

the eighteenth century. Active and indefatigable in the discharge of his peculiar duties, he has been accused of having introduced slothfulness and inability into other departments of the state. In order to wipe off the latter imputation, we would advise him to awaken the first lord of the admiralty, and the secretary at war, from the slumber in which they are indulging; and if we are engaged in a contest for our laws, our liberties, and our religion, let it be conducted with a zeal proportioned to the magnitude of the objects in dispute, and an alacrity which alone will bring it to a speedy and honourable termination.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

SINCE the action of the 8th of May, in which the French are said to have lost 4000 men, and the allied armies about half that number, we have not had certain intelligence of any thing of importance having taken place, in the Netherlands. Reports have been circulated of another engagement having happened on the 18th of the same month; but we must wait for farther information before we can say any thing of it with certainty. There is hardly a doubt but that the French, in that Quarter, have been obliged to take refuge in their fortified towns on the frontiers, which it will now be the object of the allied Powers to reduce.

The following is a list of the fortified towns on the French frontier towards the Austrian Netherlands, against which the strength of the allied Armies will probably be directed.

Lisle. Never taken but once, by Marlborough and Eugene; to them it cost a siege of more than three months.

Conde. A very strong place in French Hainault, and among the few not taken in that war by Marlborough.

Maubeuge. Another fortress of French Hainault, constructed by Vauban and capable of a good defence.

Valenciennes. A place of strength and importance, little inferior to Lisle, and which also has a strong citadel. The country round it can be overflowed by sluices from the Scheldt.

Quesnoy. A small fortified town in the district of Valenciennes, taken by the Allies in 1712, and the next year retaken by the French under Villars.

Cambray. A large town well fortified with a citadel. The garrison has, like that of Valenciennes, the advantage of being able to overflow the country.

Landrecy. Besieged to no purpose, in 1712, by Prince Eugene.

Bouchain. A place fortified by nature and art, the marshes and inundations rendering it difficult of access.

Douay. A large town of no inconsiderable strength in French Flanders.

Bethune. A place fortified by Vauban, with a citadel, and advantageously situated upon a rock.

Aire. A strong town in Artois; it cost the Allies in 1710, a siege of two months.

St. Venant. A place not so well fortified; but it can be laid under water.

Arras. The capital of Artois, and fortified in part by Vauban. This is the last garrison town on the Northern Frontier.

Insurrection in France.

Formidable as the combination against the French is yet considering the strength