

of 30 guns failed to convoy victuallers: in the dock one of 80 guns, lower tier brass, two of 64, and one of 50, which three waited for cannon: three of fifty guns, and one of 46, remained in port, having no cannon at all: one of 80 guns, one of 40, one of 50, and one of 36 could not be finished in a great while for want of timber and artillery.

CONSUL *Birtles* from *Genoa* advises on the 6th of *March* *, that fourteen large ships of 300 tons, and encreased † a few days after to nineteen, were freighted at *Toulon* for three months on account of the government, which mounted from 20 to 24 guns each: that an embargo had been laid on 160 small tartans: that the greatest preparations were making at *Marseilles* and *Toulon*, and coast of *Provence* for an embarkation that ever was known: that at *Toulon* they worked incessantly on the large ships, being supplied with shipwrights and carpenters from *Naples*: that five frigates of 24 to 50, and eight ships from 70 to 76 guns were got into the road, and would be completely manned in a few days, sailors arriving daily from all parts: that twenty-two battalions were cantoned near *Toulon*: that 25,000 of wheat were arrived from *Languedoc*; and that they made no secret of their design, and publickly talked of making a descent on *Minorca* ‡. He by the same packet gave ad-

* Received *March* 22d.

† Letter of the 10th.

‡ Letters of *March* 6th and 10th, received *April* 2d.