CHAPTER 71.

SIR JOHN DUCKWORTH'S ACTION AT SAN DOMINGO.

A Strong French Squadron Escapes from Brest.—Vice-Admiral Leisseigues with Five Ships sails for West Indies.—Rear-Admiral Willaumez with Six Ships takes a more Southerly Course towards Saint Helena and the Cape of Good Hope.—The British Admiralty Dispatch Two Squadrons in Pursuit.—A Vain Chase.—Sir John Duckworth hearing of a French Squadron off Madeira Raised Blockade of Cadiz and went to Meet It.—Sights Squadron of Admiral Willaumez.—Forced to Give up the Chase.—In February a French Squadron Reported near San Domingo.—In Touch with Admiral Leisseigues' Squadron.—A British Victory.—Rewards Bestowed on the Victors

CHAPTER VII.

LORD GAMBIER'S ACTION IN AIX ROADS.

Fireships and Explosion Vessels in Naval Warfare.— Rear-Admiral Willaumez at Rochefort.-Lord Gambier arrives with a Strong Squadron.-Willaumez superseded in Command by Admiral Allemand.-Lord Cochrane Consulted upon Project of Attacking French Fleet.-Lord Mulgrave insists upon Him Taking Charge of Attack with Fireships.-Jealousy in Navy over this Appointment.—The Insubordination of Admiral Harvey.—The Fireship and Explosion Vessels Prepared.—An Inferno Let Loose among the French Ships.—Demoralization on the French Fleet. -Fifteen of the Vessels run Ashore.-Lord Cochrane confident of being able to Capture or Destroy the French Fleet.—The Rising Tide Saves a Number of the French Ships.—The Boats Recalled.—The Crews disgusted with Lack of Enterprise.-According to Napoleon, the French Admiral on this Occasion was

PAGE