

To say the truth, Rochefort, the very place which, from its situation, seemed the least to invite an attack, was consequently the most neglected by the French in their plan of defence, and therefore bid the fairest for success against it, in case of its being practicable to penetrate with a body of troops, so far as to get before it; whilst the dispersion of their forces, stationed either in the places judged more obvious to insult, or within reach to succour them, should give our's the fairer play for carrying it by surprize. Considering however its importance, especially in point of its being one of the principal ports of equipment, implying in course its containing docks, stores, arsenals, and shipping, the destroying of which would be cutting the very sinews of their marine-force, which must make it the more a national object for us to attempt; it cannot, reconcileably to common sense, be imagined they would intirely leave it out of their general plan of defence. They might not indeed do all that would have been done to put it into a condition of not fearing an insult, if they had feared one; but they undoubtedly made some dispositions against a contingency, which if not probable, was not however impossible; or, no doubt, the great wisdom of our government would not have pitched upon it for its object.

Besides,