

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 says, "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 imprudence of not adhering to their first and best resolution of the 25th not to land at all, unless their zeal for attempting evident impossibilities, in the service of their country, may be allowed to excuse them, and the intention acquit them for the absurdity of their perseverance in an enterprize, of which their own personal knowledge might have  
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