

While these prodigious Sums were thus improvidently lavished for foreign Mercenaries, a Bill was vigorously opposed, which would have clothed, armed, and disciplined 62,680 of our own Natives as Militia, for 175,197 Pounds, the first Year, and one third less the second; so that we should have had eight Times as many Englishmen as we now have of Hanoverians, for less than one tenth of the Expence; Men who would have had Motives to exert themselves against a foreign Enemy, which no Money can supply, the Love of their King and Country, their Wives, Children, and Property. Such a Defence would, besides other Advantages, have set us free at once from the Terrors of Invasion, and left our whole Naval Power at Liberty to be employed offensively, instead of keeping near half of it hovering about the Coast, and making an idle Parade at Spithead.

As to our Naval Affairs, the first Expedition was made by Admiral Boscawen, who was ordered first to prevent the French Fleet from sailing with Stores to Canada, by lying before a wrong Port, and then to intercept them by hiding himself in a Fog.

When it was found that the French Fleet was got safe to St. Lawrence's River, it was proposed to cut off its Return; Boscawen, therefore, being commanded home, Mr. Holburn was ordered to cruise between Cape Breton and the S. W. Part of Newfoundland, where he continued till the French Fleet got safe back again to Brest, having slipped between the N. Part of Newfoundland and the Continent, by the Streights of Belleisle: a Passage which our Directors either did not know to exist, or else shamefully neglected to secure.

The next Expedition was to intercept a Squadron of 6 French Ships of the Line, under Admiral du Guay, who was arrived with that Fleet at Cadix, in his Way to Brest. For this Service Mr. Hawke was dispatched with 18 Ships of the Line, and ordered to cruise off Cape Finisterre till the French should appear; but the same wise Person who had conceived there was but one Way from Canada to Brest, either now supposed there was but one Way thither from Cadix; or else he argued in this Manner, when there is no Enemy to fear, Ships in their Course from Cadix to Brest make Cape Finisterre; therefore, they will in their Course make Cape Finisterre when there is an Enemy to fear: Whichever was the Case, he took no Care to watch for the French Fleet but at Cape Finisterre, and so, while Hawke, in Obedience to his Orders kept this Station, du Guay sailed from Spain into the Atlantic Ocean, and at a great Distance from the Coast changed his Course, and stood directly for the Land's End of England: Thus he passed behind all our Fleet, and from the Channel got safe into Brest.

The same Wisdom is equally conspicuous in Matters of less Moment; the Sloop which carried the Field Equipage belonging to the Officers of Otway's Regiment from London to Plymouth, because she did not arrive till the Transports were sailed, was obliged to wait for Orders to follow them.

The Transports which were sent to bring over the Dutch Troops, which the Minister ought to have known would not come, after an expensive Stay in Holland, sailed for the Hessians; but when they arrived at the Place of Embarkation, it was first discovered that no Orders from the Ministers had been sent them to justify the taking the Hessians, which they were come to fetch, on board.

This Neglect occasioned another expensive Delay, till a Letter could come from, and return to that Part of Europe; nay, even the Hanoverians were permitted to sail hither without Convoy, so that two French 20 Gun Ships might have carried them all into Dunkirk.

Our American Islands partake of the Advantages arising from the same provident Circumspection. Our Fleet at Antigua, and the Leeward Islands, is inferior to that of D'Aubigny, and our Fleet at Jamaica inferior to that of de Salvert.

Nor are the East-Indies excluded from the common Blessings of our Administration, for War had been declared more than two Months before any Ship was sent to give Notice of it in that Region. To the Accounts already given of our Mismanagement in the Mediterranean, the following Particulars may be added.

After every Body had heard, and every Body but the Minister believed, that the Fleet at Toulon was designed against Minorca, yet a considerable Time before it sailed, General BLAKENEY wrote thus to his nearest Relation: "I have often requested the Minister, I have been as often promised to receive them, and as constantly disappointed in that Promise; this then will, I imagine,

terminate in my falling a Sacrifice to their Neglect; however, tho' it should shorten my Days a Year, or two, it will be sooner put you in Possession of what I shall leave you, and in which I wish you happy."

The Ministers, however, tho' the Number of Men in the Fortress was known to be unequal to the Duties of a Siege, still neglected to send a Supply, and amused themselves at White's, by laying Wagers that there was no Fleet, nor Sailors to man a Fleet, at Toulon; and that if there were, Mahon was not the Place against which it was intended to make an Attack.

