

and high Trust. The Expedition to Port *Lorient* will be famous as long as *English* History shall last.

I am at a Loss to account for this Diversion as it was called, a Diversion it was (I am sorry to say it) to all who wish us ill. Some pretended that the Report universally credited the last Spring of an immense Damage done by a Conflagration, was look'd upon by our Ministers, as a certain Omen of a future Event, and that flush'd by this Hope alone, without knowing or enquiring whether Port *Lorient* was a Place of Defence, what Cannon was necessary, what was the Approach, without considering the well-known Dangers of the Bay of *Biscay*, undertook the Accomplishment of this kind of Prediction. Tho' I find great Difficulty in agreeing, that our Ministers could be infatuated to such a Degree, by this Superstition, I should be glad to hear any tolerable Reason assigned, for so precipitate, so rash an Undertaking, tho' the Thing is past, and has so miserably failed, because it would in some little Degree appease the Minds of People, and relieve them from their dreadful Apprehensions of future Conduct. We have done Damage to the Amount of some few thousands of Pounds to the *French*, at the Expence of $\frac{1}{2}$ a Million to ourselves, and ridiculously kick'd against the Pricks. It is said, that the first Project was to second some Attempts which the People of *New England* were to make on the *French* in those Parts, which is not improbable for (if I am not greatly misinformed) this Secret Expedition to *Canada* was expressly mentioned in the Commissions made out for some Officers, which were at that Time shewn about Town. How this Plan came to be laid aside, and the People of *New England* frustrated in their Hopes and Expences, I am totally ignorant. After this the