

sition of Spain, was the true cause of the negotiation breaking off. All other matters might, perhaps, have been settled. Mr. Pitt by it received an incurable suspicion of the designs of France and Spain. After which it was impossible to bring matters to an happy issue : therefore, the two ministers returned to their respective courts in the month of September.

Mr. Pitt instantly prepared for war. He had already provided for the attack of Martinico; and he purposed, that the armament should go from thence to the Havannah without delay. But his grand push was in Europe : it was his immediate one. He was fully satisfied Spain had resolved to assist France. He had received intimation, if not a copy of the treaty of union between them : he saw the designs of Spain on Portugal. He resolved to prevent both ; not by the cautious and tardy steps of an ambassador ; but by an early appearance of our commanders in chief, at the head of a great squadron, on the coast of Spain, categorically demanding the fullest security and satisfaction of friendship and neutrality : and if refused, instantly declaring inveterate enmity : and being armed with the force of the nation, begin to destroy ; to strike terror into the bowels of Spain ; to intercept the treasures, and thereby, cutting the Spaniard off from his nerves and sinews of war, precipitate him into his own snare. This was a vigorous resolution ; such as is rarely to be met with ; and such as will be an illustrious, and eternal monument of Mr. Pitt's penetration and spirit, because time proved the rectitude of it. At this time he was beset by opponents : he had of late met with frequent opposition to his schemes ; therefore, when he proposed this measure, he declared that ' this ' was the time for humbling the whole house of ' Bourbon ; that if this opportunity were let slip, ' it