

on account of the Expedition, and transmit them to be laid before his Majesty,

Pursuant to the former Part of these Orders Mr. Knowles and *be* retained 6 Companies of 70 Men each for the Defence of *Nova Scotia*, and it appearing necessary for the Protection of the Province that some Ship of War should be stationed at *Annapolis Royal*, the Governor of the *Massachusetts Bay* sent the *Massachusetts* Frigate, the Province Guard-Ship of 20 Carriage Guns upon that Service.

Upon this Occasion Mr. *Mascarene*, whose singular Prudence and Vigilance omitted no Opportunity of reminding the *Acadians* of their Duty, and exhorting them to consult their own Interest by their Fidelity to the King's Government, wrote the following Letter to the Deputies of the three Districts.

“ Messieurs,

“ Though I am much pressed and embarrassed with Business, I will not however let this Opportunity slip without writing to you, lest some ill intention'd Persons should have room to spread false Reports among you, which might occasion you some Trouble

“ Mr. *Shirley* has received from Court express Orders to watch over the Safety of this Province, and to employ all the Means and all the Forces that his Excellency shall judge necessary,