

were giving such repeated and strong Assurances to his Majesty's Ambassador, the People in *London* began to publish, that a Rupture was resolved on, and that Admiral *Boscawen*, who had just set Sail, had Orders to attack the *French* Vessels wherever he should find them. No longer did they assign the pretended Encroachments of *France* as Motives of the War, but the Necessity there was to embrace this Opportunity to ruin her Commerce, and to put it out of her Power to re-establish her Marine.

These Reports were so current and uniform, that the Duke de *Mirepoix*, thought it his Duty to inform his Court thereof : Which he did, notwithstanding the most formal and repeated Assurances, which the Ministers of *Great-Britain* gave him of their pacific Intentions. They told him again and again, that he ought to give no Credit, either to common Reports, or to the public News-Papers. Nay, these Ministers went even farther : The Duke de *Mirepoix*, having about the latter End of *April*, shewed some Uneasiness about the Destination of Admiral *Boscawen*'s Fleet, and the Orders that were given him, they positively assured him, that the *English* would certainly not attack first.

Considering the Confidence due to so many Appearances of Sincerity, it is no Wonder that *France* thought the Negotiation ought to be continued. The *English* Ministers had never made a Proposal, but at the same Time, they gave sufficient Room to believe that it was not their last : Therefore, on the 12th of *May*, the Duke de *Mirepoix* sent them a Memorial, much more regular than the former ||, and in which the Rights and Interests of both Nations were examined, with Relation to Articles of a preliminary Agreement, in which they could not yet concur.

The *English* Ministry made him wait an Answer, till the End of *May*, and some Days in *June* : On the 7th they sent it. Now if any one will reflect, that on the 8th Admiral *Boscawen* gave the Signal of an open Rupture by Sea, he must be convinced, that the Delay of that Answer,

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