

are usually confined to the latter Transactions only, and inform the Reader what Methods of Attack were pursued on one Side, but seldom what Precautions were observed on the other; or whether we triumphed through Superiority of Courage and Numbers, or through the Neglect and Inattention of the Enemy: in a word, that the *English* won a Battle, and the *French* lost it; that we *took* a Town, not how they defended it, makes up the Detail of most of our Publick Military Descriptions: the Knowledge of the former Event is certainly the most material, but that of the latter is far from being unenterprising.

'Tis in this View I have presumed to lay the following Sheets before you, as they may possibly contribute to amuse an idle Hour in the Country (if any of yours can with Propriety be called such) and at the same Time introduce to your Recollection a Man at a Distance from you, who ever so remotely employed in the publick Service, has a Heart still alive to the warm Sensations of private Friendships at home, and Gratitude ever to think with Pleasure on that in particular, which Mr. HOBART has honoured him with.

The Kingdom of *France*, perhaps, was never more reduced in its Naval Power than at this Æra of Time before us; perhaps not in any one Period of its History whatever. It was a standing Complaint against the late Cardinal *Fleury*, that during his long Ministry, the Marine Department was entirely neglected; and that in Consequence of this Inattention, at the breaking out of the last War, the *French* Navy was not only not upon a respectable Footing, but was even held in Contempt by the Fleets of other Nations, particularly by those of *Spain* and *England*, and was very unequal to support the Grand Monarque in the Credit due to him as a *Maritime* Power; but the present low State and shattered Condition of their Marine is owing to a Cause more glorious to our AUGUST SOVEREIGN, and his triumphant Subjects, to VICTORY: Their Ships are now diminished in their Numbers, not from Mismanagement in the *Gallic* State, but from *British* Capture, from being subdued or destroyed, from Defeats repeated, Conquest still following where'er the Flag of *England* flew, with a most amazing Rapidity, in all Parts of the known World: in short, the *French* are at this Instant  
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