the detachment, and an addition be made to the Victualling by taking Provisions

out

The Earl of Shelburne &c. &c. &c.

out of the home Squadron; and 500 Barrels of Powder or more might also be supplied, which would give an aid to the Garrison; — and should more be found wanting neutral Vessels might be stop'd passing and repassing the Straits, or directions sent to our minister at Florence to purchase what might be necessary; and the Squadron after doing the first business at Gibraltar and landing all the Provisions and Stores, except what might be necessary for the passage to Leghorn, proceed thither for it: — all this might be transacted in so short a time that the effect of it would be felt, before the object of the Enterprize could be discovered.

Your Lordships
most faithful
J. Ferris

Capt. Sir John Ferris to the Earl of Shelburne
(last date Oct. 24 1782)

4867 (2)

Portsmouth 19th August 1782.

My Lord

Since I wrote to Mr. Barré it has
occurr'd to me, that Gibraltar may be lost,
before the Fleet impeded by a number of
Transports, and Storeships, can get thither. —
I therefore return to my original Opinion of
a small Squadron going off immediately with
a 100 Soldiers in each Ship; — the Tondoyant is
ready, but as there are several Captains senior
to me in the Fleet at Spithead, it may be thought
improper for me to Command the Detachment. —
I shall be very glad to go in a subordinate
Character.

I have the honor to be &c.

J. Ferris.

Earl of Shelburne &c &c &c

Extract of a Letter from Sir J. Jervis
K. B. to the Earl of Shelburne - dated
Londroyant at Sea 22^o Octo. 1782.

Half a dozen old Sixty four Gun Ships
armed en Flute would amply supply the
Garrison of Gibraltar with every thing during
the Winter months; for it is too great a
risk to send your whole Fleet into a
Strait not wide enough for half the number
to navigate in, with an Enemy of Superior
Force to cope with, and not a Port nearer than
the Island of Sardinia, where you can
obtain a Gallon of Water.

Extract of a Letter from Sir J. Jervis K. B.
to the Earl of Shelburne, dat. Britania
24^o Octo. 1782

The Supplies you send to Gibraltar should
be embarked in Ships of War armed en Flute.—
Pease, Oatmeal and Gunpowder being the only
wants; abundance might be conveyed in a few
Ships armed as above.