

who said that great preparations in the *southern* parts would continue with great vigour till the middle of *April*, when they would begin such operations as would greatly surprize all *Europe*.*

CONSUL *Millar* at *Barcelona*, by letters of the same date informed, that it was looked upon in *Spain* as very certain that the design of all preparations making on the *Mediterranean* coasts were against *Minorca*: that they continued to work with vigour on their ships at *Toulon*: that twenty-two battalions were arrived in that neighbourhood, and expected to be augmented to forty battalions: that forty ships more had been ordered for transports, so that they had now taken up above 100 vessels: that they embarked fascines, gabions, and other necessaries for a siege; and that, though only *nine* capital ships were yet got ready to put to sea on account of the difficulty to get seamen, he believed the other ships would be ready by the 15th of *April*.

SIR *Benjamin Keene* on the 22d of *March*[†], wrote to Mr. *Fox*, that notwithstanding the want of *French* failors, which had retarded the embarkation, it was intended to be put in execution the beginning of next month, twelve capital ships, and *six* frigates, being already in the road at *Toulon*: and that Mr. *Millar* had

* Letters dated 24th of *March*, received *April* 29th.

† Received *April* 7th, with a letter, from the Consul at *Barcelona*, inclosed, to the same effect.

received