

C H A P. XXXI.

Containing an Account of Sir John Norris's Proceedings while he commanded in the Mediterranean; with an Attempt made on Cette and Agde on the Coast of Languedoc, and the beating of the Spanish Army near Saragosa.

1777.

Sir John Norris arrives at Port Mahon from England.

A Council of War held.

The Disposition of the Ships in the Streights.

SIR John Norris sailed from *Plimouth* the 12th of *January*, and having seen the *Virginia* and *West-India* Trades, with their Convoys, well into the Sea, arrived at *Port Mahon* the 13th of *March*, where joining Sir *Edward Whitaker* and Rear-Admiral *Somersdyke*, he found that seven of Her Majesty's Ships, and two of the States-General, were gone into the *Arches* with Vice-Admiral *Baker*, to protect the Merchant Ships and Vessels with Corn for Supply of the Army in *Catalonia*, as hath been before related, while others were appointed on various Services; and from hence he sent three *English*, with two *Dutch* Ships to *Barcelona* with the Publick Money, Recruits, &c. and to receive His Majesty's Commands, who had by Letter desired him to come with the whole Fleet to that Port.

The 22d of *March* calling a Council of War, it was determined to send home four Ships of the Third Rate, which were in the worst Condition to remain abroad, pursuant to the Orders he had received from the Lords of the Admiralty, as also to detach one Fourth and two Fifth Rates to fetch General *Stanhope*, and the Money for the Army from *Genoa*, so that the Ships which would remain abroad under his Command were at this time disposed of in the manner following, *viz.* two Fifth Rates were order'd to *Lisbon* to clean, and then to join him at *Port Mahon*; one Third Rate, and one of the Fifth were sent by Sir *Edward Whitaker*, before he arrived, to *Oran* in *Barbary*, to convoy from thence Vessels with Corn to *Barcelona*, and another Frigate on the like Errand to *Algier*. Five Third Rates, one Fourth, one Fifth, a Sixth, and a Fireship were with Vice-Admiral *Baker* in and about the *Arches*, which, with two *Dutch* Ships, were to convoy Corn from thence. One Third Rate, and another of the Fourth were by Sir *Edward Whitaker* order'd to cruise in the *Phare* of *Messina*, and one of the Sixth sent by him to *Genoa*. A Fifth Rate was going to *Sardinia*, and a Fourth with two Fifths to *Genoa* for General *Stanhope*, (as is already mentioned) and four Third Rates, two of the Fourth, three Bomb Vessels, and two Hospital Ships were going with Sir *John Norris* himself to *Barcelona*.

While he remained at *Port Mahon*, he had an Account that the *Pembroke*, a Ship of 64 Guns, and the *Faulcon* of 32, saw the 29th of *December*, seven Leagues to the Southward of *Nice*, five Sail of Ships, which their Commanders believing to be part of Sir *Edward Whitaker's*

Whitaker's them, but them were with an *Edward Whitaker* and the other then judgment broke edge they appeared broke made Gale, and attack'd the two, of 60 also, in which there were her Mizen pieces, the commander Shoulder, abled, to

About spight and mande by Long, but gave challenge The *Breda* a short, but slain; but and was r 54 Guns register'd

The 7th the 11th the King Advice the lies, five hundred M them, or *Naples*.

A Count of *Spain*. Vice-Roy others as not the from the and since *Catalonia* as might repair to