

sixteen ships of the line and five frigates to carry 3000 land forces; again, on the 15th^c he reduceth the number of ships to *ten*, from 60 to 74 guns, and four frigates; and twelve ships from 12 to 24 guns, each to serve as *transports*, to sail with 5000 land forces at the end of *March*, or beginning of *April*. From the *Flague* this equipment was confirmed, but said not to be with that dispatch as first reported; that 10,000 men were ordered for *Britany*, and that the troops to be embarked would be draughted out of old corps^d. On the contrary, other advices to the said office declare that the preparations at *Brest* were then as great, as if the flames of war would extend all over *Europe*: and that it was reported, though *not to be credited*, that an attempt was designed in favour of the Pretender^e.

ON the 25th^f, Mr. *De Cosne* further discovers that there were eight more ships fitting out at *Rockfort* and *Rochelle*, which in all would make thirty ships of war; twenty of which were of the line, that they were to take on board 6000 land forces, and that they worked night and day to get them to sea^g.

^c Received on the 18th.

^d Advices received in Lord *Holdernefs's* office, *January* 17th, 1755. Letter A.

^e See ditto.

^f Dated *Paris*, 22d *January*, 1755.

^g See letter A in Lord *Holdernefs's* office.