

passing the British fleet as described the French admiral came to the wind on the starboard tack on the lee beam of the British fleet, but owing to Sir Hugh Palliser being unable to support Keppel's division the action was not renewed.

It is evident that the attack was the worst possible.—instead of endeavoring to break the enemy's line and thus separate his fleet both parties sailed past each other, one on the port the other on the starboard tack. In this manoeuvre the weightier metal tells and Keppel could not keep his vessels on the port tack when it became necessary to pursue the enemy. As to Sir H. Palliser it is possible he mistook the signals but he certainly did not act with vigor or judgment. The total loss of the British was 113 killed, 374 wounded; what the French loss was has never been known.

Comte d'Orvilliers ranged his fleet in line of battle to the leeward with the apparent intention of renewing the action on the morning. All night the British saw their lights but at daylight only three ships were to be seen, the rest of the fleet having stolon away under cover of the night.

A great deal of bickering resulted from this partial action, in which no loss except in killed and wounded was incurred on either side, and finally the edifying spectacle was afforded of the Commander-in-Chief being tried by a court martial without being superseded. Acquitted, as a matter of course, when the Vice Admiral was also tried, with a like result, but a well founded opinion has been entertained that notwithstanding so much was not done as might have been on the 27th of July.

Both fleets put to sea as soon as damages had been repaired, but they seemed to have carefully avoided meeting for the remainder of the year. The trade of both countries suffered a little by their operations, but the balance of the captures were in favor of the British, whose navy was gradually approaching that point of predominance in efficiency and discipline which reached its greatest culmination under the immortal Nelson.

While the French were disputing the Empire of the Seas in Europe they were losing their eastern possessions with a rapidity only equal to that with which they acquired them. The English East India Company had taken such prompt measures that hostilities commenced in India at the same time as in Europe, and by the end of October the French Empire in the East, the dream which Dupliox so nearly realised, had become a matter of historical record for it no longer existed. Chandernagore, Yanavore, Karical, Massulipatam, and Pondicherry, with all their artillery stores, munitions of war and garrisons had surrendered, and the drapeau blanc and golden lillies were no more known in Hindustan.

The treaty of Paris in 1762 had secured to France the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon in the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence

for fishing purposes (their solo remains to this day of their vast American possessions), it was determined to debar them from the use of the fisheries, and accordingly a squadron was despatched for that purpose, the settlements destroyed, and the fishermen shipped to France.

During the month of September the Marquis de Bouillé, Governor of Martinique, with 2,000 men, escorted by four frigates and ten smaller armed vessels, appeared off the south end of the Island of Dominica and immediately landed a detachment to attack Cachacrou, which was easily taken and the whole island capitulated on very favorable terms.

The expedition under Gen. Grant sailed from Barbadoes on the 12th of December for the French island of St. Lucie, escorted by the fleet under Admiral Barrington, whose force consisted of three ships of the line, three of fifty guns, and several frigates. The Island of St. Lucie is indented on the west side by three great bays, separated from each other by narrow ridges of high and rough hills jutting out into the ocean. To the north lies the Bay of Du Choque, the middle is the Carenage Bay, at the head of which stands Morne Fortune, the capital town of the island, and the southerly is known as the Cul de Sac Bay, in this latter bay the troops under Brigadier General Sir Wm. Meadows, consisting of the 5th regiment with the Grenadiers and Light Infantry landed, forced the heights on the north side and captured a four gun battery, while Brigadier-General Prescott with five regiments swept the enemy's posts from the other side of the bay. On the following morning the town of Morne Fortune with all the military stores and magazines were captured with the full command of the Carenage Bay, and before evening possession was obtained of the neck of land separating it from Du Choque. Scarcely had this been accomplished when the French fleet, under the Comte d'Estaing, hove in sight with 9,000 troops on board, which were destined to reduce the Windward Islands, Barbadoes, St. Vincent, Grenada and Tobago, and with this intent he had sailed for Martinique, but being apprised of this attack on St. Lucie he at once bore up for that island, rejoicing in the opportunity offered of crushing Barrington's squadron before the British Admiral could come to his aid. Totally unaware of the rapidity with which the British had possessed themselves of the principal defences of the island the French fleet steered for the bay of the Carenage, but the flagship of Comte d'Estaing, the Languedoc, receiving the fire of a battery obliged him to stand out to sea after returning it with a broadside.

After a good deal of manoeuvring displaying embarrassment and hesitation, he steered for the Grand Cul de Sac where Barrington had made the best disposition possible to receive him which was rather a difficult matter, seeing the French fleet consisted of

twelve sail of the line with a numerous squadron of frigates and armed vessels.

The disposition of the British Admiral was to form line with his force across the entrance supported by a second line of frigates and to warp the transports inside out of reach of fire; two separate attacks were made on this force during the day and both repulsed, with a loss to the British of two killed and eight wounded, a single transport laden with officers baggage fell into the hands of the French as there had not been time to warp her into the bay; the issue of this fight was the present salvation of the army and the success of the army was now necessary to save the fleet. For Comte d'Estaing having received information of how matters stood ten days afterwards landed a strong force in the bay of Du Choque for the purpose of driving the British from the heights of the Vergie which commanded the Carenage. On the 18th December they advanced in three columns to the attack and after a sanguinary fight sustained with undaunted resolution, were driven from the field with a loss of 400 killed and 1200 wounded; the loss of the British was 13 killed and 158 wounded. The difference is to be accounted for by the fact that the action was fought against a strongly fortified post and the French troops were sacrificed in a useless assault. The French fleet remained in Du Choque bay till 29th Dec, on which day they sailed for Martinique. The Island at once surrendered to the British. This was undoubtedly the best fought action of the war and the most important in its results as it relieved the British West Indies from apprehension of attack, although the situation was peculiarly critical, for had d'Estaing succeeded in either of his projects both fleet and army would be at his mercy. Barrington's repulse of his attack saved both, and if the army had not been well led and handled by Meadows the fleet would have been captured by the French.

The campaign of 1778 is relieved by this action from the total disgrace which would otherwise have attended it, no progress had been made on the continent except a victory whose results were those of defeat and an indecisive naval action in which rhetoric and demonstrations were necessary to convince the public that the French had been actually defeated. Factions at home and treason abroad were steadily directed against Britain's supremacy, and the prospect must have been sufficiently gloomy for those entrusted with the national welfare.

At Washington, Dec. 13th, Mr. Peters offered a resolution, declaring that the sentiment of the House accords with the opinion expressed in the President's message, that the renewal of the Treaty of Reciprocity with the British Provinces would be wholly in favor of the British producer, and should not, in our present condition, be favorably considered. The House refused to lay the resolution on the table—Yeas, 42; nays, 129. It was generally a party vote, and the resolution was adopted.