

Extract of a Lett.^r from Edw. S^t. Lo Esq.^r
at Jamaira to M^r. Burchett Dated Port
Royal 24th June 1728.

Cap^t. Stapylton of the Spens Sloop acquaints
me that on the 4th of June being upon his Station
off the North East End of Jamaira he saw a
Sloop standing to the Northward, which he
bore down to, She appear'd full of Men, but
hoist'd no Colours, he fir'd a Shot at her, which
he return'd afterwards he gave her a Broad-
side which she answer'd and hoist'd a
Spanish Pendant, he still Engaging her the
Sloop kept Edging away for Cape Prura on the
Island of Cuba but Night coming on & little
winds he lost Sight of her his Foremast and
Bowsprit was very much wounded and his
Rigging much Damag'd.

The Merchants of this place having repro-
sented to me the great hardships they ~~are~~
labour under from the Spanish Vessels Cruizing
in the windward passage and other places to
the great prejudis of the Trade and their
taking our Ships in a piratical manner and
using His Ma^{ties} Subjects with great Cruelty-
I hope will deserve their Lordships Notice, upon
which consideration, I must beg Leave to keep
the Sloops with me for some time longer, till
the

The others are sent out for the Protection of
the Trade of the Island on the North side, and to
Cruise in the windward Passage, the Merchant
not being satisfied without they are employ'd
upon such Service.