

to the northward, and next day proceeded to Cuddalore. The British loss was 77 men killed and 233 wounded, the French loss was 412 men killed and 676 wounded.

Immediately after this the French succeeded in getting possession of Trincomalee, and the British had been reinforced, their squadron consisted of three 74, one 70, one 68, six of 64, one 50 gun ships and four frigates; the French had four ships of 74, eight of 64, and three of 50 guns. The British squadron was very badly found in stores and the crews sickly, while the French were in good condition and full of men.

On the 3rd of September the British squadron appeared off Trincomalee, and the French immediately weighed and stood out of Back Bay, the wind blowing fresh from south west. The British being to the leeward formed line ahead at two cables length, and with a view to render the action decisive stood off the land until 11 o'clock, a.m., when it hauled to the west on the larboard tack. The French repeated the same tactics in this as in the last action, five ships bearing down on the British van, the remainder attacked the centre and rear. At 2.30, p.m., the action commenced and immediately became general. At 3.30 three of the French ships were dismantled and beaten out of the line; the action continued till 5.30. p.m.; when the wind shifted to east south-east. The British squadron at once braced their yards round and continued the action, having the weather gauge and the power of closing with the enemy. At 7 o'clock, p.m., the French fleet wore and stood in shore to the southward, receiving a most severe fire from the British line as they passed to the leeward. The loss sustained was 51 killed and 283 men wounded; the French squadron entered Trincomalee bay the same evening, losing one 74-gun ship, which grounded and was wrecked, the British squadron proceeded to Madras Roads.

A little energy on the part of the British Admiral would have rendered this action decisive. The disabled state of the French squadron rendered escape impossible for the majority of the vessels comprising it, and if the British had wore and followed that result would have been obtained. The vicinity of the land was no reason for declining to render this, the fourth action, decisive. There were good reasons at the three preceding actions for declining to follow up the advantages obtained, but none in this beyond want of energy.

In the month of May a treaty was effected by which the Maharatta States were detached from the interests of Hyder Ally, one of the articles being a mutual engagement to compel him to restore all places taken from the East Indian Company.

The plan followed by the English Administration in the conduct of the war in Europe was to act strictly on the defensive, when the true policy would have been daring offensive movement. In conformity with this efforts were made to prevent a junction

of the French, Spanish, and Dutch fleets, by which they were enabled to do infinite mischief, whereas if they were allowed to concentrate a single action would have completely broken their power, and rendered peace attainable on honorable conditions. But those were matters entirely beyond the capacity of the Whig agitators, who now swayed the destinies of Great Britain. They were fearful that any bold movement would render peace impossible. In compliance with this craven policy no effort was made to relieve Gibraltar, which had now been beleaguered for nearly three years, but the ordinary annual supplies were furnished the garrison. In the month of April Admiral Barrington sailed on a cruise with twelve ships of the line to intercept a convoy said to be ready to sail from Brest, and on the 20th of that month got sight of it. The convoy consisted of eighteen transports having troops on board and laden with provisions and stores for the use of the French fleet in the East Indies. It was under the protection of two ships of 74, and one 64 guns, and a frigate. A general chase ensued, and the two 74-gun ships were taken with twelve sail of the transports.

In the beginning of June the combined fleets of France and Spain, under the Comte de Guichen and Don Louis de Cordova, sailed from Cadiz, and in its course to the northward captured eighteen British ships of a fleet of merchantmen bound to Quebec and Newfoundland, chiefly laden with provisions. The rest of the fleet, about ten sail, and the convoy managed to escape.

As the combined fleet intended to cruise off the mouth of the channel great uneasiness was felt for the safety of the homeward bound Jamaica fleet, which had sailed under the convoy of only three ships of the line, as the Whig principle of economy had been brought into active play there was no channel fleet ready to act, and all was consternation and hurry; however, by the 2nd of July Lord Howe, with 22 ships of the line, put to sea, but he does not appear to have seen either the Jamaica fleet, which got safely into the channel on the 30th, or the combined fleets, and he returned to Portsmouth on the 8th of August.

The honor of the British navy was maintained on the high seas by several independent actions with single ships, for it is a remarkable fact that not one of the Admirals or Generals who were politically allied to the Administration now in power distinguished themselves in any way except by utter incapacity during this war. Every disgraceful defeat can be traced to their friends, and if there is a piece of superior stupidity on record it has been accomplished by some fellow whom the opposition were lauding to the skies as a great General or Admiral. With Keppel at the head of the Admiralty, and Howe commanding the fleet, it was not likely that any decisive or honorable result would be achieved.

On the 29th of August the Royal George,

of 100 guns, bearing the flag of Rear Admiral Kompenfolt, was overset and sunk at Spithhead, by which accident the Rear Admiral and over 800 seamen, with a large number of landsmen and others, perished. Her Captain and First Lieutenant, with 200 seamen, were picked up and saved. The wreck of this ship remained in the position in which it sank till quite recently, when through the exertions of the corps of Royal Engineers it was blown up and removed.

#### REVIEW AT QUEBEC.

The Review about two o'clock yesterday afternoon, the garrison artillery, under the command of Lt.-Col. Bowen, the 8th Battalion volunteer rifles, under the command of Lt.-Col. Reeve, and the 9th Battalion (rifles) under command of Lt.-Col. Panet marched on to the Esplanade, Louis street, where they were inspected by Col. Bagot 69th Regiment. The Colonel had on his staff Captain Charleton and Lieut. French, of the same regiment. The volunteers, we must say, appeared in splendid order, and having been formed into brigade, executed the different movements, some of which were unusually difficult, with quickness and precision. The Colonel who, from long experience is apt to detect any shortcoming in a man's department in the ranks, slovenly dressing, or, uncleaned accoutrements or arms, passed up the ranks, halting but two or three times, and then merely to offer a kind word of advice to the young soldiers. We hope our friends of the 9th Battalion will not find fault with us if we venture to say that, as an act of courtesy to the 8th Battalion, the band might have played during their inspection. The music, it was generally observed, was reserved for the inspection of the 9th only, and this appeared more strange to those who know that the instruments were the voluntary gift of an English-speaking Colonel of volunteers, now retired—Mr. D. C. Thomson. We feel confident, however, that the neglect was not intentional on the part of any of the officers of the 9th Battalion. Colonel Bagot, before the men marched off the field, made a fine patriotic speech. Without knowing what opportunities the volunteers had of perfecting themselves in brigade drill, they had proved to day that the right mettle was there to make good soldiers. The principal study for volunteers was to learn to use their rifles quickly, and to be brought quickly into position, and, when they had attained that, they would answer the main purpose of regular troops. They ought to be always organized and disciplined as to be ready to march at 24 hours notice. The Volunteer on this occasion had readily obeyed the call of their Queen and country, and setting aside personal convenience and their ordinary avocations had again rallied in all sections of the country and shown to this great continent that they were ready to defend the soil of Canada from invasion. They had given the best proof of their loyalty and bravery; and if those traitors who disgrace the country they profess to represent, dared to make their appearance, they will learn what it is to meet the Volunteer soldiers of a free country. At the close of his remarks, the Colonel received three hearty cheers and a tiger, such as our Volunteers can give. We noticed in the field Lt.-Col. Cassault, Lt.-Col. Lamontagne, and a number of officers of the regular army.—*Quebec Chronicle*, April 23.