

battery in the foreground has set fire to the French ship *Prudent* and the sailors are out in a number of small boats towing her away from the battery where she was likely to strand and cause damage. A ball from the battery is about to strike in the town. Part of the British fleet appears anchored at the entrance of the harbour and to the left is Lighthouse Point shewing the lighthouse. The whole scene is vivid and full of life and action.

The remaining six medals seem to be the work of one man or by those who were close imitators of his work. All but one are similar in design although differing considerably in detail and are of a low order of workmanship, much inferior in execution to any of the rest of the series. They are said to have been issued by a man named Christopher Pinchbeck who commenced business in London in the early part of the eighteenth century, as a watchmaker and jeweller. His name still lives in the language in the word *pinchbeck* which means in slang anything inferior or deteriorated as used by Anthony Trollope in *Framly Parsonage*, "Where, in these pinchbeck days, can we hope to find the old agricultural virtue in all its purity." In ordinary English it designates an alloy of copper and zinc in which considerably more of the latter metal is used than in making brass. This invention of Pinchbeck is thus described in a manuscript written about 1725:—"Mr. Xtopher Pinchbeck has a curious secret of a new metal wch so naturally resembles gold (as not to be distinguished by ye most experienced eye) in color, smell and ductibility, ye secret is communicated to his son." This alloy before it has become tarnished has all the appearance of colored gold; and so popular was it in those days that Pinchbeck made vast quantities of cheap jewellery, watch cases and ornamental articles from it. He also made a musical clock which was much admired and which he sold to the King of France in 1729, for £1500. Pinchbeck was a well-known character in London. He invented a pair of snuffers which he made