

my speculations tend to inspire hopes beyond what the better opinion of others or future events may justify, it will not be from a desire to mislead, but from an error of judgment, arising from a disposition not to be disheartened by difficulties.

§ 4. Quitting therefore the vexatious spectacle of the conquests of France upon the continent, I now turn with some complacency to naval operations. In this branch of the war we relied almost entirely on ourselves; whilst the struggle on the continent was maintained on the one hand by numerous and united armies of the same country, and on the other by allies, whose supposed strength became their weakness, because it led them to miscalculate their means, and to make false combinations of measures and plans. In the conduct of the allied armies there was occasionally a want both of concert and confidence; their attention was sometimes distracted by projects of advantage, foreign or adverse to the general