

under his Command, and kept a pressed Sail the whole Night; but the Weather proving very hazey, he could not discover next Morning more than one Merchant Ship a-head, another Ship a great way to Windward, which he found afterwards to be the *York*, and three Sail more to Leeward, as far as it was possible to discern them.

The Admiral sending his Boats on board a *French* Merchant Vessel, which had been taken by the *Affurance*, the Master of her acquainted him, that the Ships which he had seen the Day before were fourteen in the Merchants Service, bound for the *Bank of Newfoundland* and *Martinica*, under Convoy of the *Superbe*, a *French* Ship of War of 56 Guns, and the *Concord* of 30, the former whereof, after having seen them into the Sea, was to cruise in the *Soundings*, and the latter to proceed to *Guinea*; that upon discovering our Ships, they separated in the Night, the *Concord* with all the Merchant Ships proceeding on their Voyage, (which were the Ships to Leeward) and that the Ship a-head which our Cruisers were in pursuit of, was the *Superbe*.

Soon after this the *Kent*, commanded by Captain *Robert Johnson*, came up with, and engaged her for the Space of an Hour, when she struck, in which Action the said Captain *Johnson* behaved himself like a gallant Officer, and an experienced Seaman, for as he attack'd this *French* Ship in a very handsom manner, so was she taken by him without any Assistance, although she had a greater Number of Men than the *Kent*. Both of them were very much shatter'd in the Fight, but so good a Sailer was the *Superbe*, that had she not been three Months off of the Ground, she would in all probability have escaped. This Ship had taken several valuable Prizes from us before, and our Cruisers had often chased her without Success; but becoming thus in our Possession, she was register'd in our Royal Navy, being very beautiful, and not above eighteen Months old.

*A French Ship, the Superbe, taken.*

There having been a Project formed about the beginning of this Year, for taking from the *French Port Royal*, on the the Coast of *Nova Scotia*, the several Ships hereafter mentioned were appointed to be employed on that Expedition, *viz.* the *Dragon*, commanded by Captain *George Martin*, the *Falmouth* by Captain *Walter Rydell*, the *Lowestoff* by Captain *George Gordon*, the *Feversham* by Captain *Robert Paston*, and the *Star Bomb-Vessel* by Captain *Thomas Rochfort*, the two first of them of 50 Guns each, and the other two of 32 and 36; but in regard the *Lowestoffe* and *Feversham* were bound to *New England*, Captain *Martin*, who was appointed to command them all, had Instructions to proceed thither, and join them, as also the *Chester* of 50 Guns, commanded by Captain *Thomas Matthews*. And Colonel *Nicholson* being appointed General by Land for this Expedition, he, with his Servants, were carried to *Boston* from hence, as also a Body of Marine Soldiers, with proper Officers, and a Vessel loaden with Ordnance Stores.

*The Expedition on against Port Royal.*

At *Boston* it was to be considered what additional Troops might be proper, or could be added to the Marine Soldiers, by the Governors of the Provinces in those Parts, which was to be determined by a Council of War, to consist of Colonel *Nicholson*, the

Governors