

residents, we may suddenly find the whole fate of our Empire depending on a corporal's guard, and reap the consequences of adopting a system which has had no place in history, dating from a time when the "four kings" waged the first war in the world, and even these "were joined together in the vale of Siddim which is the salt sea."

It was naval and military combinations saved our Empire in the past, and that power alone can do so in the time to come. It was the ready unfettered power of combining naval and military force applied by us at the strategic points which brought down to the dust the power of the Dutch. Let us be warned by the lesson of St. Eustatius in 1781. The Dutch power was great in the Spanish Main, their Colonies were of immense importance, and their commerce great. War was going on all round them, but true to their purely commercial instincts they neglected means of defence—it was regarded as unnecessary because they were neutral. The centre of their trade and commerce was the small island of St. Eustatius. They were making money by supplying our enemies, and thus it happened we suddenly declared war on the 21st December, 1780. Instructions were at once sent to our Admiral (Rodney) in those seas "to attack and subdue the possessions of the States General," and saying "the islands which present themselves as first objects of attacks are St. Eustatius and St. Martin's, neither of which it is supposed are capable of making any considerable resistance." These orders reached the Admiral at Barbadoes 27th January, 1781. He embarked military forces under General Vaughan, and on the 3rd February dropped anchor at St. Eustatius. He gave the Island one hour to surrender, and to use his own words, "the astonishment and surprise of the garrison and inhabitants was scarce to be described." The place instantly surrendered. Thus in an hour not only had the keys of the Dutch position in the West Indies passed into English hands, but also 130 ships besides a Dutch frigate of thirty-eight guns, which was immediately manned by British officers and seamen, and a few days later was cruising against the Dutch and capturing Dutch ships! "Had the Dutch," says Rodney, "been as attentive to their security as they were to their profits the Island had been impregnable." Thus was St. Eustatius taken, and with it fell the islands of Saba and St. Martin, and seven weeks later the Colonies of Demerara and Essequibo. Now, had the forces of General Vaughan been rooted to Barbados, Rodney could not have struck this Imperial blow at the centre of national Dutch power.

We carefully study Napoleon's preparations for invasion, in order