

Heaven, and so absurd the Judgment of those who preside over naval Affairs in this Kingdom. This Conduct of our M——rs is not however without its Advocates; the Reasons for justifying their Proceedings in this Manner are yet more extraordinary than the Behaviour itself: It is most gravely urged in Defence of this Conduct, that the *French* Squadron was not attacked in *Europe*, because their Allies, particularly the *Spaniard*, should not take Umbrage at our Behaviour; or such an Action bring on Hostilities in *Europe*. What kind of Capacities must these Men possess, who can imagine that an *Englishman* of common Sense can be cajoled with such frivolous Pretensions to a Justification of wrong Measures? Who can be deluded to believe, that a Fleet, freighted in *France* with Arms, Ammunition, Soldiers, and Provisions for *America*, can create any Difference of Opinion in a Nation, whether it be defeated on the Coast of *France* or the Banks of *Newfoundland*? These Advocates must have well studied *Grotius* and *Puffendorff*, who make this Distinction; and understand human Nature to great Perfection, who conceive, that the *Spanish* Ministry can be influenced against *England*, or to its Advantage, in favour of, or contrary to its own Interest