

country. But now, at fifty years of age, I feel prouder that I am a Briton. For the chivalrous deeds of my brave countrymen shed a bright halo around me, and tell me, that far from having lost anything of our ancient prestige, we stand before the world unrivalled as a nation by sea or land.

You are doubtless aware that the unfortunate charge I have alluded to, arose from a misunderstanding; but the order being given, Lord Cardigan had no alternative but to obey. This reminds me of an anecdote which I have read, I believe in our naval annals. The Commodore of a Squadron on the W. India Station, was directed by the Admiralty to reduce one of the French Colonies; but the place being strongly fortified he had his doubts as to the practicability of such an undertaking with the small force under his command. A council of war was therefore summoned, the members of which, with one exception, agreed that it would be madness to attempt it. An old Scotch Lieutenant had been a silent listener, and when appealed to, he told the Commodore that his brother officers being unanimous he had not a word to say; but the Commodore persisting in his appeal, the veteran observed, that since he must give an opinion—his was, that the order of the admiralty must be obeyed; for if their Lordships ordered them to storm the d—l at the gates of I—I, he considered they were bound to try it. Consequently, he was for storming the French stronghold, be the result what it might. This