

In December His Majesty's ship *Bellona*, of 74 guns, commanded by Captain Richard Onslow, fell in with, and after an action, which continued half an hour, captured the Princess *Caroline* Dutch ship of war, mounting 54 guns, and 300 men, four of whom were killed, and twelve wounded. She was from Amsterdam bound to Lisbon. Captain Onslow carried his prize into the Downs.

The *Isis*, of 50 guns, commanded by Captain Evelyn Sutton, on her passage from the Nore to Spithead, fell in with the Rotterdam Dutch ship of war, of 50 guns; when, after a short action, both ships mutually sheered off, and pursued their respective courses.

On the 20th, a manifesto and declaration of war against Holland were issued at St. James's.

We shall now take into consideration the affairs of the Mediterranean and coast of Portugal.

In the night between the 6th and 7th of June, the Spaniards made an attempt to destroy the ships of war in Gibraltar Bay, and some ordnance transports which were lying in the New Mole. For the accomplishment of this enterprize, seven fire-ships were sent from Algesiraz, covered by a croud of armed gallies and row-boats, supported by a small squadron under Don Barcello, which cruized across the entrance of the bay, to embolden the attack, as well as to intercept any vessels that might attempt to escape. The darkness of the night was favourable to the enterprize; and might have proved successful, had not the Spaniards injudiciously set fire to their ships at too great a distance. The bursting out of the approaching flames alarmed the British commanders, who, till then, were ignorant of the danger, and had time to prepare for the reception