

surprize not existing, as considering the situation of that place, it could never, but by the favor of a miracle, exist: Rochefort might not indeed very materially be changed as to its strength, or posture of defence; but obviously ceased, from the instant there was no hope of coming on it by surprize, to be a place possible to be taken by a sudden assault.

As to what the Report adds, " that no
 " reason could exist sufficient to prevent the
 " attempt of landing the troops, previous
 " to the 28th of September, as the council
 " *then* unanimously resolved to land with all
 " possible dispatch : " Nothing can be more
 just, on the supposition that it was right to
 have landed at all. It is even too favorable
 to the commanders; for certainly every
 hour's delay, after the instant of their arrival,
 strengthened their reason for not landing,
 could that have required strengthening?
 And they are justly punished for the impru-
 dence of not adhering to their first and best
 resolution of the 25th not to land at all, un-
 less their zeal for attempting evident impos-
 sibilities, in the service of their country, may
 be allowed to excuse them, and the inten-
 tion acquit them for the absurdity of their
 perseverance in an enterprize, of which
 their own personal knowledge might have
 already