

Water near it : Elated with the Success of the 23d, and fond of the *Magnanime*, he said at first, before Captain *Mordaunt*, he would carry her in, and destroy the Fort. As the Deponent had attentively considered the Shore, and was sensible, that the *Magnanime*, which drew more Water than some of our three-decked Ships, could not be brought near enough to batter the Fort, he gave the Pilot's Gasconade Time to subside ; and then asked him, if he could carry a Sixty Gun Ship in against it : He answered, her Metal was not weighty enough, as there were Twenty-four Pounders in the Fort. He then proposed to him to lighten the *Barfleur* two Feet (this second Conversation was upon the Quarter Deck, by the Intervention of a Man well versed in such *French*, as those Kind of People speak) The Pilot seemed some time satisfied with this, and in Consequence the Deponent prepared an Order to Vice Admiral *Knowles*, to lighten the *Barfleur*, and in the mean Time gave him a verbal Order ; who immediately went away to give the necessary Directions, and to enquire into the Practicability of the Attempt. — The Pilot now recollected himself, and declared, that, even thus lightened, the *Barfleur* could not be brought near enough ; that when she could come nearest at the Top of High Water, on the Ebb, she must sink in the Mud six Feet or more, from which he could not answer whether she would rise. Upon Tryal afterwards, the Pilot could not carry a Bomb Ketch within Random Shot of the Fort, as Mr. *Knowles* informed him ; in whom, as being the second Sea Officer in Command, he apprehends, he might safely confide for that Information. — The Deponent declares, he should as readily have ordered an Attack upon *Fouras*, as he had done upon *Aix*, had it been practicable by Shipping ; though it was his Opinion then, and still is, that an Attack on either had no Connection with the principal Object in his Majesty's secret Instructions, unless the Guns from either of those Fortifications could have prevented the Boats from landing. --- (There they certainly could, but not in