When at last they were roused from this Dream, they sent no more than three Ships and two Frigates, under Edgcombe, to protect the Trade in the Mediterranean, and the threatened Island of Minorca; these at last were reinforced with no more than ten, under Byng, making in all but 13, to attack a Fleet that was known, or ought to have been known, to consist of 12; so that, if with the Superiority of one the French had been beaten, it is probable our own Fleet would have been too much shattered for farther Service, without putting in to refit; which, considering the present Disposition of Spain, and State of Lisbon, it could not have done nearer than Plymouth. This Neglect to reinforce Byng's Squadron, so as to secure a Victory, and prevent even Cowardice from declining to Fight, is the more inexcusable, as we had 15 Sail of the Line, under Admiral Osborne, at Spithead, and 10 more in the Harbour of Portsmouth.

Thus has our Money been squandered, our Strength by Land and Sea either not exerted or misapplied, the Lives of Veterans sacrificed, and a most valuable Fortress lost; while the French, against whom we still boast our Superiority, have executed every Project which they have formed; and have not only eluded, but despised, the impotent and ill-directed Attempts that have been made to disappoint them.

At a Meeting lately held, Paoli, Chief of the Malescontents in Corsica, made them the following remarkable SPEECH.

YOU know, and all Europe knows it, that we appear in Arms only for the Defence of the Liberty and Privileges which we have a Right to enjoy. Anarchy is a State to which we are very averse, being fully sensible of the Disorders it is productive of. Finding it impossible to live under the Yoke of Genoese Government, we have intimated that we were disposed to subject ourselves to any Power that would take us under his Protection, and govern us with Equity and Justice. We did apply to that sage Monarch, who reigns so gloriously in Europe, and who has established his Power on such solid Foundations; but alas! our Application has proved fruitless, and we have nothing to expect from that Quarter. The Most Christian King, the Monarch so respectable, honours with his Friendship and Alliance the State against which we have taken up Arms, and consequently leaves us no Hopes of an avowed Protection from him. The Kings of Spain and of the Two Sicilies, have commiserated our Condition; but certain Considerations, whose Motives we ought to respect without endeavouring to investigate them, have doubtless restrain'd those Princes from acting openly in our Favour. It is needless to mention the other Sovereigns of Europe; because the same Considerations may, more or less, influence them all. Perhaps some one may be found amongst them, who, making Policy yield to more laudable Motives, will give ear to the Voice of a People who only desire to be well governed, and to be obedient to wise Laws; a People susceptible of all the Sentiments that can render Nations commendable; a People, in fine, who would make the Government of their Sovereign glorious; and, in a little Time, would raise the Kingdom of Corsica to such a Degree of Splendour, as would set it on a Level with some of the most flourishing States of Europe.

LONDON, August 31.

THE Parliament of Normandy have struck the boldest Stroke that was ever heard of in France; they have caused all the Writings to be expunged that were entered on their Records by Direction of the Duke of Luxembourg, By Virtue of the King's express Orders, and then retired to their Country-Houses, determined to suffer with

Fortitude, since they can no longer dispense the Laws of their Country with Freedom and Dignity.

Sept. 2. It is confidently said, by such as are conversant in such Affairs, that as Admiral Byng is determined to die hard, by giving the Government the Trouble of sending for a great Number of Witnesses to attend his Trial, the Charge of it will cost 100,000 Pounds.

The Fox Privateer, Capt. Penny, is arrived at Pool, with the Marquis Pampadour, a Letter of Marque, James Barbel, Commander, 350 Tons Burthen, from Martinico to Havre de Grace, taken the 21st ult. off Cape Ortegal, after an obstinate Engagement of four Hours and an Half, and carried at last by being boarded by the whole Crew of the Fox, except the Captain, who was wounded in three Places, and two other of her Hands. Her Lading consists of Sugar, Coffee, Cotton, and is valued at upwards of 20,000 Pounds. The French Captain, Master, and some others, were killed, and several wounded. The Fox had one Man killed, and several wounded.

Copy of a Letter from Capt. Fortunatus Wright, of the King George, dated Leghorn, August 2.

