

The severe treatment of our forces, on this retreat, had so greatly weakened them, and the hazard foreseen by Lord Howe for the anchorage of the fleet on that part of the French coast, at this season of the year, till the further supplies provided, could be taken on board, if sent for, and the troops put again into a proper state of service, determined him, with the General's consent, to return for that purpose to any port he should be most able conveniently to gain in England^e. Therefore, having by a message, obtained leave of the Duke d'Aguillon^f, who commanded the French, to bury our dead. Which was done the next day: they sailed the day after for England, and arrived at Portsmouth on the 18th.

A. D.
1758.

Return to
England.

The French account of this affair gasconades pretty much, in regard to their own bravery and conduct, and to the loss on both sides: but they that read it will find enough in the enemy's own relation to confirm the good opinion of the bravery of our men, who, though but an handful, maintained an engagement an hour and a half with the whole force of the enemy^g.

French
account of
this affair.

Various

^e See Lord Howe's letter, dated the 12th of September, to Mr. PITT.

^f He also sent a list of his prisoners, which is given on p. 210.

^g The following relation of the affair at St. Cas, was published at Paris, September 22, by authority.

The Duke d'Aguillon having received information, the 5th instant in the evening, at St. Matthew, near Brest, that the English fleet, after having shewn itself the 3d, about a league to the north of St. Malo, where it cast anchor on the