

land, as the attempt upon Rochefort was neither *adviseable* nor *practicable*. To say the truth, after such a report as the commanders then received, after what they themselves could see of the local position of things, and what they must know or presume of the state of the country, they were, if it is not too disrespectful in me to say so, rather in the wrong for calling any consultation, if their resolution could have dispensed with the form of it; for, in fact, there was no matter of consultation at all. The nature of the errand they were sent on, and the impossibility of its execution, were already plain enough.

“ *But* it did not appear that there were  
 “ then, or at any time afterwards, either  
 “ a body of troops or batteries on the shore,  
 “ sufficient to have penetrated their descent.”  
 This is most religiously true. As to troops, nothing can on earth be more certain, than that troops there were and must be in the country; and as certain, that the French must have been very great idiots indeed to have suffered them to be *seen*, when it was so easy, and so much their game to conceal them: As to batteries in Chatelaillon-bay, the only convenient place for a descent, not one officer ever said there were any, or did not but aver the contrary; but who of them  
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