

of Peace than of War) contrary to the most solemn Treaties, seized upon Bay *Verte*, and built a Fort there, to maintain a Communication by Sea with *Louisburgh* and *Canada*, and that they had built another Fort within Sight of ours to command the Isthmus of the Peninsula, and a Communication with the Bay of *Fundy* and *St. John's* River, and were Masters of all the Fur Trade of that River, which before the late Peace was carried on wholly by the *English*. All which considered, and that there was no Place in the whole Province capable of holding out one Day, except *Annapolis Royal*, against any considerable Force, the Consequence must be fatal, not only to this, but to all the rest of the *British* Colonies in *America*.

Upon these and other Advices received of the dangerous Situation of our Colonies in *America*, the Ministry immediately ordered the two Regiments of *Dunbar* and *Halket*, then in *Ireland*, to embark on Board Transports, prepared for them at *Cork*, and to sail directly for *Virginia* under the Convoy of two Men of War.

Orders were likewise dispatched to *Portsmouth*, *Chatham*, &c. to enter Shipwrights in the Docks; several Men of War were commissioned; and Warrants issued to press Men with all possible Expedition; and to encourage Sailors to enter, a Proclamation was published, offering his Majesty's Royal Bounty of 30s. to every able Seamen who should voluntarily enter on Board any of his Majesty's Ships before the 20th of *February*, and from thence was continued to the 14th of *August*; and the Workmen in *Chatham* Yard were ordered to work two for one. A Proclamation was likewise published for recalling and prohibiting all Masters of Ships, Pilots, Mariners, Shipwrights, &c. his Majesty's natural born Subjects, from serving foreign Princes and States; for giving farther Encouragement to Seamen, by increasing the Bounty from 30s. to 3*l.* to every able Seamen, and from 20s. to 2*l.* to every ordinary Seamen between the Age of 20 and 50, who should voluntarily enter before the 10th of *March*; and for granting a Reward of 2*l.* to any one Person for discovering any able Seaman, and 30s. for discovering any ordinary Seaman, who should secrete themselves, so as they might be taken for his Majesty's Service by any Sea-Officer employed for raising Men.