

his Excellency would, in the present Conjunction, give me a proper Explanation with regard to the Naval Armaments which had been carried on in the various Ports of this Country ; and to ask for an explicit Eclaircissement with relation to the Destination of the *Spanish* Fleet ; as well as to inform myself particularly, from his Excellency, what were the Dispositions of the Catholick King to maintain Friendship, and to cultivate a good Correspondence with His Majesty ; alledging, that this Measure was judged by *England* to be the more absolutely necessary at present, as the *French* Emissaries, and the Partisans of our Enemies, were attempting, by every Method, to propagate the Belief of an approaching Rupture with *Spain*, in Conjunction with *France* ; therefore the King thought Himself strongly called upon, from the indispensable Motives of what His Majesty owes to His Crown, and to His People, to expect to have a categorical Answer to the Questions I had put, by His Royal Command. The last Time I saw *M. Wall*, which was the fifth Meeting we had together, I renewed those Questions, and then received exactly the same Answer which had been given me the first Time ; That *Spain* was surprised *Great Britain* should take Umbrage at any Naval Preparations, she was, or had been making since the Accession of his present Catholick Majesty ; for, including both the Ships of the Line, as well as the Frigates, the whole Number did not exceed in all that of Twenty ; which *M. Wall* assured me were, by several, fewer than those which had been equipped during the Reign of the late King *Ferdinand*. His Excellency told me,