

our West-India islands are thus exposed to insult, whilst we are hastening from all parts to relieve them, I beg it may be remembered from whence we draw the succour, late as it may prove ; from America (I repeat it) in the first place, where we leave a weakened, a disheartened, and a defensive army on our own side ; an encreasing army on the side of the Americans, encouraged to act upon the offensive, as well by the detachment from our army as the departure of our fleet, and perhaps upon the eve of seeing a navy of their own. For I suppose the Ministry are not now to be informed, that D'Estaing's fleet carried over sails, and stores, and rigging, for near an hundred frigates ; that the Americans are moving Heaven and Earth to encrease their marine during the winter ; and that before the spring you may expect from every port, and every creek, a swarm of cruizers, ready to infest your trade, and protect their own, to favour the motions of their own troops, and obstruct those of their enemies. For these advantages they are already obliged to
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