

THE intelligence from the *Hague*, in *April*, affected much to discountenance the reality of the *French* design against *Minorca*: for, tho' the writer was constrained by the general report, to acknowledge that the *French* boasted much of their resolution to attack that island, he would persuade, that this attack was not near so ready as they would have it believed; or, that those preparations at *Toulon* were calculated only to divide the forces of *England*, and to get an opportunity to send forces to *America*.

THE advices in Lord *Holderness's* office of the 2d of this month, confirm the design against *Minorca*, adding, by way of speculation, that the *French* intended to take advantage of the siege of *Mahon*, to facilitate their invasion of *England*. Others of the 9th relate, that the duke de *Richlieu* publicly declared he was going with twenty eight battalions and fourteen ships to besiege *Port Mahon*, and those of the 28th brought an account of their descent on *Minorca*.

SIR *Benjamin Keene* on the 13th writes, that the *French* hoped to take *Minorca* by a *coup de*

"Received *April* 2d, also 13th, received 16th. Yet letters from the same place of the 16th advise, that they expected to put to sea by the 10th: and those of the 27th, that the *Toulon* fleet had met with a storm on the 13th, and weathered it pretty well.

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