

bowsprit carried away her mizen shrouds and spanker boom, and the Penguin hung upon the Hornet's quarter deck, with the loss of her foremast and bowsprit. Her commander then called out that he had surrendered. Though he was not distinctly understood, captain Biddle ordered his marines to cease firing, and demanded of the Penguin whether she had struck. An officer of the Hornet discovered a man taking aim at captain Biddle, after the surrender, and called to him to avoid the fire.—He had scarcely done so, when a musket ball struck the captain in the neck, severely wounded him, and passed through his coat collar. Two marines, to whom the man was pointed out, who had discharged his piece at their commander, immediately fired at and killed him before he brought it from his shoulder. The Penguin just then got clear of the Hornet, and the latter wore round to give the enemy a fresh broadside, when her commander called out a second time that he had surrendered. The severest exercise of authority became necessary, to prevent the Hornet's crew, who were incensed at the enemy's firing after he had struck, from discharging the broadside. Twenty-two minutes after the commencement of the action, she was taken possession of by Mr. Mayo, of the Hornet. The Penguin was so much injured, that captain Biddle determined upon taking out her crew and scuttling her—after doing which, he sent his prisoners to St. Salvador in the Tom Bowline, by which vessel and the Peacock he was joined on the 25th of the month. In this action, the Penguin lost 14 men killed, and 28 wounded; the Hornet, 1 killed, and 11 wounded: among the latter, her first lieutenant, Conner, dangerously.

Having bent a new suit of sails, and repaired his rigging, captain Biddle was in a perfect condition to prosecute the cruise, and, together with the Peacock, after waiting the full time for commodore Decatur, at the island of Tristan d'Acunha, sailed on the 12th of April for the Cape of Good Hope. On the 27th, they discovered a British ship of the line, with an admiral's flag. The Peacock and Hornet immediately separated, and made all sail in different directions from the stranger, who came up in pursuit of the latter. The chase commenced at about 2 o'clock, of the 27th, and continued until 10 in the morning of the 30th, during which time the enemy's bow guns