

It is certainly matter of great satisfaction to me, and must be so to every man who wishes well to his country, that after running through a series of such events, setting out at first with the sight of so great a naval power as the *French* King had assembled, while we struggled under many difficulties ; and when we got out of that troublesome war, found ourselves loaded with a debt too heavy to be shaken off in a short interval of peace : it must, I say, be a great satisfaction to be able, at the close of this volume, to assert, that we had overcome all these difficulties ; and, instead of seeing the navy of *France* riding on our coasts, sent every year a powerful fleet to insult theirs, superior to them, not only in the ocean, but in the *Mediterranean*, forcing them, as it were, entirely out of the sea ; and this, not by the thunder of our cannon, but by the distant prospect of our flag ; as at the raising the siege of *Barcelona*, when the son of the *French* king, the famous count de *Thoulouse*, high admiral of *France*, fled from Sir *John Leake*, and took shelter in the harbour of *Toulon*.

By this, we not only secured our trade in the *Levant*, and strengthened our interest with all the *Italian* princes, but struck the states of *Barba.* with terror, and even awed the grand signior himself, so far as to prevent his listening to any propositions from *France*. Such were the fruits of the increase of our naval power, and of the manner in which it was employed ; and, though some through misconception of the advantages flowing from this disposition in those princes and states ; and some again, from a perverse humour, perhaps of objecting against whatever carried us into a great expence, inveighed against sending such mighty fleets into those seas ; yet nothing can be plainer, than that while we continued this war, such fleets were necessary ; that they at once protected our allies, and attached them to our interest ;  
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