Introduction to Ld. Nelson's plan to defeat invasion

18892 April 1804.

although I have not been so fortunate in my Plans respecting Naval Matters (in the opinions of those who have had the Power of acting upon my Ideas) as to be successful in seeing them carried into Execution, yet I am by no means convinced that they would not have done some Good, especially as no other Modes have been substituted in their Places

Yet at a Time like the present, it behoves every Man in the Station of life in which I have the Honor of being placed, to submit his Ideas upon maritime Subjects; and surely never a more important one presented itself than the Defence of our native Land —

I am not one of those who hold the French in Contempt as an Enemy. I know them to be indefatigable in their Pursuits, and by no means deficient in Courage to carry their Schemes into Execution - I am one of the last men to believe that the French cannot be beat by an equal number of the English; I have seen the contrary, both at Shore and at Sea: but, I am satisfied, you cannot make a Frenchman surrender without fighting him; and that, sometimes very hard —

Therefore it is not for want of a thorough Conviction that if the whole French army was landed in England but that it would be beat.

My Ideas extend further: that we should be able to say to France and not as a Gasconade, but be able to carry what we assert into Effect "You cannot land in our Country" [Thus far is the Introduction to Lord Nelson's Plan]