

of the Ships off of the North Chanel of *Dunkirk*, or to keep under sail, as should be thought most safe, and at the same time some others should be sent to cruise between *Beachy* and *Dieppe*, to intercept the Enemy's Ships which might come from *West France*, or to give him notice if they got sight of them, that so he might endeavour to prevent their joining those at *Dunkirk*.

Advice of the
Pretender
from General
Cadogan.

The 6th in the Morning one of his Scouts made the Signal of seeing Ships Westward, upon which he immediately unmoored, and got under Sail; and as he was dispatching his Letter to give an Account of this to the Lord High-Admiral, he received Advice from Major-General *Cadogan*, by his *Aid de Camp*, who left *Offend* the 4th at Night in a Sloop, that the Pretender arrived at *Dunkirk* the 10th, N. S. and that fifteen *French* Battalions, commanded by the Count *de Gace*, being to embark for *Scotland*, he had, in pursuance of Her Majesty's Commands, provided Shipping at *Bruges*, for ten Battalions, which should be ready to sail by the 18th, or 19th, N. S. and desired he would appoint such a Convoy as he judged necessary to see them safe to *Great Britain*. He also acquainted him that he was informed from the Pensionary of *Holland* eight of their Ships were ready to join him, whose Rendezvous was *Schoon-Velde*, on the Coast of *Zealand*; and with this Letter the Major-General sent him an Account of the Enemy's Ships at *Dunkirk*, which he assured him he might depend upon.

Besides this, the Gentleman who brought these Dispatches acquainted him, that after he had parted from the General, he was informed by the Governor of *Offend* that the Enemy had embarked all their Troops, but that when our Squadron appeared off of *Gravelin*, they put them on shore again; that since his sailing thence, they were ordered to embark a second time, and, as he believed, might in a Day or two be all ready to sail.

Our Ships fall
in with some
of the En-
emy's.

When Sir *George Byng* received this Intelligence, the Wind blew fresh at S. W. by W. and he intended to proceed immediately to *Dunkirk*, or to govern himself as the Weather would permit, so as that he might be able to do the best Service; but it blew so very fresh South-Westerly all that Day, and the next Morning, as to put by the Cruisers he had stationed Westward, which in thick Weather, at Six in the Morning, had fallen in with eleven Sail, and were within Gun-shot of some of them. They judged them to be five from 50 to 60 Guns, the others of smaller Force, and were chased by them till they came in sight of our Squadron. Upon the Signal which these Cruisers made, Sir *George Byng* immediately weighed, and stood over towards the Enemy's Ships, which stretched away for *Gravelin Pits*, and were so far a-head, that he judged it to no purpose to pursue them, so that he purposed to lie off the North Chanel of *Dunkirk*, to prevent their proceeding to Sea from thence.

When it was Night he came to an Anchor between *Dover* and *Calais*, it being then dead Calm; but before it was Day a very fresh Gale sprung up at E. N. E. which obliged him to continue at an Anchor until the Windward Tide was made, when he got under Sail, but

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