

we do not reef our sails, and strike our *Top Gallant*, we may lose our lower masts, and the Vessel of State become an *inactive bulk*, the sport of the waves, or the prey to the enemy.

L E T T E R XXVIII.

[A greater Naval Force seeming necessary to allay People's fears of an Invasion, the following was sent by the Author to the EARL of SANDWICH the 10th of July last.]

PROPOSAL *for a* NAVAL MILITIA.

TO consist of Volunteers who have been at sea, but for various reasons may have adopted another plan of life, yet might not be against serving for a limited time upon our own Coasts. To be formed into Companies, consisting of a Lieutenant, two Midshipmen, one Boat-swain, Mate, and 70 Privates, with a Captain to every five Companies.

To be employed only in case of a threatened invasion; in which case, to be embarked on board such ships as may be fitted only for Channel service. Many such being in their bottoms sound, might be kept ready at Spithead, fitted with masts, &c. one degree *below* their rate, and having good ground-tackling, would afford an excellent *corps de reserve*. The Proposer has himself been many years at sea, has been twice *dismasted*, and has experienced that our ships of war often sail better with lesser masts than are usually fitted to them; they are easier worked,
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