

64, one frigate of 36, one of 34, and one of 16 guns, with a small vessel to look out. They sailed from Brest the 14th instant, the same day I sailed from Torbay. Concluding that their first rendezvous would be Quiberon, the instant I received the intelligence, I directed my course thither with a press sail. At first the wind blowing hard, at S. by E. and S. drove us considerably to the westward. But on the 18th and 19th, though variable, it proved more favourable. In the mean time, having been joined by the Maidstone and Coventry frigates, I directed their commanders to keep a-head of the squadron, one on the starboard and the other on the larboard bow. At half past eight o'clock in the morning of the 20th, Belleisle, by our reckoning, bearing E. by N. 1-4th N. the Maidstone made the signal for seeing a fleet. I immediately spread abroad the signal for a line a-breast, in order to draw all the ships of the squadron up with me. I had before sent the Magnanime a-head, to make the land. At 3-4th past nine she made the signal for an enemy. Observing, on my discovering them, that they made off, I threw out the signal, for the seven ships nearest them to chase, and draw into a line of battle a-head of me, and endeavour to stop them till the rest of the squadron should come up, who were also to form as they chased, that no time might be lost in the pursuit. That morning they were in chase of the Rochester, Catham, Portland, Falkland, Minerva, Vengeance and Venus, all which joined me about eleven o'clock; and, in the evening, the Sapphire from Quiberon Bay. All the day we had very fresh gales, at N. W. and W. N. W. with heavy squalls. M. Conflans kept going off under such sail as all his squadron could carry, and at the same time keep together, while we crowded after him with every sail our ships should bear. At half past two, P. M. the fire beginning a-head, I made the signal for engaging. We were then to the southward