

next day and the Signal having  
been made from the Sceptre during  
my absence from the Decouverte it  
was answered by the Master without  
my being made acquainted with it.  
I must acknowledge Sir I was not on  
board His Majesty's Schooner under my  
Command when the Foremast was  
cut away nor had I permission to  
step out of her, but I was induced  
so to do from the apparent firmness  
of the night and not from the  
smallest wish to neglect any  
part of my duty. I also beg leave  
to say I gutted her at 2 P.M. of  
yesterday and left the Shore at eight  
this morning as soon as it was  
possible for a Boat to get out of the  
Harbour. Previous to the Gale  
coming on the lower yards and Fly  
masts were struck and the only  
reason for her not bringing up after  
starting the Anchors can only be  
attributed to the shortness of the  
Cables that are allowed being only two  
and those only eighty fathoms each  
in length. By the great exertions of the  
Boats of His Majesty's Ship Barrosa  
we have succeeded in saving all the  
Sails Yards & the greatest part of the  
running & standing rigging that was  
cut adrift with the Foremast. I trust Sir  
it will appear to you that on this  
truly

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