

“ said, that it will require near two months
 “ before the equipment can be completed. I
 “ am told there are only *six* ships already
 “ equipped ; which lie out, in the road of *Brest*
 “ harbour, and that, *as this expedition* is supposed
 “ to be intended for *Canada*, if all the ships
 “ were ready, yet it would not be proper to
 “ sail before the latter end of *April*; because
 “ the harbour of *Louisbourg* would not be clear
 “ of ice at their arrival : that the voyage thither
 “ is generally about forty, and sometimes fifty
 “ days ; and the usual time of departure is never
 “ before the beginning of *May* : therefore, if
 “ the expedition be retarded to that time, it
 “ may be concluded with *great appearance of*
 “ *certainty*, that it is destined for that place ;
 “ and that, on the contrary, if any of the ships
 “ sail sooner, their destination may be suspected
 “ to be for some other quarter.”

LORD *Holdernefs*, about the same time^m, re-
 ceived advice, that in the port of *Brest* there
 were great preparations for embarking officers :
 that the ships *en flute* were to carry no more
 than 20 or 22 guns : that there were orders
 sent to fit out eight more ships of war : that
 there were now at *Brest* thirty-five ships, *viz.*
 eighteen of the line from 60 to 80 guns, the
 others frigates and light vessels, besides *nine*
 men of war, *viz. five* of the line, and four
 frigates on the stocks, to be launched within

^m *March* 5th, 10th, and 14th.