

endeavour to reconcile this candour and confidence, with the hostilities committed then in America, while the British ministers were giving such constant, formal, and repeated assurances to his majesty's ambassador. The resolution of a rupture began to become publick all over London, with this additional circumstance, that Admiral Boscawen, who had been just gone, had orders to attack the French vessels wherever he found them. The pretended encroachments of France were no longer mentioned as the motive of the war; it was the necessity of laying hold on this opportunity to destroy her commerce, and put it out of her power to re-establish her marine.

These reports were so constant and so universal, that the Duke de Mirepoix thought fit to acquaint his court with them. This he did, notwithstanding the most formal assurances, which the British ministers gave him repeatedly, of their pacific intentions. They constantly repeated to him, that he ought not to give credit to public reports or writings. These same ministers were not content with this; the Duke de Mirepoix having so early as the latter end of April, expressed some uneasiness at the destination of Admiral Boscawen's fleet, and the orders which were given him; they assured him positively that the English would not begin first.