

Besides, that in all enterprizes, especially meant for bold ones, all the objections, which it is so right to weigh and consider, are not, for all that, to be slighted, on sufficient motives to out-balance them ; amongst which not the least is that axiom of marshal Turenne's in war, That one is not always to suppose an enemy will do all that he might do. The point is to weigh resolutions maturely ; but when taken, to execute them with constancy and intrepidity. Whether then the expedition, now under consideration, was defective in the projection or in the execution, stood the matter of a fair enquiry. But as the decision on the execution, by such an enquiry, naturally and ultimately includes the judgment to be formed on the projection of the enterprize, the failure of it was not without propriety, made by his majesty's orders, specifically the object of examination.

But before I take notice to you of the report of the commissioners on that enquiry, I shall observe to you the state of the public opinion on the disgraceful return of so powerful an armament, without effecting any thing answerable to the hopes or designs of its outset.

The greater part of the nation, with the best of meanings to its honour and interest, in the heat of its resentment for disappointed expecta-