

french ships were much larger in bulk, and had a superiority in number of men; so that on the whole, the two fleets were pretty near of equal force. The cowardice or incapacity of M. de Clue was manifest, had his fleet been rather inferior, it is the duty of every admiral to form his line and fight, instead of separating his ships and running away; but this blow was as glorious to Britain, as it was disgraceful to France. It weakened the force with which they intended to execute the invasion; and, what was of more consequence, considerably sunk the spirits of the french sailors, who found how unequal they were in action to the english.

In the mean time, nothing was omitted in England to render abortive the designs of the french. For this purpose, his majesty sent the following message to the house of commons, on the 21stth may, by Mr. secretary Pitt.

“ GEORGE, R.

His majesty, relying on the experienced zeal and affection of his faithful commons, and considering that, in this critical juncture, emergencies may arise, which may be of the utmost importance, and be attended with the most pernicious consequences, if proper means should not immediately be applied to prevent or defeat them, is desirous, that this house will enable him to defray any extraordinary expences of the war, incurred, or to be incurred for the service of the year 1759, and to take all such measures as may be necessary to disappoint or defeat any enterprizes or designs of his enemies, and as the exigencies of affairs may require.”

The house of commons took this message into consideration directly; and on the 24th, resolved that there should be granted to his majesty, for the purposes

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