

ten millions within the year to protect the Electorate, or to defend ourselves.

Some of my readers will recollect upon this occasion, the history of one of the first of the ancient states ; which, tho' under a popular government, was esteemed the wisest : till that fatal period ; when, being engaged in a war at home with their only dangerous rival, which was superior to them at land, but which they triumphed over every year at sea with a fleet of two hundred sail ; they at length, when their riches and naval power were at their greatest height, and their enemy's coast lay all open to them, neglected their own war, to go upon a distant land-war, in support of a little remote state, scarce heard of before, and made important only by that alliance. We shall soon, I hope, see the mistake of persisting in any such impracticable attempts ; and shall not give occasion for posterity to pass the same judgment upon our German war, as the wise Roman did upon the Sicilian : *Hic primum opes illius civitatis victæ, comminutæ, depressæque sunt : in hoc portu Atheniensium nobilitatis, imperii, gloriæ naufragium factum, existimatur.* Cic. in Ver.