

HITHERTO it does not appear that there was any intelligence of armaments making ready in the ports of the *Mediterranean*: on the contrary, thirty officers of that department in the *French* marine were ordered round to *Brest*, under a pretence to serve in the fleet fitting out in that port. From whence the ministry received, on the 24th *February* 1755, certain advice, that they were fitting out with all expedition fifteen sail, *viz.* seven of the line, five frigates, and three from 20 to 30 guns; to be ready to sail in *March* for *America*, with a large body of regular troops: that another squadron of seven ships of the line was ordered to be equipped as soon as possible; and that *France* seemed determined to put *all its naval force* to sea, either to reinforce their *American* Squadron, or to execute more dangerous projects.

FOUR days after, the same channel informs the Earl of *Holderness*, that in all these armaments there appeared a plain design to make settlements, and to build forts: because the greatest part of the ships were equipping *en flute*, or for the transporting of troops. He also remarked, that it was reported they were resolved to augment the fortifications at *Louisbourg*, and to build forts on the *Ohio*; that M. *Salvert* would be charged with the expedition to *Canada*: and that, after sending reinforcements to *America*, it was probable they
would