

the noise and danger the concatenation should turn to deceive the enemy (says an officer's of- was attended only intended ne there was indeed the ap- arm England Holdernefs's t France had n time; that of the British ccurring in the ad to find any ch put the na- l was so sub- Minorca. enemy's arma- to rouse from stead of send- my, under the t and courage- en. Blakeney, s of the line, ery indifferent ded by admira- distinguished for the navy, hav- a regiment o- between forty recruits, as the instruction y amazing; b- nquire whethe- reights, and ould be gone t l West, the se- con-

cond in command, after them. Now the reader will doubtless wonder, that supposing Mr. Byng should be joined at Gibraltar by the two or three ships in the Mediterranean, which was but a mere chance, what force could he detach after the enemy's fleet, which, according to the best information, consisted of at least twelve ships of the line, and have left for the service of the Mediterranean? Admiral Byng reached Gibraltar on the 2d of May, where he was joined by captain Edgecumbe with one ship and a sloop, who informed him, that the French troops had actually made a descent on the island of Minorca; that there was a French Squadron of thirteen ships of the line, commanded by M. de la Galiffionniere, cruising off the island; and that he had been obliged to retire on their approach. The admiral, agreeable to his instructions, demanded of lieutenant general Fowke, the lieutenant governor of Gibraltar, a detachment from his garrison, equal to a battalion; upon which the governor called a council of war to deliberate on two successive orders, which he had received from lord Barrington, the secretary at war, which appeared to him inconsistent and equivocal; the majority were of opinion, that no troops ought to be put on board the fleet, except a detachment to supply the deficiency in the little Squadron of captain Edgecumbe, who had left a number of his men with captain Scroope to assist in the defence of fort St. Philip. Mr. Byng finding that watering and cleaning here would be attended with delay and difficulty, resolved in the meantime to communicate all these pieces of intelligence to the lords of the admiralty, which accordingly he did in the following letter; but, unfortunately for him, it proved his ruin.

Ramillies, in Gibraltar-Bay, May 4, 1756.

S I R,

*This comes to you by express from hence by the way of Madrid, recommended to Sir Benjamin Keene, his majesty's minister at that place, to be forwarded with the utmost expedition.*

*I arrived here with the Squadron under my command, the 2d instant in the afternoon, after a tedious passage of twenty-seven*