

to her and all friends again. He tells me she did in her anger say she would be even with the King, and print his letters to her. So putting all together, we are, and are like to be, in a sad condition. We are endeavouring to raise money by borrowing it on the City; but I do not think the City will lend a farthing.

Sir G. Carteret tells me, as I hear from everybody else, that the management in the late fight was bad from top to bottom. That several have said this would not have been, if my Lord Sandwich had had the ordering of it. Nay, he tells me that certainly, had my Lord Sandwich had the misfortune to have done as they have done, the King could not have saved him. There is, too, nothing but discontent among the officers; and all the old experienced men are slighted. He tells me, to my question (but as a great secret), that the dividing of the fleet¹ did proceed first from a proposition from the fleet, though agreed to hence. But he confesses it arose from want of due intelligence – which he confesses we do want. He doth, however, call the fight on Sunday a very honourable retreat, and that the Duke of Albemarle did do well in it, and could have been well if he had done it sooner, rather than venture the loss of the fleet and crown, as he must have done if the Prince had not come.

11. Comes Sir Jo. Bankes to see me, and tell me that coming up from Rochester, he overtook above 3 or 400 seamen, and he believes every day they come flocking from the fleet in like numbers; which is a sad neglect there, when it will be impossible to get others and we have little reason to think these will return presently again.

12. To Whitehall in hopes of a meeting of Tanger, but it could not be obtained. Walking here in the galleries, I find the Ladies of Honour dressed in their riding garbs, with coats and doublets with deep skirts, just for all the world like men, and buttoned their doublets up the breast, with perriwigs and with hats; so that, only for a long petticoat dragging under their men's coats, nobody could take them for women in any point whatever – which was an odde sight, and a sight did not please me. It was Mrs. Wells and another fine lady that I saw thus.

13. With Balty to Hales's by coach (it being the seventh day from

1. Rupert's squadron had been sent westwards on receipt of false intelligence that a French fleet was sailing up-Channel.