

"At a quarter past six, the two fleets were drawn up in two lines, almost parallel, at the distance of two cannon-shot; but in the night the English, according to custom, straggled at large; and on the 20th at day-break, they were two leagues to leeward. They continued to roam, and at half past three in the afternoon they were no longer seen but from the top-mast head.

"The 21st there was no knowledge of them; and the Count de Guichen judging they had retired to Barbadoes, or St. Lucia, steered for Martinico.

"It appeared that the van of the enemy had been roughly handled; the advices from St. Lucia mention that four ships had arrived there completely shattered, and a fifth absolutely unfit for service. The rest of the English fleet is put into Barbadoes."

Commodore Walsingham arrived at St. Lucia with a convoy from England, July 12. As there remained no doubt with respect to the destination of the combined fleets, Sir George Rodney dispatched Rear-admiral Rowley and the commodore with ten sail of the line, from 74 to 64 guns, to re-inforce Sir Peter Parker at Jamaica, and thereby insure the security of that island. Sir George Rodney soon after sailed with the remainder of the fleet for New York.

On the 10th of October, and the following day, the West India islands experienced one of the most dreadful hurricanes that ever was remembered; it spread desolation over the whole of them, particularly Barbadoes, Martinique, and Jamaica; several ships of war and merchant vessels of different nations, were lost, and most of their crews miserably perished. Some, however, were miraculously preserved: the most remarkable instances are the following: