

CHAP. XXXIV.

Containing an Account of Sir Thomas Hardy's Proceedings off of Dunkirk, and in the Soundings; as also of the delivering up of Dunkirk when Sir John Leake commanded the Fleet.

1711.

LEaving Affairs in remote Parts for some time, I proceed to give an Account of what was done at home. Sir Thomas Hardy, Rear-Admiral of the Blue, being appointed to command a Squadron of Ships to observe the Motions of those of the Enemy at Dunkirk, he hoisted his Flag the 2d of May on board the *Canterbury*, a Ship of 64 Guns, and having examined the Master of a Prize belonging to the aforesaid Port, he was informed by him that there had failed thence within ten Days eight Privateers, one of 28, one of 26, and one of 10 Guns, and another of 6, the other four open Boats, and that as eight more were fitting out from 30 to 10, so were the Carpenters at work in making the *Grafton*, (a Ship of 70 Guns taken from us) and four others ready for the Sea.

The 21st of May he sailed from the Downs, and came off of Dunkirk with four Fourth Rates, two Fifths, and two of the Sixth, when sending in three of the said Ships to Flemish Road, they forced into the Port two Privateers of about 20 Guns each, and a Dogger which carried 8, while the Enemy fired at them from the Platforms at the Peer-heads. He discovered six Ships in the Basin, four of which were of about 50 or 60 Guns, and the other two small ones, all unrigg'd; thirty Vessels were in the Peer not ready for the Sea, and he was informed that Captain Sans was fitting out a Ship of 50 Guns, with three Privateers of 24, 26, and 28, so as to be ready to sail in fourteen Days.

Some small
Prizes taken.

Prussians per-
mitted to
Trade to
France.

Having farther Advice the 28th of their Naval Preparations at Dunkirk, he took care to keep good looking out with three Ships he had with him, the others being then absent, but three of them came in the 1st of June from cruising, having taken eight small Prizes, which were not worth the Charge of condemning; and soon after he received Orders to permit the Subjects of Prussia to trade to France without Molestation.

The 11th of May he had with him in the Downs one Ship of the Third Rate, four of the Fourth, one of the Fifth, one Sixth, and a Sloop; and receiving Advice that the *Ruby*, of 50 Guns, formerly taken from us, was coming from Morlaix, in Bretagne, to Calais, and Dunkirk, with five other laden Ships of about 20 Guns each, he appointed some of his Squadron to cruise for them on the French Coast, but they had not the good Fortune to meet with them.

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