

54279-80

Patmelia  
October 17<sup>th</sup>

D<sup>r</sup> Brother.

I wrote to you on the 1<sup>st</sup> off Torbay. On the 2<sup>d</sup> in the afternoon, We perceiv<sup>d</sup> a large Ships a head. I made the signal for a general chase. The number & the size of them made me flatter myself, till they came pretty close of their being an enemy. But they prov<sup>d</sup> to be Capt. Moore in the Cornwall, with 3 more Ships of the line station<sup>d</sup> by S<sup>r</sup> Charles Hardy, to keep as close under Mohant, as the wind & weather would permit. He inform<sup>d</sup> me of the Vice Admirals being about 4 leagues to the sw. & that he had parted company that morning.

I join<sup>d</sup> the Vice Admiral about 9  
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in the morning on the 3<sup>d</sup> and after having saluted him under sail, went on board with the state & condition of the Ship under my command.

He acquainted me, that Capt. Evans in the Union, on board which Ship he had hoisted his Flag but the day before, said, that in his passage from Basque to join him, he fell in on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Sep. with 5 sail which he took to be French, by their <sup>being</sup> not answering his signals, and making some of their own.

St Charles apprehended they were M. Blenac if so, that they must have got in under cover of the hazy weather, which had continued without intermission ever since he had been on the Station.

I need not dwell much I flatter myself  
on

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the sincere disappointment we all express'd when between 12 & 1. The Admiral made the signal for the general Chace, on seeing a Frigate with all her sails set standing from the westward for the Fleet with the signal out for speaking with the Admiral. On her joining, we found her to be Capt. Ash in the Liverpool.

He said that on the 2<sup>d</sup> in the evening he fell in with 5 sail large & Frigates, that he saw them all night, that they steered so unsteadily that it was difficult to proportion a proper sail to keep company with them, which induced him to believe they were sounding, or keeping on & off for a fresh wind and dark nights to carry them in. That as he left them only at 7 that morning, they  
could

not be above 14 leagues from us. The Captain was very clear & distinct in his account, and has shew'd great diligence on this occasion.

The Admiral determin'd immediately to divide the Fleet into 4 Squadrons. He detached me, with the D. Amelia, Magnanimité, Esmer & P. of Orange to cruise off the Pennmarks, to intercept the Enemy if they should try to get into Port Louis or Grock. And directed me, on my meeting the Archbishop in the Swiftsure, to inform him of the State of the Enemy, to direct him, with the Napaw and Achilles to continue in Hordicorne Bay to guard the Place of Fontenai: and to give him my rendezvous, that he might join me if he wanted assistance, which he would  
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in case the 5 sail at Brest should venture out through that passage.

The Vice Admiral proposed keeping to the West of Whant, with the Union Hero, Torbay & Lyon. And that Capt Man with the Cornwall, Monmouth, Revenge and S. Frederick, should keep to the northward of Whant, in case they attempted their old Trick.

I accordingly parted company between 13 & 4 in the afternoon. In the evening spoke with a Dutchman, who in a great measure confirm'd Capt Clarke's account, as he saw 4 French Ships the night before, he farther confirm'd the unsteadiness of their motions, which would have induced me, on the wind shifting to the NE. to have return'd to the  
Admiral

immediately, but this circumstance should have occasion'd him to wish any alteration in the disposition of the Ships. But on the winds coming so far to the northward, as to make it very doubtful, whether I should be able to fetch his Station; I proceeded for my rendezvous agreeable to my instructions.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> in the morning S<sup>r</sup> Tho. Stanhope join'd me with the 3 Ships under his command. I recommended his continuance on his Station. Informed him of the state of the enemy, and gave him my rendezvous as directed by the Vice Admiral.

I spent about four days in continued disappointment, as we chased every day, but they proved nothing but Dutchmen

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or convoys. I had an opportunity however of seeing a good deal of the coast, and if the weather had permitted should have found a good anchorage. And of performing a manœuvre I never saw before, which answer'd exceedingly well.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> in the evening, I call'd in S<sup>r</sup> Tho. Stanhope's Ships and acquainted him I intended leaving the Station the next day my time being expired; and rejoyn'd the Admiral that he must therefore follow his former instructions, which, as they were to rejoyn the Vice Admiral on the winds coming to the westward. I took them under my care for that purpose.

From the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> we were beating  
up

up

from the outward against a. N. NW. and NE  
wind, accompany'd with a great swell.

The 16.<sup>th</sup> about 40 Leag. almost SW. of Ushant  
we discover'd a sail an in about an hour found  
them to be the Vice Admiral. I joy'd him  
in the evening, and made my report  
which he approv'd of. He had had the  
wind so strong, that he had been blown  
off 40 Leag. to the westward.

Since I left him one of his Ships spoke  
with a Transport from Newfoundland  
which inform'd him it was retaken.

I wish you joy of this good news  
and remain

of most affectionate  
Friend & Brother

Edward.