

of the first to publish the letter, has also departed from the text of Townshend. Later historians appear to have copied the errors of these two authorities.

A manuscript copy of the original was obtained by the authors, and in order to verify this copy a photograph of the document was taken, the first and last pages of which are reproduced as an illustration to this volume.

JOHN JERVIS (1)

*Earl of St. Vincent, G. C. B., Admiral of the Fleet.*

" Swynfen Jervis, the father of John Jervis, was a barrister of an old Staffordshire family long resident at Meaford. His wife, Elizabeth, was sister to Sir Thomas Parker, lord chief baron of the Exchequer, who was a connection of Lord Anson: it was therefore in this direction that the naval interest of the family lay. John Jervis was the second son, and was born at Meaford on the 9th January, 1734-35. He was sent to school at Burton-on-Trent, whence he was transferred in 1747 to a private school at Greenwich, on the occasion of his father becoming treasurer of Greenwich Hospital. The naval atmosphere in which the boy found himself warped his inclination from the law, for which he had been destined, and turned his thought to the sea, and on the 4th January, 1748-49, he was entered as A.B. on board the *Gloucester*, wearing the board pennant of the Hon. George Townshend and then under orders for Jamaica. He was rated midshipman in 1752 and moved into the *Severn*, Captain Henry Dennis, with whom he came home in the *Sphinx* two years later. Falling, as it did, between the wars, there is nothing remarkable about Jervis' early service. On the completion of his six years, in January 1755, he passed his examination, and a month later was appointed lieutenant of the *Royal George*,

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(1) Extract from a paper entitled "Admiral of the Fleet, The Earl of St. Vincent, G.C.B. by the Viscount St. Vincent and L. G. Carr Laughton, United Service Magazine, July 1899.

A copy of this magazine was kindly sent to the authors by Lord St. Vincent.

For further particulars concerning the life of the Earl of St. Vincent, the reader is referred to the paper before mentioned, to the Dictionary of National Biography and to the works of Captain Brenton and J. S. Tucker.