

gone.—Thus we were as much disastered as it was possible, lying at the mercy of the wind and sea ; yet I had one comfort, that the pumps seemed to reduce the water in the hold : and as the morning came on, the weather grew more moderate, the wind having shifted in the gale to the North-West.—At day light I saw two line of battle ships to leeward :—One had lost her foremast and bowsprit, the other her mainmast. It was the general opinion on board the *Centaur* that the former was the *Canada* and the other the *Glorieux*. The *Ramillies* was not in sight, nor more than 15 sail of Merchant ships—about seven o'clock in the morning I saw another line of battle ship ahead of us, which I soon distinguished to be the *Ville de Paris*, with all her masts standing. I immediately gave orders to make the signal of distress, hoisting the Ensign on the stump of the mizen mast, Union downwards, and firing one of the fore-castle guns.

The Ensign blew away soon after it was hoisted, and it was the only one we had remaining ; but I had the satisfaction to see the *Ville de Paris* wear and stand towards us. Several of the Merchant ships also approached us, and those that could, hailed and offered their assistance, but depending upon the King's ship, I only thanked them, desiring if they joined the Admiral, to acquaint him of our condition. I had not the smallest doubt but the *Ville de Paris* was coming to us, as she appeared to us not to have suffered in the least by the storm, and