

their application: but, when they see these supplies profusely lavished away by thousands, and are ignorant of the cause, must they not complain, and think rather censoriously? To say, Sir, the opportunity of succeeding in that plan was lost, is absurd: there were other objects, perhaps of much more importance to this nation, and, I am sure, of much less difficulty, remained unattempted, and which it was the very season to put in execution.

We have indeed heard, that another expedition is adopted: ships have been sheathed, the forces ordered to embark, and what, for a long time, seemed rather intended to amuse the people, and bully France, is, according to appearances, upon the point of execution. Let me hope, Sir, it may not miscarry at the last! Let me hope, Sir, as I have reason to think from the sheathing of the ships, that it is directed against Martinico! If I am wrong in that conjecture, at least permit me to hope it will immediately occur to your consideration. If that island ought to be taken, proper measures ought to be taken immediately to put it in execution. We find our numerous fleets do not hinder the French landing forces and stores of all kinds: the little squadron under M. Macarti, landed upwards of five hundred soldiers at Martinico the latter end of last Summer; and M. Dugue Lambert, with three or four ships more under his command, sailed lately with five hundred of the royal grenadiers, and great quantities of warlike stores. If we would therefore take Martinico, we must be expeditious; the longer the attempt is delayed, the more impracticable we shall find it.

Remem: