

with his instructions, immediately required that he should go under Admiral Boscawen's stern, to which the French commodore replied by asking whether the two nations were at peace or war. Captain Howe repeated his orders, generously desiring him to prepare for the worst, as he every moment expected a signal to fire into the Alcide, for not bringing-to. The ships were now close to each other, yard-arm and yard-arm. A number of ladies, officers, and soldiers being upon the deck, Captain Howe warned them of the danger to which they would be exposed, and advised them, as it was not their duty to defend the ship, to remove out of the way before he began the engagement. This advice they complied with, and now perceiving the red flag hoisted at the admiral's fore-top gallant-mast-head, Captain Howe poured in a whole broadside and a volley of fire-arms, which was immediately returned. The first broadside silenced three of the enemy's guns, and killed nearly fifty officers and men. The French commodore, however, defended himself with the utmost obstinacy ; but the Dunkirk's guns being double shotted did such execution at every round, that his officers were unable to keep the men to their quarters, and one of them was actually run through the body as an example to the rest. The English fleet meanwhile approached, and just as it came up, the Alcide struck. The slaughter in that vessel was very great, and when the French commodore was brought on board the Dunkirk, he observed to the gallant Captain Howe, that, "it was cruel to engage so very close." The governor of Louisburg, four officers of distinction, and a considerable number of land-forces were taken in this vessel, together with about 30,000*l.* in specie. The Dunkirk, in this action, had