

the members in it, *excepting only one dissenting vote* ; which every person, who is acquainted with the nature of Councils of war, knows, are matters of secrecy, to which none but the Members and Secretary are made privy, is a circumstance, which with others, seem to me plainly to indicate that he assisted in those Councils, or at least, that those circumstances were communicated to him either by the Secretary or some of the Members of the Council.

Upon the whole, Sir, nothing can be more manifest, than that the design of the Bristol letter is to apologize for the conduct chiefly of the *General*, though at the expence of the *Ministers* : and I cannot but observe, the writer's bestowing on him the high encomium, which the Romans did on Quintus Fabius Maximus, viz. *Qui CUNCTANDO restituit rem* ; alluding to the celebrated instance of Generalship, which *Fabius Maximus* shewed in avoiding to come to an engagement with the Victorious Hannibal. This is a matter of too delicate a nature for me to enter into a particular examination of. But I think I may venture to remark one circumstance, which seems parallel in the stories of both Generals, viz. That as the Roman General's Countrymen at *first* saw his conduct in so unfavourable a light that they passed a public (*a*) censure upon him ; notwithstanding which, as the Roman historian says, he (*b*) obstinately persisted in it : so, many of the British General's Country-

(*a*) Vid. Liv. lib. 23. cap. 25. 26.

(*b*) Vid. Liv. lib. 22. cap. 15