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Amherst
Sep. 15
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When the combined Fleet is separated, it may be supposed, The Intention of invading England is laid aside for the present, and it is probable, from the great Preparations which have been made, that something else will be attempted: Jersey and Guernsey will, likely, be the Objects, and Precautions seem necessary to be taken, of having a proper Fleet to protect those Islands, and to frustrate the Enemy's Intentions.

The next necessary Step to be taken, seems to be, sending Stores, Provisions, and every requisite to Gibraltar, and a Reinforcement of Troops to Minorca,

as

as was intended some time ago.

The great Force of the House of Bourbon, both by Sea and Land, And America being Hostile, appears, at first sight, to be too great a weight, for this Country to support itself against in every Part, without the strongest exertions and most favourable events.

The West India Islands can be secured only by a superior Naval Force, as there are not Troops sufficient to protect them from the superior Force of the Enemy in the West Indies: unless Troops could be detached from N^o. America.

May it not be very well worth attempting, to gain the Americans by an Attack on the Spanish Settlements? in hopes of plunder and gaining Lands to settle on: The Islands of Trinidad and Porto-Rico, seem favourable to that end, and 5000 Men would be sufficient for that service: If the Americans could be prevailed on to join, it might lay a foundation for the Colonies returning to their duty, and giving a successfull turn to the War.

The retaking St. Vincent and Grenada, are other Objects; a much greater one, would be attacking St. Domingo; but this

last

Last night require a greater
number of Troops, than can be
spared from No America, consistently
with a due attention, to the
defence of Places, necessary to be
guarded there, and with carrying
on the offensive operations to
the Southward: as the Winter
Months are the most favourable
for taking possession of New Orleans;
and of gaining Charles Town, if
it should be thought advisable.

The Winter Months do not
allow of any operations being
carried on, in the Northern Parts
of America; therefore all the
Troops that can be spared, cannot
be better employed, than in
the

the West India Islands: the Month of November would be the proper time for their sailing from the Continent: And they might be employed 'til May.

By the return of Troops in Nova Scotia there were 3711 R. & F: 1000 at least may be taken for the Winter: at Rhode Island there were 5095, some may be taken from thence: And if the Com^{mander} in Chief in America is ordered to send all the Force he can spare for the Winter Months: And the Officer intrusted with the Com^{mand} of those Troops, is instructed, to make such attacks, and pursue such Services, as
from

from the number of Troops he
may be enabled to do, it is
hoped, it may tend much to
the good of His Majesty's
Service.

Yours truly
afford to the King
regarding the Service
of the Troops.
15th Sept 1779.

Shubert.