

He had no hesitation in saying, that the power of France to do that injury to this Country, which seemed to be so much apprehended, was less than it had been formerly. This was the consequence of the reduction of their Navy. It is said, that the invasion of Switzerland shewed the mind of the French Government. It surely was not necessary to wait until this transaction, to know that the Government of France would seek for pretexts to invade countries, or would break treaties. Surely we had proof sufficient of this disposition in the time of the Bourbons and it only appeared that the morals of the French Government had not much mended in this respect. Nothing, surely, was more absurd than to say, that, because the French had invaded Switzerland, we ought to add 20,000 men to our establishment. He could not therefore see the object of some Gentlemen's speeches, unless it was what they called rousing the spirit of the people by speaking brave words. Brave words might be useful things. Capt. Lewellyn, however, who praised Pistol for speaking brave words in the breach, did not find him brave in the contest. The difficulties of an invasion were so great as to render it almost impossible. If they landed an army by avoiding our fleet, that army would be entirely cut off from all supplies, and separated completely from France. Suppose they landed an army of forty thousand men in this way, did any man believe that such an Army could subjugate this country? But the arrival of such an Army would be attended doubtless with great evils; it would shake for a time the credit of the country. It will perhaps be asked if he was so little afraid of invasion, why was he so much afraid of war? Because he knew that this country had points more vulnerable than Great-Britain. It had been asserted that the people

of Ireland were generally disaffected and, notwithstanding the union, he was afraid the sentiments of the whole of the people of that country were not altogether what they had been represented by some. Ireland then was a vulnerable point, but it was to be recollected that every year of peace was calculated to render it less vulnerable, if the administration of that country was conducted with prudence. But was Ireland our only vulnerable point? He should pass over our Colonies, our East and West-India possessions, and direct the attention of the House to the state of our finances. Let it be remembered, that the funds had fallen one half in the course of the last War. The advantage France would have in a new contest would be that of forcing us into an enormous expence, making us leave the ordinary sources of taxation, and resort to the odious imposts of Assessed Taxes, and Income Tax. It was true, that after our credit was lost the sinews of War would still remain. We would have arms, and the arms of men to wield them. But he could find no pleasure in contemplating the situation of this country when its credit was lost. That feeling of some of the Ancients, which made them love their Country, distinct from their Countrymen, he never could understand. The finances form our vulnerable point, but it is not so with France. It was on this account that he wished for Peace, and low establishments, because we should afterwards be able to begin War, when War was necessary, with additional resources. Every man must be convinced that a War five years hence would be more favourable to this country than a War could possibly be if renewed at the present moment. The increase of the Navy made that of the Army less necessary. But the expence of the Navy also rendered it proper that the expence