

but seldom seen upon the Ocean, for this plain Reason only, because they have been *beat* and *burnt* out of it by the *English*.

For some Time past no Line of Battle Ship has returned to *France*, that upon Enquiry has not been found to have got in by Stealth; if Reinforcements are to be sent abroad to any of their *few remaining* Settlements, are we not presently informed that some Man of War has *slipt* out in the Night, and luckily having *escaped* the Channel Cruizers, has *run away in the Dark*, with her Troops on board for the *East* or *West Indies*? Their Ports are every where almost blocked up; their foreign Trade not so much impaired as *annihilated*; their Merchantmen all turned Privateers, and so in due Course of Time becoming *English* Prizes; our Men of War hourly insulting their Coasts, riding at Anchor in their Harbours, pursuing their scattered Fleets from Bay to Bay, and River to River; spreading Terror and Confusion throughout every Province in the Kingdom, burning their Towns and Forts, cutting out their Ships from under their Guns, driving others against the Rocks, and making the very *Shore* of *France* conspire to the Ruin of its *own* Navy, and present Destruction instead of Refuge to the dispersed and *flying* Squadrons of its *Sovereign*.

Far be it from me to exaggerate the *British* Power upon the watry Element; but I believe this is well known to be the true *distressed* State of the *Marine* of *France* at this Juncture; and his PRESENT MAJESTY, whose Accession to the Imperial Crown of these his Realms, so illustriously begins, and is so fair in Prospect to add still greater Honour to himself and Glory to his People, has an undoubted Right, if ever any *British* Monarch had, or victorious Fleets and Armies can procure it, to oblige more Nations than one to acknowledge his *Sovereignty* on the *Ocean*, and to strike to his ROYAL FLAG, in whatever Seas or Climates it may be met.

Whether this Superiority over the *Grand Disturber* of *Europe*, in his Naval Strength, is owing to the great Increase of Riches and Commerce in *England* of late Years, or whether the People in general may not have taken a more martial Turn, and have been roused and animated by the continual Insults and De-
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