

hd. Stourmont

3588

St James Nov 15. 1779.

$\frac{2}{5}$  P.M.

I take the first opportunity of acquainting Your Majesty that according to Intelligence which I accidentally got last Night and which I think deserves some degree of Credit tho it is far from being certain, The French Ministers are greatly alarmed at Count Destaing, as the News brought by two Vessels arrived in different Ports of France is that this whole Fleet was not only dispersed in a violent Gale of Wind, but so much damaged as to be totally unfit for

for service and some of the ships scarce  
able to keep above water. My Intelligence  
does not mention the names of the ships  
that brought this news nor the places  
or dates of their arrival.

The combined fleet had not sailed  
from Brest the 5<sup>th</sup> Instant.

May I be permitted to express to your  
Majesty my surprise at an article  
I have just read in a Letter of  
M. Malzahn. in which he says that  
I told M. Simolin that I knew  
how little Influence the Court of  
Brenna had at Madrid & Versailles.

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I certainly did not say a single syllable  
to that effect. What I did say was that  
I was persuaded that the Dispositions of  
Portugal and Spain were not pacific, &  
that no fair words from any Quarter  
whatever would alter those Dispositions,  
which could only be changed by the  
Powerful Intervention of those who  
upon every Principle of Wisdom and  
sound Policy ought to endeavour to  
frustrate the ambitious Designs of the  
House of Bourbon.

