

deep water, till after much labour, and the exertion of great seamanship.

The behaviour of the Spaniards in this conflict was very brave and spirited: but notwithstanding their gallant behaviour, it was the opinion of all who were present in the action, that had it taken place by day, or the weather been less boisterous, not one of them would have escaped. Those that did were so considerably damaged, as to be unfit for service.

The Spanish Admiral, Don Juan de Langara, behaved with great courage, and did not surrender till after an obstinate resistance. The ship he struck to was commanded by Captain Macbride. Having the 'small pox on board, a distemper of which the Spaniards are remarkably apprehensive, he notified it to the enemy, offering to send a party of his own people on board of them, without shifting any of theirs to his own ship, provided the Spanish Admiral and his officers would pledge their honour, that the British seamen should not be interrupted in the possession of their prize. This humane proposal was accepted with the highest expressions of gratitude, and complied with in every point that had been required, with the utmost honour and punctuality.

The consequences of this important victory were, the complete relief of Gibraltar, and of Minorca, both of which, till this event, had been considered as in a state of imminent peril.

After performing these services, Admiral Rodney sailed for the West Indies; where he was commissioned to assume the chief command. Admiral Digby proceeded home with the fleet and the prizes, and had the good fortune to fall in with a French man of war of sixty-four guns, which he took. It convoyed, with another ship of the line, a large number of ships bound to the islands of Mauritius; with military stores and recruits. They were too

far