

	ships.		ships.	men born.	mustered.
<i>Plymouth,</i>	1 74	} fit, all but one under re- pair	}	13	3315
	1 70				
	2 60				
	2 50				
	1 44				
2 24	} fit all but one. sloop wants cleaning	}			2766
1 20					
3 fl.					
Of the Line	33	Total 67 16358 13002			

A DELAY and weakness to which Admiral *Byng* attributed his inability to relieve *Mabon*: and we may justly complain for giving the *French* an opportunity to land, and to strengthen themselves on the island of *Minorca*, while we had so strong a fleet in readiness to sail, and kept inactive at home; except *five* ships of the line ordered *April* 1st. under Admiral *Holbourne* to join Sir *Edward Hawke* in the Bay.

IN consequence of this measure, from this fatal hour, every packet and express brought some advantages gained by the enemy, who had no force to curb their operations. For, Commodore *Edgewcombe* was glad to retire with safety to *Gibraltar*, and the garrison of *Fort St. Philip* did not exceed 2400 effective men^t, and about 100 of the train of artillery, when the siege

^t The men thrown in by Mr. *Edgewcombe* made them 2600 effective men in all.