

vanced with crouded sail; the king's fleet added none, to give the English hopes of getting to windward, and let them thus engage, since they constantly avoided to fight to leeward. At half past two the Count de Guichen seeing that the enemy could no longer decline the combat without retreating entirely, ordered the ships a-head to govern so as to pass before the English line, to bear upon the van, and enter into action. At half past three the fire began between the two leading ships of the file, the English being obliged to come up and pass to leeward: the action became successively general between the two lines, on opposite tacks; but at half past four the headmost ships of the French line having taken much sea-room to fight closer, and the other having followed in the wake of the former, the admiral made a signal to rally, that, in keeping their wind, and in tacking altogether, the line might be formed to windward of the enemy, if they should attempt to tack upon our rear. At three quarters past four, several English ships having tacked, and advancing with crouded sail on the hindmost ships of the French line, which was still engaged, the Count de Guichen made the white squadron tack all at once before the wind; and then the blue squadron, and he left the white-blue to continue its course, the rear of which was still engaged. The movement was scarce executed by the white squadron, when the English ships that advanced, nine in number, tacked immediately and joined their squadron.

“ At half past five the King's squadron presented itself again in the best order; and the enemy by falling back to their ships to leeward, at length put themselves in order of battle.