

affects to discover some other intention: *first*, that their design was to provoke the *English* to send a strong squadron up the *Mediterranean*, in order to put it between two fires, that, at *Brest*, being upon the watch to follow it; or to improve the opportunity by invading *England*, in its absence. *Secondly*, he is very confident that this expedition was against *Italy*, either with an intention to secure *Corfica*, or to take possession of *Villa Franca*, or *Cagliari*, to prevent *England*'s retiring thither, or to fall unexpectedly on *Tuscany*, to engage a war on the continent. But *Makon* is certainly not the true object of the present expedition—probably the fleet may steer that way, and carry the appearance of an invasion, but it will only be to cover better this design, and they will not stay long. Thus, this gentleman persevered in destroying by his chimerical glosses all the plain intelligence he received from time to time concerning *Minorca*; and shewed that he was as obstinate in his unbelief of the most certain tokens and declarations against that island, as the *Antediluvians* were to the voice of *Noah*, persuading them to provide against the judgments hanging over their heads; and when there was no room left for conjecture, he winds up all with an *IF*. “ If (says he) the *English* are deceived in thinking the project against *Makon* was but a feint; the old officers of the *French* troops did not think otherwise, and gave very good reasons for it. The event has shewn that they were

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