

“ The English fleet was perceived on the 20th to leeward of Guadaloupe; the King’s fleet manœuvred the 21st and 22d, to engage them to a fresh action; and as they seemed resolved not to accept the offer, the Count de Guichen determined, in concert with the Marquis de Bouillie, to get to windward of the islands by the north of Guadaloupe, to attempt such expeditions as might seem practicable.

“ The enemy had sent back to St. Christopher’s and Antigua, the garrisons they had drawn from thence for the enterprize they had projected against Grenada. The equality of force between the two fleets did not allow of regular sieges, which would have been necessary to take these islands. The French commanders, in consequence, determined to get to windward of Martinico; and after having passed the canal of St. Lucia, to attempt to take post at Gros-islet.

“ The King’s fleet was, the 5th of May, in sight of the land of Martinico, to windward.

“ The 7th the Marquis de Bouillie embarked on board the frigate *La Courageuse*; and 600 grenadiers were embarked on board of our frigates. At night this light squadron steered for St. Lucia to windward. The fleet followed the frigates, to be at break of day at the entrance of the canal. The 8th, in the morning, the lugger the *Chasseur*, commanded by the Chev. St. George, which formed the van of the little squadron, discovered the enemy at anchor in Gros-islet. The project of taking post there was dropt, and dispositions for an engagement made. The Count de Guichen tacked several times in sight of the English fleet, and stood for them, to engage them to come out of the canal and fight.