

and while we have paraded with our great Ships, as if we intended to bully the Skies, we have neither had Convoys to protect our Trade, nor Cruizers to defend our *American* Coast. And though more Ships have been fitted on private Account, than ever was known before, and more Service done by them than by the Navy, yet has the Enemy gained Ground upon us, if I may with Propriety so express myself; coasted *America*, and even entered our Harbours unmolested, plundering and destroying our Plantations at Pleasure, while we wisely diverted ourselves at Home, with a glorious, magnificent Royal Fleet. This may truly be called the Nonsense of making War. And as to the *West-Indies*, until Mr. Knowles's Arrival there, which was but very lately, it seemed quite determined that our Navy should do nothing: For though, as it appears, our great Ships are only useful in fighting the like of the Enemy, when an Enemy was heard of it was neglected, and, when undesignedly seen, carefully avoided engaging with; so that, besides the natural Usefulness of great Ships, we have had the Misfortune, not only to see them generally, but particularly useless in *America* as well as in the *Mediterranean*; and all the great and glorious Ends of our Expence evaporated into Smoke, or buried in Dishonour; the Fame of *Britain* on the Ocean considered by our Enemies as a Phantom, and a War that had all the Advantages of Success in Prospect, concluded without one Naval Repulse, or ever being beaten by Land. I have only left to remark, on the Head
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