

ber of transports and troops might not come along with the Brest fleet; whether all the bravery and experience of General Monckton, with the Invalids, and Lincolnshire Militia to back him, are equal to the defence of Portsmouth; whether in any case your docks, storehouses, &c. might not be destroyed; and, if after all, the French might not proceed uninterrupted to the Thames, and the Medway: in short, whether such a coup would not annihilate the naval and commercial strength of this nation. I throw out these ideas, not merely as hints or suggestions of what is within the reach of possibility, but as what I am firmly persuaded will be realised, if there be an enterprising minister in France; and if he can find an Admiral and a General adequate to the execution of his projects.

But, perhaps, I have exhausted your patience, and spent my own time to no purpose, in dwelling upon a worn-out subject; perhaps I shall be called a seditious, factious, rebellious republican, for having advanced my own opinion, in opposition to that of the Ministry. Be that as it may, I
do