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S. Pepys' Official Correspondence 1662-1679

Edited by Edwin Chappell

Excerpt

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LETTER I

(f. 110)

¶ The first part of this letter is in longhand, and to that extent has been printed in *Further Correspondence*. The delicate matter of the flags was referred to the King for his personal decision. The result is given on p. 28 of *Further Correspondence*:

“It is determined that the Prince shall carry the flag of union only, and not that, the King or his Royal Highness being on board.”

The revelation may partly clear up an entry in *Pepys' Naval Minutes*, p. 77:

“No method ever established about the flag for distinguishing the King's ships of war from his subjects' till I provided a proclamation for that purpose. Consider Serjeant Knight's Discourse about the Flag of England. Recollect the disorders and abuses about putting up the King's flag or Jack, and the particular instances of my opposing it in the case of the Prince and my Lord Dumblaine.”

May it please your Lordshipp

The winde continuing for some days N.E. hath hindred our Guinea ships from falling downe, which (had the Dutch fleet beene ready) might have beene of sound advantage to them, but they are not nor like to bee (as 'tis sayd) in some days. 'Tis discoursed alsoe as if they were now lesse keen upon't then they were and talk of new Treatys, nay wagers I heard offered this day upon the 'Change that noe Dutch fleet shall attempt to passe the Channell this 3 weeks (meaning towards Guinea) the ground of which presumption I understand not, but doe wish (as well prepared as wee would have our ships and stores thought to bee) that a tolerable offer of accomodation from the Dutch bee the worst news wee heare of these 12 months. The Mary is ordered this day to bee forthwith manned and victualled for a Channell voyage.

It has fallen (my Lord) among other talk once or twice