

similar disproportion will be found. A distinguished officer is, it is true, comptroller of the navy ; but the deputy-comptroller, the joint surveyors, and the accountant-general, are all unprofessional ; and it is only at the bottom of the list, that we find two captains in the navy employed as store-keeper and superintendent of transports ; although it is here that every thing which relates to building, repairing, modelling, and in short the whole detail of the *materiel* of our navy is supposed to be considered and arranged.* I am quite aware that our surveyors of the navy are the naval architects of the department, and, as far as practice in our dock-yards extends, are always expected to be regularly educated ; but I must be allowed to doubt (and I think some facts which I have stated, will induce my readers to join me in entertaining those doubts) whether an education in which experience and observation at sea is considered unnecessary, can possibly produce a complete and thoroughly accomplished naval architect ; and I cannot but attribute a great proportion of the mistakes on which I have animadverted to this glaring defect in our system—a defect which Mr. Yorke, when First Lord of the Admiralty, most wisely endeavoured to amend by the establishment of a school for naval architecture in the dock-yard at Portsmouth, where

* The chairman of the victualling-board, which superintends not only that department but the medical staff of the navy, is a major-general !