

had the misfortune to fall into disgrace, and to find all that he had done, and all that he had advised, which perhaps was of no less consequence, misunderstood, and turned to his disadvantage. As this is the most remarkable part of his personal history, so it seems to deserve our and the reader's attention on another account, I mean the relation it has to the state of maritime affairs in those days; and, therefore, I shall give as clear and concise an account thereof as I can. It is a very dangerous thing either to offend the great, or fall into the dislike of the many. Sir William Monson was so unlucky to run into both these misfortunes; the former he incurred through a desire of serving his country, and the latter by his zeal in discharging his duty on a ticklish occasion. His great knowledge in maritime affairs, and the confidence which the seamen had in him, brought to his view most of the grievances in the navy, which he honestly laboured to redress. This gave rise to a commission for that purpose, that has been often mentioned; and that commission gave great distaste to the earl of Nottingham, then lord high-admiral, and to those who under him had the chief management of the fleet. It went on notwithstanding; a great reformation was made, and the king saved abundance of money in this article; which, however, did not lessen the spleen conceived against Sir William Monson, for having set this design on foot^a.

The other accident which hurt him with the people was this: the Lady Arbella having made her escape, orders were sent to Sir William Monson to prevent, if possible, her getting either into France or Flanders; and though he did not receive these orders till twenty-four hours after her departure, yet he executed them most effectually, and retook her in a bark-bound for Calais, within four miles of that place^b. This was the same lady, concerning whom so much noise had been made in

^a See naval tracts, p. 370, where our author enumerates the many abuses committed in the navy, with the means of reforming them, and which abuses he says began to creep in like rust into iron, at the latter end of Queen Elizabeth's reign.

^b Winwood's memorials, vol. iii. p. 280. This lady is in most of our historians called the Lady Arabella; but, in the proclamation published upon her flight, and which is extant in Rymer's *foedera*, vol. xvi. p. 710, she is styled the Lady Arbella, and she wrote her name.