

Aristarchus

4878

No 91

Aristarchus having understood, through the Medium of Lord Shelborne's Department, that the Establishing the new intended Commercial Company was both acceptable to the King & also to Government, he hath communicated this Overture of his Negotiation to his Employers, in consequence of which Notice, a Committee for carrying this plan into Execution hath been appointed with the greatest possible Secrecy & privacy. The Committee is formed of persons of the greatest Abilities in their ^{different} Casts of Life: such as Statesmen, who know the interior Cabinets of all the Courts in Europe: Merchants, deeply skilled in, and who thoroughly know, the Fort & Foible of every public Commercial Company on the face of the globe: Navigators, who are enabled to point out new Seats for Commerce to erect her Standard in, and who are well acquainted with the Soundings of the different Straights, Ports, Harbours, and Rivers on the wide-extended Coasts of Spanish South-America, and for want of which Knowledge, the late Expedition under Commodore Johnstone failed: Moneyed Men, who know all the Sources of public and private Cash in this Kingdom, & who have influence and Credit to attract it to any point, in which they Their selves shall be principally concerned.

The Result of their first meeting was, "that to carry this plan into Execution, the primary Object of which is to force, and establish a beneficial Trade in Spanish South-America, that the Number of naval & military forces to be employed shall be neither more nor less on the first Outset than five thousand, and in order not to impede Government in their Desires, no more than five or six hundred Men at the most shall be raised in Great Britain & Ireland, the remaining Number to be raised from new Sources unknown to the generality of naval & military Commanders. That to avoid the Delays, Babbings, and other Inconveniences of passing thro the ordinary Route of Office, it shall be

be a special Instruction to Aristarchus to make known to the King, &
to the King only, that the different Members of the Committee are
separately & severally directing their whole attention towards the
perfecting this plan to such a degree as to be in a State fit to be
said before the King: when, if it shall have the Merit to obtain his
Majesty's approbation, they then mean to open it at large: on the
contrary, should reasons of State, at present unknown to them, weigh
with the King so as to induce the Crown not to countenance this
capital Undertaking, they with all humility ^{will then} request, that not one
iota may transpire to the public, but that the whole may be kept as
Secret, as if nothing of the kind had ^{been} mentioned or suggested to
the King. It is apprehended that the adjusting the various Concerns, &
the combining of the several Interests, Views, Skill, and Abilities of the
different Leading Men in this arduous Work will require a month or
six Weeks time, when the Writer of these minutes will receive
instructions to know the time and place his Majesty shall be
graciously pleased to appoint for a Deputation of the Committee
to wait personally on the King — In the mean time, Aristarchus
proposes to take a Trip to Dublin, where he shall endeavour, by
enforcing the Doctrine of "the Unity of Empire" to pacify some
of the turbulent Spirits in that Kingdom, many of whom will
hear political Reason, when the Reason itself is just, and delivered
with Temper, management, and perspicuity. To forward this good purpose
Aristarchus flatters himself, the King will give Orders to Lord Shelburne
to issue the former Bounty of £400 per annum, which is a Twelve month
in arrear ever since the 5th of last August. It is apprehended, Lord
Shelburne is disposed to continue this royal Bounty to Aristarchus, &
that his Lordship only waits for the King's Commands —

* Paid Aug. 1781. See Secret Service of C