"This Port had been environed by Privateer for five or six Weeks before I sailed, in order to prey upon our Trade, and with an especial Design of intercepting me on my going out. There were three daily in Sight, one whereof was a Xebec of great Force, having about 280 Men on board, and 16 Carriage Guns, besides Swivels, and small Arms in Abundance. In the grey of the Morning we saw her under the Gorgona, making towards us; but there being little or no Wind, the slow Advance she made by the Help of her Oars, afforded me Time to put my Vessel in tolerable Order, which I was not suffered to do in this Port; the Tuscans, under Pretence of observing a strict Neutrality, having forbid my taking more than four Guns and 25 Men, esteeming that a reasonable Force for Defence: But as four other Vessels were to sail with me, I was not at a Loss for Means to furnish myself better than this Government intended, which yet we were incapable of doing satisfactorily, in so short a Time, we having put to Sea only the preceding Day. About twelve o'Clock she began the Attack with her Bow-guns, which did us no great Damage: I delayed returning the Compliment until the came nigher, and then saluted her with our whole Broadside. We were now from 2 to 300 Yards distant from each other, when our Adversary had the Displeasure of observing that we were of greater Force than he expected, having been taught to believe that we were as weak as was intended, for I was sensible he had not only had daily Advices from hence, but also Supplies of Men and Arms, to enable him to make us become an easy Prey. This Disappointment made him determine instantly to board us; for which Purpose he advanced with his Bow toward us, and did not fire again till he came within forty Yards, when she attacked us again with great Fury, pouring a terrible Shower both from her Great Guns and Musquetry; the latter drove all my small armed Men from their Quarters; these were about 25 Foreigners, Scelavonians, who have the Repute of being brave Men. I plainly perceived my Dependence must be on my Great Guns and Englishmen, who behaved themselves as such, by fearlessly loading and firing with Lion-like Fury. In this Disposition, with her Stern to my Broadside, unable to advance against the fierce Fire we made, we had the Satisfaction of raking her with upwards of 20 great Shot and Partridge, doing horrid Execution amongst them; 15 to 20 dropped from their Prow, Part of which was carried away, and Numbers they heaved overboard, to clear their Decks. This fierce Fire held for a Quarter of an Hour, each Side exerting all the Skill and Courage in our Powers; for Life, and what is still more, Honour depended upon that Hour's Industry, as you will learn by and by. Our Adversary, at Length perceiving the Advantages we had of him in that Situation, and therefore not able to execute his Design, pulled a-head, in order to rake us fore and aft in her Turn. They indeed had all the Advantage they could wish from the Assistance of their Oars, it being calm, and the Sea perfectly smooth; wherefore, for a Time, we could not bring our Guns to bear; so that for some Minutes we were obliged to sustain the utmost Efforts of the Enemy, without being able to annoy them in Return: She was then so nigh, that her Rigging fell foul of our Jib-boom; and, to the best of my Judgment we received four Discharges of her Artillery, and upwards of 100 Muskets. However, as I provided myself with a few Oars, we at length brought our Starboard Guns to bear again, and taking

taking her on the Larboard headed Shot found their Way Bow, carrying great Part of Heads, Legs, and Arms, also short the Slaughter was so great the Haste she could away, a Victory. We gave her Chafers of an Hour; but as there and she still having 25 Oars left 15 out of 40 she carried, she come up with her; and, instead of going too far from my little under my Convoy, there being in Sight, bearing down upon us tack, they stood off; and I back to Leghorn. They were Colgrave, for Dublin, richly James, Capt. Murphy, for the Nancy, Capt. Forrester, Industry, Capt. Rofs, for G Concern in any of them, it Pleasure to me, that I was the them. These poor Gentlemen Time in Hopes of the Appro War to conduct them out of ing of seeing any, they therefore the Opportunity of going return to the Xebec, we he labouring Port; and, by the her, is unable to go any more that we killed 83, including Lieutenant, and the Lieutenant that there were 60 or 70 wounded, you will say, in so short to 40 Minutes, which was Work in; but we went aboard berly, for I suffered not a Musket besides Water, until we had ster, Cook, and two more, rously wounded. I experienced Providence towards myself Hat carried away; and surely son ever to be thankful to few of us fell in so furious a I may without Vanity say, it that was ever fought. They ved with great Resolution could see plainly by his eyes and aft; his Name was Gaspard was the Person who behaved in a Martinico Ship, which in bruary last, against the English 20 Gun Ships. This was the ed upon to subdue me, which nefs in the late War to make apprehensive at present. I ment the French King had Subjects that should take no small Inducement to enter besides the Honour of Knighthood of 3000 Livres per Annum had the Command of a Ship, the Merchants of Marseille Gratiuity of double the Value which Purpose a Writing had on their Exchange. This Price for the poor Liverpool done to the Hull of my Vessel Sails and Rigging were ill repaired fail only we received upwards and small. Great were the French, on seeing me attacked was their Mortification, on On the other Hand, those likewise the Jews, who are ly attached to the Interest of their Joy by every Token the Engagement happened a few Leagues of this Port City Spectators; and there pitched Battle between us.

"Thus, dear Sir, I have do some little Service to hope, Credit to the Company has been pleased to honour I can do, I will, altho' I most, it will be, compared with a Bodkin; for what slender Force as 12 Guns.

Bristol, August 28. There near 500 Tons, mounting 180 Soldiers, having on Flour, 70 Bales of Soldier Quantity of Muskets and in here by Capt. Davids, ceer, had been seven Days our more, under Convoy to America. Before the