

thors of our calamities—but that you may have a full and clear view of the truth, and be better able to advise what is necessary, what expedient, and to supply by your councils the gross deficiencies of our governors!

The war is with America, France, and Spain: the whole continent of America irritated and in arms—the fleets of France and Spain superior to that of Great Britain in America and the West Indies, and masters of the sea and of the British channel during the whole of this last summer—the armies of Spain directing a regular and firm attack against one of our most valuable possessions; and, as far as the honor of Great Britain is concerned, perhaps the first object of her external grandeur.—The armies of France embarking or embarked to over-run this island, to stir up and countenance insurrections in Ireland, or, to state the least of possible evils, to destroy our dock-yards and principal sea-ports in the channel.

To resist this collected force Great Britain is without an ally: the fleets are all fitted from these islands—the army from Britain—the sailors all British and Irish—the expence is alone the expence of these islands—the loss must be wholly British.

The regular professional army at a distance from this island, and thinly scattered in distant corners of the extensive continent of America, to awe, as it is termed, the Colonies into submission; but as the experience of five years has proved, to weaken our own power, to expose our distant possessions to insult and disgrace, without a hope that we could repel the insult or do away the disgrace.

Great Britain itself is newly clad in arms: every art has been used to recruit and to form a strong army for the defence of this island, and of our connections at home.