

A. D.  
1758.

Advised  
not to call  
a council  
of war.

the real sentiments of his officers, by inviting them on board, one after another, and discouraging with them, separately, upon the subject of their immediate service. The general opinion leaned towards the impracticability, in so rough a sea, and so well fortified a shore; and for a council of war of both sea and land officers, to come to a final resolution: when it coming to the turn of Captain Fergussone, an old, brave, and experienced officer, whom Mr. Boscawen had requested from the Lords of the Admiralty, to attend him in this service, and in whose opinion and conduct, on the most trying occasions, he could place great confidence; this captain, having delivered himself in the most respectful terms, in regard to the opinions of his brethren, whose reasons the admiral ingenuously related to him, and despising the arguments, drawn from the danger of the service, for proving an impracticability, without an actual attempt to land, and to force the enemy's posts with all the art and strength in their power, he advised the admiral, for his own honour, and the glory of his country, to exert that power, with which he was invested; and not to leave it to the uncertain resolutions of a council of war, which had been so fatal at Minorca, at Rochefort, and even at Hallifax, to the disgrace of all concerned, and to the extreme loss of the nation. Upon this remonstrance of one brave officer in private conversation, we shall see the turn this grand expedition took, for the interest of Great Britain. The admiral acquiesced in the justness of the captain's observation on councils of war: thanked him for his  
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