
H I S T O R Y

OF THE

W A R, &c.

C H A P. I.II.

*Armed Neutrality.—Conduct of Holland.—Successes of
Admiral Rodney.*

1780.

WHILE the foregoing transactions were taking place in America, a new and unexpected scene was preparing in Europe, which marked in a peculiar manner the opening of the ensuing year.

The jealousy entertained by the maritime powers in Europe, of the power and preeminence exercised by Great Britain at sea, had operated hitherto but covertly and indirectly. Expecting that the union of the House of Bourbon would have proved sufficient to check it effectually, they had remained passive spectators of a contest, which they imagined would not fail to terminate to the disadvantage of this country. So great and potent a combination as that of America, France, and Spain, seemed to promise, without any additional aid, to bring the maritime strength of Britain to that state of diminution, which was the general wish and aim of European politics.

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