

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

7th May 1853

THE VICTORY AT TRAFALGAR

My attention has been brought to a letter in the Times of the 2nd inst from Rear Admiral Pasco contradicting in strong and direct terms a statement made by Monsieur la-Contre Amiral Verninac before a Commission [ordered by the National Assembly of France to enquire into the state of the French Navy], “that the *Victory* had been boarded by the *Redoubtable* at the Battle of Trafalgar, and that part of her crew were masters of her upper deck;” and as the rear admiral had appealed to me as well as to some other officers who were on board the *Victory* to confirm the denial which he has thus given to the truth of M, Verninac’s statement , I have no hesitation in declaring with him that not a single man from the *Redoubtable* ever set his foot on *Victory’s* deck on that memorable day, except one, who I dare say will be remembered, was knocked overboard by a man named Butcher for endeavouring to clear her foresheets from the *Victory’s* anchor, and thus separate the two ships [then rubbing each others sides] and who was afterwards brought by him on the quarterdeck for the commission of so serious an offence.

I have great pleasure in thus responding to the appeal which Rear Admiral Pasco has made to me; and, requesting you will give insertion to my letter.

I remain, Sir, your very obedient servant ,

John Carslake , Commander RN

Sidmouth May 5.