

Governor of the *Leeward-Islands* was not consenting, apprehending they might return and make a second Attempt.

*The Strength
of the French
Ships with
Monsieur Cas-
sard.*

On the 25th *Thomas Richards*, Master of a Vessel belonging to *Exeter*, came to *Antegoa* from *Monserat*, and gave an Account that the *French Ships* were the *Neptune* of 64 Guns, and eight hundred and fifty Men, commanded by Monsieur *Cassard*, the *Temeraire* of 56 Guns, the *Ruby* of 54, the *Parfait*, *Vestale* and *Valeur*, each of 44, the *Medusa* of 36, and the *Prince of Frieze* of 28, all of them doubly mann'd. That he was taken by them the 23d of *April* out of the Road of the *Isle of May*, and that on the 25th they took *St. Jago*, from whence they proceeded to and attempted *Surinam*, but were beaten off. That then they sailed to *Martinica* and *Guadalupe*, where they took in Men, mustering at least three thousand five hundred, and from thence made the best of their way to *Antegoa*, but missing landing there, attack'd *Monserat*, when having Intelligence of our Ships coming to relieve it, they left it in a hurry, and intended for *Martinica*, from which Place three of them were to proceed to the *Havana*; so that after our Ships had staid some Days at *Antegoa*, they returned to their respective Stations.

But on the 21st of *August* in the Evening a Sloop arrived at *Barbadoes*, with a Letter from the Governor of the *Leeward-Islands*, signifying his Apprehensions that the Enemy would again attempt to land on *Antegoa*. Mr. *Lowther*, Governor of *Barbadoes*, acquainted Captain *Hamilton* and Captain *Constable* of this, and they, with the other Commanders, resolved to proceed to the Relief of the Island. Accordingly they sailed from *Carlisle Bay* the 25th in the Morning, and arriving the 30th. they were informed by the Governor that the Enemy stood to the N. E. the 17th, with nine Ships and eight Sloops, and that he had sent out two Vessels to discover their Motions.

Here the Ships of War remained till the 4th of *September*, and then getting under sail, they stood away for *Guadalupe*, looking into the Enemy's Harbours there, and at *Martinica*; but finding they were not at those Places, made the best of their way to *Barbadoes*.

*News of the
French Squa-
dron, after
they left the
Leeward-
Islands.*

The Master of a Sloop which came in, gave them the following Account. That on the 18th of *September*, in the Latitude of 28°, he was chased by a *French Squadron*, but Night coming on, got clear of them; and that not above three Days after he saw several Ships in the Latitude of 26°, standing Southward, which he supposed were the same that had chased him; so that the *Panther* being ready to sail with a considerable Number of Merchant Ships from *Barbadoes* to *Great Britain*, Captain *Hamilton* accompanied them into the Latitude of 26°, with the Ships under his Command, lest the Enemy should endeavour to intercept them in their Passage.

*Advice in the
Leeward-
Islands of a
Cessation of
Arms.*

Returning to *Antegoa*, that there, if possible, he might get Advice of the *French Squadron*, he met with the Queen's Proclamation for a Cessation of Arms; but when he came to *Barbadoes*, and heard that several of our Merchant Ships and Vessels were carried

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