

THIS is the battle in *Bantry Bay*, which, though inconsiderable enough in itself, (since the *English*, who had certainly the worst of it, lost only one captain, one lieutenant, and ninety-four men, and had about three hundred wounded) is yet magnified by some writers, as a mighty action. The *French* had one ship, called the *Diamond*, set on fire, and two others so much damaged, as to be obliged to draw out of the line. The affair was certainly very inconsiderable, and any advantage that was gained, was rather to be ascribed to a favourable wind, and superior force on one side, than to any want either of courage or conduct on the other<sup>1</sup>. After the action, admiral *Herbert* bore away for the *Scilly islands*, and having cruized there for some time, returned to *Spithhead*; upon which occasion, king *William* himself came down to *Portsmouth*, where, to shew he would distinguish and reward merit, though not pointed out to him by success, he declared admiral *Herbert*, earl of *Torrington*, and knighted captain *John Ashby*, of the *Defiance*, and captain *Cloudefley Shovel*, of the *Edgar*, giving at the same time, a bounty of ten shillings to each seamen, and making a provision for the widows of such as had been killed in the action. This was perfectly well judged by king *William*, and was indeed an act of his

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but twelve days; in which short space, they landed what they carried, in Ireland, beat the English fleet, and made seven Dutch prizes. On the other hand, our authors are fond of charging some mismanagement on the French admiral: whereas, in truth, he did his duty very exactly; and Quincy, and the other French writers complain, that for want of the fire-ships, he was unable to prosecute the advantages he had gained; which seems to be matter of fact. <sup>1</sup>The reader may consult Kennet, Burnet, and Burcher, who have all given their opinions on this side the question.