

ing outside the bar, hauled off to the southward, fully satisfied at making an exhibition of his strength, thus relieving the British Admiral from great anxiety. D'Estaing's reasons for not attacking was that the depth of water on the bar was not sufficient for his heavy vessels; although the English had passed over it those that were competent to judge say that if he had crossed the bar he never would have got out again in command of his own ships. And now the danger was over reinforcements began to arrive; vessel after vessel of Byron's squadron, battered and weather beaten came in, but the Admiral having, with his usual luck, encountered a series of adverse gales, was obliged to put back to Halifax to refit.

D'Estaing steered from Sandy Hook for the mouth of the Delaware. On arriving off that point he immediately put about and sailed for Rhode Island, appearing off Newport on the 29th of July.

The expulsion of the British troops from Rhode Island had been for some time a favorite project of Congress. Under Major-General Sir Robert Pigot they had become very undesirable neighbors to the nest of privateers which found shelter in the various creeks and sounds and intricate water ways of that coast. D'Estaing was to have been sustained by a division of Washington's army under Gen. Sullivan, but those troops not being ready he anchored off Brenton's Ledge at the south-east end of the island, and sent two line-of-battle ships into the Narraganset passage on the west, and the *Seaconnet* passage on the east of the island, and in this position he remained till the 8th of August, when Gen. Sullivan's army being in readiness he entered the harbor of Newport with his fleet, returning the fire of the several batteries as he passed them and came to anchor in the middle passage of the bay of Rhode Island in front of Newport and between it and Conanicut Island. Four British frigates of 32-guns each, one sloop of 18 and one of 16 guns were destroyed to prevent them falling into the hands of the French Admiral.

Immediately on the arrival of the hostile fleet a dispatch boat was sent to New York with advices to Lord Howe whose force now increased to eight line of battle ships, five ships of 50 guns each, two of 44 guns and four frigates, three fireships, two bombs and a number of smaller vessels crossed the bar on the 9th, and having communicated with the garrison, came to anchor the same evening off Point Judith at the mouth of the Middle passage; the French fleet was now in precisely the same condition as the British at Sandy Hook, with the difference that they were superior in weight of metal and number of vessels, but in such a position that they could have secured no advantage from these circumstances, as he could not manoeuvre and was under the fire of the shore batteries, but Howe managed to go so far to the southwest that when a northeast

gale came on next morning, D'Estaing sailed boldly out and bore down on the British fleet now to leeward; but Howe declined and standing to the southward manoeuvred to gain the weather gauge; two days were wasted in this pastime and on the third a tremendous storm severely damaged and dispersed both fleets, and this very circumstance showed that if the superior officers were imbeciles the old daring of the British seamen was to be found in the captains of the fleet. On the evening of the 13th of August during the height of the tempest the British ship *Renown*, of 50 guns, commanded by Captain Dawson, fell in with the *Languedoc*, 90 guns, Count D'Estaing's flag ship dismasted, and instantly attacked her with great fury. Night put a stop to the contest; the first broadside next morning having brought up six French vessels to the Admiral's aid, obliging the *Renown* to bear away.

The *Iris*, 50 gun ship, Capt Raynor, was chased by the French 74 gun ship *César*, Rear-Admiral Bougainville, and as the latter was superior in size, weight of metal, speed, and number of men, no doubt was made of the capture of the British ship, but Captain Raynor was aware of a peculiar custom of the French navy at that period, and prepared to take advantage of it. As he was to windward the *César* expected he would keep the weather gauge and therefore only cleared her starboard broadside for action, stowing away the lumber, &c., which should have been thrown overboard between the guns on the port side.

The *Iris* accordingly, as the French vessel closed, bore up across her bows and brought her to action on the larboard or port side where she could not use a gun, and as a high sea was running the *César* served both for a target and breakwater; after a smart action of some two hours the French ship bore away from her antagonist with a loss of 70 men killed and wounded, the rear-admiral losing an arm. Another action was fought between the 50 gun ship *Preston*, Commodore Hotham, and the French 80 gun ship *Touant*, but the *Preston* was compelled to sheer off by other French vessels arriving to the rescue.

Lord Howe returned to Sandy Hook on 17th August and found the greatest part of his fleet at anchor there and the French fleet in a very shattered state appeared off Newport, communicated with General Sullivan and then proceeded to Boston to refit.

The expedition of the American troops ended in a hurried retreat after losing a great number of men, and they left Rhode Island without taking it on 29th August. On 30th Lord Howe having refitted his fleet appeared off Boston, but found it impracticable to attack the French fleet in the harbour, and after some petty cruising returned to New York about the middle of September where such a reinforcement had arrived as made the British decidedly superior to the French fleet, and at length Admiral

Byron in the *Princess Royal* arrived with permission for Lord Howe to return to England on the laurels he did not win.

THE CUBAN QUESTION.

The foothold which Grant has managed to obtain in St. Domingo—on that part of the island nearest Cuba, within forty miles of the Cuban coast, is very strong and advantageous. Entering into negotiations with Baez, the President of the country, it appears that Grant contrived—while yet the question of the annexation of that part of the island to the United States remained unsettled, pending the vote of the Dominican people and the meeting of our Congress—to establish a semi-protectorate over the Baez Government, which insures permission, in the event of trouble, for the United States forces to occupy the soil and really make it a base of naval and military operations.

The grip of Grant must be admitted, therefore, to be a powerful one. He has got Spain, we may say, not only by the nose, but by the horns. He has forced her to renounce diplomatic consideration of Cuban independence, and of the concern of the United States with Cuba, thus placing the United States on a hostile footing towards Spain if we attempt to interfere in the interest of the Isle. He has pounced upon a small Spanish navy in advance of hostile operations, and he has established a base for such operations almost in sight of the Cuban coast.

And now, with an aggravating contempt of the reported demand of the Spanish Government for the surrender of the gunboats, he seems determined to fetch on a crisis, and test the strength of the situation he has arranged. Perhaps, if Spain should choose to consider the affair of the gunboats as a *casus belli* at once, or if the affair should come to so serious a test as that before the meeting of Congress, that body might not be disposed to stultify the national honor, thus committed by the President, by interfering with him, but would let the matter take its course. Otherwise, Congress may have something to say about it.

DIMENSIONS OF THE GUNBOATS.

These boats are all exactly alike; they are 105 feet in length, 22 feet beam, and 8 feet depth of hold; their draft of water, with armament and stores for thirty days on board, will be about 6½ feet; they are schooner rigged, with long, raking masts and no ~~carpets~~ the head-stays going down to the knighthead. The standing rigging is made of the best wire rope, and the running-gear is hemp instead of manila as is commonly used. They have three boats, one on each side on davits in the waist, just forward of the bridge, and a small dingy on davits at the stern. They have one funnel, raking with the masts.—*New York World*.

A report is going the rounds of the press, to the effect that Brock's monument on Queenston Heights is falling into a state of decay, in consequence of neglect. As the structure was only inaugurated some thirteen or fourteen years ago, and being substantially built of stone, we are at a loss to understand how it can be so soon falling into decay. Possibly vandals are at work, and carrying on the work of destruction quietly but surely. The first monument was shattered in an attempt to blow it up, and had to be taken down. We trust there is no fear of the destruction of the present handsome monument.—*Spectator*.