Rev John Greenly (1778 – 1862), Battle of Trafalgar and Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson (1805) A letter from John, to his father William Greenly in Hereford, a week after the battle Oct 28 1805

"I die happy, never was there so grand a day for England, nor Englishmen behaved better". Admiral Lord Nelson – final words.

Letter no.2 was written a week following the battle. John Greenly describes Nelson's last words "I die happy ..." The elation of the first letter is gone; Nelson is dead and severe gales has destroyed the great prizes that they had fought so hard for.

of Cape I mary's oct 28th 1805. Dear Fathir In my last logen, I told Im a pew of the Ships laken but I have now where (on of 21. Sail of the line, most of them burnt or destroyed, as he have had complete fall of brind once the action. I hope all our ships are sape, many of them are totally dismantled - be ourselves are in a terrible state, but owny to the exections of the Ship's Company, we are in a state tokers the sea. Two Spanish three deckers burnt, + four assurates taken. be have longer he Victory dearly, as our have Commander dead of his workers the night of the action - his dying words were: - "I die happy, hoverwas here is rand a day for England, nor Inglishmen behaved better" There has been dreadful slaughter on board the Revery and Victory, Belliste, Townent + Royal Granagin. I was wounded in hornty places by splinters of shotthat came dose tome, but more scratches; it Take an unusual thing for Chaplain who wounded in action, but mine were so slight that should not he put in the list of wounded . Our Ship is full of neude o Spanish which we look out of the Riges Cept Morson was complimented by the adminal How he evening of the action of sent to Enquiry he was well, I to lead the Tuylor down your 6 deshof he Enemy - If he bend had not come on

Off Cape St. Mary's Oct 28th 1805

Dear Father

In my last to you, I told you a few of the Ships taken, but I have now to tell you of 21 sail of the line, most of them burnt & destroyed, as we have had complete gale of wind since the action. I hope all our ships are safe, many of them are totally dismantled - we ourselves are in a terrible state, but owing to the exertions of the Ship's Company, we are in a state to keep to sea. Two Spanish three deckers burnt, & four Admirals taken. We have bought the Victory dearly, as our brave Commander died of his wounds the night of the action his dying words were "I die happy, never was there so grand a day for England, nor Englishmen behaved better". There has been dreadful slaughter on board the "Revenge" and "Victory", "Bellisle", "Tonnant" & "Royal Sovereign".

I was wounded in twenty places by splinters of shot that came close to me, but mere scratches; its rather an unusual thing for a Chaplain to be wounded in action, but mine were so slight that I would not be put in the list of wounded. Our ship is fall of French & Spanish which we took out of the Prizes - Captain Moorsom was complimented by the Admiral the evening of the action & sent to enquire if he was well & to lead the English down again to destroy the enemy - If the wind had not come on ..

over

Jeansh Ship in Existence; so it is behave deships as sail for certain - all very large ships; the fale shell continues but be are all clear of dauger; the loss of bruge wang will be prest, as had the wind hermitted in whave brought the ships home I should have had for on. but now not \$20., though we are plad to their larend their prite.

We are all in food Spirits, though wolled for three might. Poor Lod Nelson's body with brile he trought home. The heaple of hugland have get as frue a man, old addy tollengwood who lead as down like a Lion of is doze to one ship now. I have notime to know I forward the lead as down like a Lion of its doze to one ship now. I have notime to know I freed to what there have the home than book men.

.. to a furious gale, we had not left a French or Spanish ship in existence: as it is we have but destroyed 21 sail for certain - all very large ships: the gale still continues but is are all clear of danger: the loss of prize money will be great, as had the wind permitted us to have brought the ships home I should have had £500 - but now not £20, though we are glad to have lowered their pride.

We are all in good spirits, though no sleep for three nights. Poor Lord Nelsons' body will be brought home - the people of England have got as fine a man, old Cuddy Collingwood who lead us down like a Lion & is close to our ship now. I have no time for more.

Yours affectionately
J. Greenly

N.B

The Spanish & French must have lost more than 6000 men.