

to return to court, till the Squadron was out at sea.

18th. ADVICES from *Flanders* related that there was at *Brest* eleven ships ready for sea; but was thought they would not sail till the whole armament was completed: that the equipment at *Rockfort* was finished, and two more sixty gun ships, and a frigate of 46 had been put into commission: that there were some armed frigates at *St. Malo's*: that each vessel was ordered to take 330 soldiers on board: that besides the fleet then ready to sail, they were fitting out at *Brest* one 70, one 56, and one 50 gun ship; and that there were twelve more ships of 64 guns in that harbour, which might very easily be made fit for sea*.

M. de *Cofue* is more particular; who having by letters of the 15th, confirmed the intelligence of the united fleet, or squadrons from *Rockfort* and *Brest*, being ready to weigh anchor in *Brest* road; and sent a list inclosed of *land forces*, particularly the *Irish* brigade, ordered to march down to the sea coast, and to remain in garrison at *Dunkirk*, *Graveline*, and *Calais*, till further orders; he, on the 18th, sends advice that the said

* In order to man this fleet they were obliged to strip the ships of all their sailors in the merchants service, as appears by advices received from *Holland* on the 21st, which said that vessels were detained in *Dunkirk* for want of hands; the sailors being obliged to repair to *Brest*.