

6 NAVAL HISTORY

At this time, they were grown so much stronger, that we shall see them, during a great part of this reign, endeavouring to contest the empire of the sea, against the joint forces of both the maritime powers: which is sufficient to shew, with how great disadvantage king *William* entered into the war, in this respect; since, while the enemy took all advantages of pouring supplies into *Ireland*, his affairs in *England* were so perplexed, that it was some time before he could provide a force sufficient to cruize on the coast of that island.

At last, admiral *Herbert*, who commanded the *English* fleet, in the beginning of the month of *April* 1689, sailed for *Cork*, with a squadron which consisted of no more than twelve ships of war, one fire-ship, two yachts, and two smacks. Here he received information, that king *James* landed at *Kinsale*, about two months before. He then thought it proper to attempt cutting off the convoy that had attended him from *France*: with this view, he sailed for *Brest*, and cruized off that port for some time; but hearing nothing of the *French* men of war, from the advice boats he daily received, and having encreased his force to nineteen sail, (of which, however, one was but a small frigate) he again steered for the *Irish* coast, and towards the latter end of *April*, appeared off *Kinsale*. On the twenty-ninth of that month, he discovered a fleet of forty-four sail, which he judged were going into *Kinsale*, and therefore did his utmost to prevent it. The next day he heard that the enemy were gone into *Baltimore*; but, upon coming thither, found the information false. The wind being then easterly, he stood for *Cape-Clear*, and in the evening, he saw them standing into *Bantry Bay*. He lay off that place till morning, and about break of day, resolved