

Containing the freshest Advice; Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, April 19, 1749.

From a late WESTMINSTER JOURNAL.

It was the kingdom's misfortune, that the sea was not the duke of Marlborough's Element: Otherwise the noble force of the war would infallibly have been bestowed there, infinitely to the advantage of his country, which would have then gone hand in hand with his own.

Conduct of the Allies, by Dr. Swift.

To the AUTHOR of the Westminster Journal.

Mr. TOUCHET;

YOU have often given us your opinion; which is indeed the opinion of the greatest part of the nation; that a war could never be carried on to the advantage of Great-Britain, unless the principal efforts of it were made by sea: But you have never, as I remember, attempted to assign a reason why neither the last war (if we may call it so before a peace is entirely concluded,) nor the last war but one, nor the last war but two, was conducted in that advantageous manner to this island: And yet I have more than once seen in your paper, quotations from the pamphlet that furnishes me with a text; and I believe the very words of that text, tho' without making the particular application of them that struck me at the first reading: By this time, however, you cannot miss the same application; which I have therefore scarce occasion to tell you, is, That in order to have a British war well conducted, it is necessary that the sea should be the favourite element of our favourite hero.

It was not merely to throw a reflection on that great man, the duke of Marlborough, whose name went always hand in hand with the first in our annals, that the dear mentions his affection to the land rather than the sea services as the kingdom's misfortune. History will prove my general inference to be true, more than at first thought can be imagined. If ever general could have made this nation great as well as glorious, by abilities and success in the conduct of a land war, the duke of Marlborough certainly was the man: For never were the British arms so often triumphant under any other leader. With greater propriety therefore might it be said of any other war than that in which he commanded, of any other general than him, that a want of sufficient attention to the watery element was the kingdom's misfortune.

Not to go farther back in history than the reign of queen Elizabeth, the first English monarch that raised our reputation; it is well known that the favourite heroes of her time, as Howard, Esingham, Cumberland, Norris, Drake, Courtenay, Raleigh, and many others, were all the sons of Neptune. By them it was that she reduced and mortified the house of Austria, at that time formidable to all Europe; that she cover'd with confusion the most haughty and insolent of princes, Philip II. her brother in law, who reigned her contemporary no less than 40 years, and was all that time conspiring her destruction by force or treachery; and his boasted armads, surnamed Invincible by the Roman pontiff, his holy father, was destroyed or dispersed; and that the English name began to grow respectable in the most distant parts of the globe; in Asia, in America, and in the frozen seas of the Russian empire. By land she was an auxiliary only to the Dutch, and yet in that capacity enabled them to assert their independency, while her fleets were everywhere triumphant against their late tyrannical masters the Spaniards.

The reign of her successor, the pedantic and pacific king James, will afford us very few instances of military exploits: But of those few, all that were honourable to Britain with-
out the sea, were chiefly on the ocean. The

queen Elizabeth, lived through the greatest part of his reign, and would have extended the power and fame of his matter in the same manner he had done that of his mistress. Who without a tear can relate the rest! That pusillanimous ungrateful master, at the instigation of his worst enemy, cut off this faithful and able servant under the colour of an antiquated sentence, but really in revenge for his attempts to extend our settlements and commerce. We should look in vain for a set of favourite heroes, either in the camp or the navy, under the reign of so unheroical a monarch.

King Charles I. when prince, sailed with a powerful fleet under the duke of Buckingham, to win a mistress: But found her coy to his addresses, and had the mortification to be treated with neglect at the court of her father. When king, he more than once sent out a squadron under the same minister, to succour the Rochellers, who notwithstanding lost their liberties. The nation, who grasped to himself every honourable employment, and seem'd peculiarly to affect that of a sea commander, prevented our making any figure on that element during the first years of his master's government: And the latter part of that unhappy prince's reign is well known to have been filled with domestic troubles, that no wonder we did nothing by land or sea. Our heroes were all busy in cutting the throats of each other, and the reputation of their virtues was in a great measure sunk in the quarrel that called them forth into action.

During the suppression of monarchy, in the commonwealth and the protectorship, the nation had a sort of amphibious heroes, who seem'd equally fit for either service. Cromwell, the darling of Fortune, did not perform any naval exploits: But neither did he, by his personal prowess, in the least extend the power or reputation of his country in foreign fields. His victories were first over his sovereign, and next over his country, in which, and in his Scotch and Irish wars, when he had fill subjects of the same colour to engage with, it must be owned he was extremely successful. It in his time, and under his direction, we were also victorious by sea, the credit of those expeditions fell chiefly to the care of his officers, such as Deane, Penn, Monk, Montague, and Blake. Penn commanded the fleet that annexed Jamaica to the British dominions. Monk and Blake were generals by land as well as admirals by sea: But it was in the latter capacity that they won honour, and advantage to their country against foreign enemies. And when Monk afterwards, in his character of general, secured to himself an immortal name by the king's restoration, and became the favourite hero of the times; he owed nothing to his bravery in the field, but all to his wisdom and secrecy in council; nothing to conquest over the enemies of his country, but all to his prudence in subduing and conciliating the hearts of his rebellious subjects.

In the reign of king Charles II. the duke of York, brother to his majesty, was certainly the favourite hero of the people. And that prince, after his family was recluded in Britain, applied himself to all the talents he was possess'd of (the measure of which we will not here dispute) to the service of his country, in the office of Lord High Admiral; tho' he had before, if the French historians say true, made no inconsiderable figure in camp during his exile. As in the time of the usurpation the two republics of England and Holland quarrell'd and fought from a principle of jealousy of each other's republics; the restoration of monarchy made the name of republic odious in England, that we loyally fell again to mowing the poor Dutch; under the conduct of his royal highness, for no other reason, but because his most Christian majesty desired it of his cousin: the majesty of Great-Britain. These two Dutch wars, in which all hands agreed, furnish'd us with a series of the most remarkable naval combats that are to be met with in history.