

The safety of the Basque-road was not it seems so much as known 'till sir Edward himself made the experiment of it. This is one more proof how defective his prior information had been, which at least supposed the taking the fort of Aix so necessary a preliminary.

“ The shore is said to be inaccessible,” (says the M.) but whoever said so beside? both land and sea officers plainly declare the contrary, and built on it the resolution of landing the troops, to proceed against that fort Fouras, which had been evidently proved inaccessible by sea. Why did they then retract that resolution? because they found that that measure, which they had resolved on, purely from their ardent wish and desire to do something of service to their country, and of damage to the enemy, before they came away, after the main point had been formally given up, was not one jot the more advisable, for its appearing so practicable. They might indeed have got on shore, but only in such divisions, and with such probability of effectual opposition, that, such an object as the fort Fouras, and it was their only one, could