

CHAP. XXX.

Containing an Account of Sir Edward Whitaker's Proceedings while he commanded in the Mediterranean, and what was done in those Parts by Vice-Admiral Baker; together with an Account of Admiral Aylmer's Proceedings with the Fleet at home; and of the Expedition to, and Reduction of Port Royal in Nova Scotia.

SIR George Byng being now designed for Great Britain, and it having been determined at a Council of War to leave a Squadron of Ships in the *Streights* under the Command of Sir Edward Whitaker, he gave him Directions the 29th of July, with ten Third Rates, two Fourths, three Fifths, and one Sixth, to use his best Endeavours to protect the Coast of *Catalonia*, in Conjunction with such Dutch Ships as should be appointed to join him, and by cruising off of the Coast of *Rosès*, or thereabouts, to prevent the carrying to the Enemy any Supplies of Provisions or Ammunition, and so to dispose of the Ships under his Command, from time to time, as that they might intercept their Vessels with Corn from the *Levant*, and the Coast of *Barbary*. And the Design against *Cadiz* being now wholly laid aside, the Admiral appointed the *Effex* and *Firme*, with a Sloop, and two Bomb-Vessels, to proceed to *England* with the empty Transports and other Vessels, to ease the Expence of keeping them unnecessarily in Pay; and the Houses with General Stanhope were so ill provided with Forage, that he was obliged to send them to the Earl of *Galloway* at *Lisbon*, to prevent their being starved.

1709.

The Design against Cadiz laid aside.

But since it was necessary that the Troops with the aforesaid General, which were short of Provisions, should be seen in Safety to *Barcelona*, the Admiral proceeded with them up the *Streights*, till meeting with a strong *Levant* Wind off of *Cape de Gates*, he was obliged to return to *Gibraltar*, where consulting with the General, he was of opinion, grounded upon the Advice he had from the King of *Spain*, that the Troops should remain at *Gibraltar*, until Vice-Admiral Baker arrived from *Ireland*, with those expected from thence, and that then he should protect them to *Barcelona*; so that the Admiral, taking the Opportunity of a Wind, put through the *Streights* the 22d of September, and arrived at *Spithead* the 25th of the next Month with one Ship of the First Rate, two of the Third, and two of the Fourth, from whence he sent me an Account, for the Information of the Lord High-Admiral, which he had from a Vessel the Enemy took some time before, and was retaken from them, of the Station where Monsieur *Du Gué Trosvine* cruised, and of the Strength of his Squadron, that so our Ships in the *Soundings*, then under the Command of the Lord *Durley*, might endeavour to attack him, or to intercept the Trade they expected to meet with coming from the *West-Indies*; and of his

Sir George Byng arrives in England.

E e e e

Lordship's