

CHAP. XXVIII.

*Containing an Account of Sir John Leake's Proceedings with the Fleet in the Mediterranean; his landing the Queen of Spain and Troops at Barcelona; the Surrender of Sardinia; as also the taking the Town and Castle of Mahon, while Sir Edward Whitaker was at the Head of a Squadron, with the Troops under the Command of General Stanhope.*

HAVING related what of Consequence happened at home, (for to enumerate all things here which happened in the Chancel between single Ships of ours and the Ships of War or Privateers of the Enemy, would be too tedious) I come now to the Fleet, which was equipping for Service abroad under the Command of Sir John Leake, who on the 27th of March arrived therewith at Lisbon, having in his way thither seen the Merchant Ships bound to *Virginia*, and the *Canaries*, with their respective Convoys, well into the Sea, and taken care for the Security of others designed to the Ports in *Portugal*. Here he found the Ships with Captain *Hicks*, which were fourteen of the Third Rate, besides small Frigates and Bomb Vessels, and at a Council of War it was resolved, that as soon as the Transports were ready to receive the Horse on board, the Fleet should proceed to *Vado*, and that such of the Ships of War as could not be got ready by that time, should follow to *Barcelona*, where there would be Orders left how they should farther proceed: But as for the *Dutch* Ships, they were all separated in bad Weather between *England* and *Lisbon*. It was also determined, at the Desire of the King of *Portugal*, to appoint the *Warspight*, *Rupert*, and *Triton* to cruise off of the *Tercera* or *Azores* Islands, for the Security of His Majesty's Fleet expected from *Brazil*; nor was there care wanting to guard the Streights Mouth, lest otherwise our Trade should suffer by the Enemy's Cruisers, or Privateers.

*Sir John Leake arrives with the Fleet at Lisbon.*

The procuring Transport Ships, and putting them into a Condition for receiving the Horse, took up a considerable time, but on the 23d of *April* the Admiral was ready to sail with as many as could carry fifteen hundred, with one Second Rate, twelve Thirds, two Fourths, a Fireship, Bomb Vessels, &c. together with twelve Ships of the Line of Battel of States-General; and upon Advice from Colonel *Elliot*, Governor of *Gibraltar*, and from other hands, that some French Ships of War were seen cruising off of the Streights Mouth, one Third, and one Fourth Rate, and another of the *Dutch*, were appointed to strengthen those before ordered to ply up and down in that Station.

The 28th of *April* the Admiral sailed from the River of *Lisbon*, and being off of *Gibraltar* the 4th of *May*, he expected to be joined there

*Sir John Leake sails from Lisbon.*