

... have advised Cap^{tn} Erskine that he intended no to
... all down of day, and to Engage no where but on the near
... were then to run of without saying a word

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treating it even as a criminal Neglect. Captain *Crooksbanks* was senior Officer: And there is not any Law, Order, or Prescription, that directed such a Consultation.

But, supposing there had been a strong Injunction to the Senior, to ask the Advice of his junior Officer; or that Captain *Crooksbanks* had been diffident of himself, or entertained a great Opinion of Captain *Erskine*, and, in consequence, earnestly desirous to consult him: Yet Captain *Crooksbanks* was then so circumstanced, that he must either have resolved to act without the Advice of Captain *Erskine*, or relinquish the Enterprize. Because, it was clear, that so far from having Time to slacken Sail, to bring the Ships too, to hoist out Boats, to pass and repass, nay, even to speak to each other, that if any of the Operations and Diligences of slackening the Rigg- ing, taking down the Stauncheons, trimming the *Lark*, and other Circumstances abovementioned, had been neglected, she could not have overtaken the Enemy. For after all that Captain *Crooksbanks* had done, he overhauled the Enemy, merely by little Advantages, of having more Wind at particular Times, when the Enemy had less; which is often known to be the Case of Ships chasing each other in fine Summer Weather: But, as to any Difference of going between the three Ships, it was scarcely perceptible; nor could this fail of being observed on board the *Warwick* all that Day, and indeed during the whole Voyage; which might have served as an Ad- monition to Captain *Erskine*, not to separate from his commanding Officer, more especially in the Night, and in the Manner he did, as will be fairly represented. And here it will not be impertinent to ask, if Captain *Erskine* exerted himself, by making all the Operations and Diligences that were in his Power? for, if he did, he might have come up with the Enemy sooner than the *Lark*.

... is worth Observation here that the Enemy's Ship did
... upon the whole than the *Lark* who is said to be the
... Ship in England and the *Warwick* and *Lark* had observ
... that they said such and such

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