

THESE facts were confirmed from every quarter, in the most essential points. Lord *Bristol* from *Turin* writes, (*March 6th**) to Mr.

tion to all the *French* armament than *their* appearances could warrant.

At one time (*March 1st*) he thinks it *not impossible*, that under the pretence of attacking *Mahon*, the *French* were making these great preparations to take possession of *Corfica*, in order to be nearer *Italy*. At another (*March 8th*) he adds, that notwithstanding all these orders, and the seeming preparations for transporting of troops, for their landing, and for a *fiat*, they, who watch things closely *are of opinion*, that the whole is but a *feint* to oblige the *English* to send troops and a strong squadron into the *Mediterranean*, and leave their own coasts exposed: Nay, says he, (*March 12th*) all this noisy march of troops will end in a camp to be formed this Summer in the neighbourhood of *Marseilles*.—Then he shifts the scene of action from *Corfica* to *North America*.—"The armament at *Toulon* (he thinks "on *March 12th*) seems rather intended for an expedition "to *Canada* than *Minorca*, if they can deceive the vigilance of the *English* in the *Mediterranean*, or the ocean, "to send a convoy thither, because the twenty ships taken "into the transport service, are all *Maltese* perfectly acquainted with the seas of *North America*, and stronger "than those of *Provence*, which were rejected." And not able to invent any other destination, this gentleman returns to his former expedient of shewing the impracticability of fitting out the fleet, &c. as reported. On the 19th he writes, that they still were in great want of cannon; were forced to employ joiners, not fit for the work, instead of carpenters; and that they had not sailors to half man their fleet, except sent out of the *west*: and that, after all, it appeared to him, the preparations were carried on in a manner, one would imagine, rather to frighten than to hurt the *English*: for that "he much "doubted whether the fleet would sail out of *Toulon*, or "not." *March 19th, 24th, and 26th.*

* Received *March 20th.*

Fox,