

whole of it was the scheme of a man, who wanted to value himself upon what he did not understand, and rather than do nothing, with which he had so often reproached others, would do something that, he could have no just reason to imagine, would not be infinitely worse than nothing. For which of these two opinions was the least unjust, I not only refer you to the facts and testimonials that appear in the course of the enquiry, but to that knowledge of the local position of things, where the attack was leveled, which you either have, or may so easily come at.

It is also not unworthy of remark to you, and what you will easily believe, that the loudest declaimers against the commanders of the expedition on their return, for their tenderness to their persons, their declining of danger, and the timidity of their councils, were to be found precisely among the rankest cowards, or at least the most reasonably to be suspected such. You might have heard in coffee-houses, public assemblies, not excluding the highest persons, who had never seen the face of danger, nor most probably ever desired to see it, the fiercest in the condemnation of the gentlemen employed ; ridiculous and contemptible however as this division of judges may be, they are always too numerous, and serve to fill the cry. On the other hand, the most truly brave and noble, who ever
judge