

To the Right Honorable The Lords Commissioners of the
Admiralty.

2814

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The Memorial of Thomas Mitchell Copplestone, late
Master of His Majesty's Ship Horatio. -

Sheweth,



That your Memorialist has been in his Majesty's Naval Service since the Year 1789, when he joined His Majesty's Cutter Resolution, then the Sprightly, and in 1800 was appointed Master in the Service, the former of which time as Masters Mate, Midshipman, &c. and that he had the Honor of Serving under Sir Robert Barlow off Brest, and in the Rivers of Holland, with His Royal Highness the Duke of York in the year 1793. - then with the late Captain George Henry Towery in His Majesty's Ship - Diadem, in the Battle off St. Vincent on the 11th February 1797, also with - Captain John Mackellar at Ostend, with Sir Hope Popham where your - Memorialist was taken Prisoner, with Sir Cyre Coote. Afterwards at the - Capture of Rosetta, Dometta, Grand Cairo, &c. in the Nile Egypt, where he commanded the Launch of His Majesty's Frigate Pallas, under the orders of - General Lawson, and had charge of the whole of the Ordnance Vessels with Stores next a Volunteer on the Boulogne Fire Expedition with the late Captain - Thomas Scacombe of the Ulrich, then Flag Ship in the Downs under the Orders of Sir Sidney Smith. Then recommended by Admiral Holloway to Lord - Viscount Falkland, and Captain Arthur Farguhar, to the Ariadne as Master, and your Memorialist next had the good fortune when left behind at Yarmouth, to save part of the Crew of His Majesty's Brig Snipe, and also getting her off the Beach, when she was on Shore near Yarmouth, for which he had the Honor of being recommended by - Admirals Puffell, and Douglas in February 1807, to your Honorable Board, as also that of the Navy, with a Certificate from the Commander of the Snipe, enclosed by Captain Farguhar of the Ariadne Frigate, which your Memorialist was then Master, next recommended to Sir Richard Keats and Captain Jackson, by Captain Robert Brown Tomes of His Majesty's Ship Gorgon, for his Exertions in getting that Ship off the Rocks, and through the Ice at Gottenburgh, in the Winter of 1808 which continued until April 1809, during the whole of which time she

was in the Ice, and of which Ship your Memorialist was then Master appointed by Sir Richard Keats, in consequence of being left behind with two Boats Crews going to assist the Orion which was nearly on Shore, - next recommended to Sir Roger Curtis by Admiral Holloway Commander in Chief then of the Newfoundland Station, and by Captain E. L. Graham, - of his Majesty's Ship Vestal, of which Ship your Memorialist was then Master, and was in consequence of their recommendation immediately appointed Master of His Majesty's Ship Horatio, by Sir Roger Curtis, and in which Ship your Memorialist had the Honor of being in the Action - and Capture of the French Frigate La Receptee, Your Memorialist sincerely regrets, that it ever should have fallen to his Fate, after meriting the Approbation of so many Admirals, Captains, and Commanders, that he has had the Honor of serving under, - and being appointed by, to relate to your Lordships, that on the 8th day of August, he had the misfortune to offend his late Captain George Scott, - by deviating from two Articles of War, and to humbly assure your Lordships that the Charges on which he was tried by a Court Martial, arose entirely from his zeal for His Majesty's Service, to which his most earnest wish was to devote his Life and Services.

Your Memorialist was placed under close confinement to his Cabin, from the 9th of August 1810, until the 9th September following on which Day, he was tried by a Court Martial at Portsmouth on the following charges vizt. Neglect of Duty, and Contradicting a General Custom of the Ship, which was 1st for not calling the Captain until 5 Bells instead of 14 in the middle Watch, according to Orders, 2^{ndly}

for telling the look out Men in his Watch, not to come aft to report every half hour according to the aforementioned custom, but to keep a good look out, and answer when they were called to, the night being very dark and hazy, and the Convoy being situated on both sides and a head of us. -

Your Memorialist begs leave further to state that during the time from 4 to 5 bells, he was actually counting the Convoy, which he at that time, thought was for the good of His Majesty's Service, and particularly as the Captain always wished to know the Situation of the Fleet, whenever he was called, We were then in Lat^t 23.20 North and Longth 33.34 West, where there was no fear of Danger from Shoals. Your Memorialist therefore hopes from the above mentioned circumstances, Your Lordships will be graciously pleased to take his distressing Case into your Consideration, having a Wife and small Family, and no support for them, or any means of getting one; and after having devoted so many Years to the Service of his Country, implores your Lordships to allow him to spend the Remainder of his Days in the Service of His King and Country, and therefore sincerely Prays your Lordships will be most graciously pleased to Reinstat^e him, to his former Rank of Master, or grant him such Relief as in your Lordships Wisdom may think proper, and Your Memorialist as in duty bound will ever Pray. -

32 Charles Street Westminster
8 July 1812. -

Signed, Thomas Mitchell Coppelstone
late Master of His Majesty's Ship
Horatio. - Aged 34 Years -

P.S. Enclosed by leave to send part of my Certificates the remainder are in the Navy Office. -