

am capable of attaining or comprehending it. No falshood of fact or inference will you find, that may be a reproach to my profession of candor, however it may be one to my judgment or information ; for neither of which I can pretend to answer.

I need not tell you with what eagerness and satisfaction the public received his majesty's most gracious declaration of his intentions, that a faithful enquiry should be made into the causes of a failure of an expedition, prepared with so much ostentation of force, whilst its destination was kept so profound a secret, and on which the perhaps over-raised expectation of many seemed to rest the very issue of the war.

But though the specific place on which the storm was designed to burst was not known, at least to the public here ; yet it was long enough beforehand pretty clear, from many indications, that whatever it was, it must lie on the western coast of France, from Calais to Bayonne inclusively. This foreknowledge then, would doubtless induce the French to give orders for guarding, in the best manner that could be, the whole extent of the threatened country, and each particular place of it liable to insult in a lesser or greater degree, according to the apprehensions reasonable to be respectively entertained for it.

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