

ed to America. But it is a mere bluster, under our present apprehensions, to talk of sending armies and fleets abroad; and I wish Ministers to be aware of the consequences of detaching such considerable squadrons as we are doing, whilst England itself is insecure.

Admiral Hughes is about to sail with six sail of the line; and it is said he is to be convoyed 300 leagues to the westward by ten sail more. I hope the remainder of our fleet at Portsmouth and at Plymouth are equal to every effort of the French and Spaniards. It should be a maxim, however, with every wise Minister, as well as with every experienced Admiral and General, to suppose that an enemy *will* actually do what he *may* or *can* do; and under this idea, I would ask the First Lord of the Admiralty, whether the Brest fleet may not take the advantage of the first south-west wind to anchor along-side our ships at Spithead; and whether, in such a case, most of our ships there might not be sunk, burnt, or taken? (even though the odds are ten to one in our favour.) Whether any number