

commenced. And the handle which Mr. Byng made of the *weakness* of his Squadron to excuse his not attempting to raise the siege, or to relieve *Fort St. Philip*, does not require a repetition in this place, it being so fully set forth in his *Trial* and *Defence*.

THE *French* having got, by this means, possession of all the open country and towns on *Minorca*, without the loss of a man, Lord *Bristol* informed that the *French* were making great preparations for another embarkation at *Toulon* of eight battalions, with a great increase of ammunition and stores, and also to augment *Gallassioniere's* Squadron with five men of war and one frigate getting ready at *Toulon*, where they pressed sailors of all nations. All which was confirmed by Consul *Birtles*, Consul *Dick*, and Mr. *Villetes*, who adds that the towns (in *Provence* and *Languedoc*) had been so stripped of their cannon, &c. in order to support the expedition against *Minorca*, that 6000 men supported by a Squadron of fifteen men of war would be more than sufficient to take them all in eight days, without coming to a siege; and that this expedition would cost upwards of 120 millions.

BUT all this did not spirit up any further armament than five ships of the line with one regiment, and 100 of the train, mostly miners from *Newcastle*, raised for the purpose, sent to reinforce