

three months : that they had been supplied with masts and other stores, 36 pieces of cannon, and balls by *Swedish* vessels: that only *nine* ships of the line were ready with two thousand ⁿ soldiers: and that at *Brussels* it was reported ten transports were assembled at *Calais*.

On the 17th of *March* the ships equipped at *Brest* got into the road: but the letters on the 25th said, that they could not be able to sail before the beginning of *April*; that they would endeavour to slip away, without noise, with succours to *America*, and that the Duke of *Mirepoix's* negociation was only to gain time, till the *French* should arrive at their settlements, and be provided to declare open war.

THE advices to Lord *Holderness* on the 29th of *March*, brought an account That there were seventeen ships armed and equipped at *Brest*: that the rest would not be ready till the 13th of *April*; though four ships from 60 to 64 guns, were fitted out and gone into the road: that they were victualled for six months, and destined for *America*: and that a squadron of an equal force was equipping in that port, with five or six fireships, and some bomb-ketches.

ⁿ The advices of the 21st confirm this embarkation to be for *Canada*, and augment the number of soldiers to 3000; and mention another equipment to be commanded by *Gallaffioniere*.

April