

far distant when first perceived, to be pursued with success; and only three of the store-ships were taken: the rest escaped with the other ship of the line, and reached their destination.

These various successes occasioned uncommon satisfaction in England. They came at a critical season; and contributed powerfully, not only to raise the spirit of the British nation, but to damp the hopes that had been formed in France and Spain, of striking a decisive blow at the opening of the naval campaign, by the re-union of the French and Spanish navies. The best officers and seamen in the marine service of Spain were in the squadron that had been taken or destroyed; and the ships themselves were in the best condition of any in the Spanish navy.

Sir George Rodney was honoured upon this occasion with an unanimous vote of thanks from both Houses of Parliament. Their consideration of his services was so warm, that they zealously recommended him as deserving of the most signal notice and recompence on the part of the Crown. In this they were the more urgent, as the Admiral's domestic affairs were in much disorder, when he was appointed to the command of the expedition wherein he had been so successful. There were also other motives for wishing to see him provided for in an honourable and liberal manner. Among others he had, while in France, refused some very advantageous proffers conveyed to him through persons of the first distinction; who had strongly urged him to enter into the naval service of that crown. But though the prospects held out to him were very brilliant, and he was at the time in circumstances of distress, he nobly refused to take part with the enemies of his country.