

Aristarchus

Feb. 3 1783

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It is certain, since the signing of the preliminary Articles, that Dr. Franklin hath frequently seen the Queen of France, but in so very private a manner, as not to have it known to his own Secretary nor to any of his domestics.

Orders have already been sent to Dunkirk, for making preparations to refit the old, and to erect new sluices, for the purpose of collecting a quantity of back water sufficient to cleanse that harbour, and to give a proper depth of water for Ships of the first Rate: in the years 1724 & 1725 Lieutenant General Armstrong of the British Artillery was sent by George the first, to see all these back waters directed immediately into the sea, without passing through the Ditch at Dunkirk: his reports may probably, ^{be} worthy of inspection on the present occasion.

The Correspondent of Aristarchus farther remarks it is a measure determined upon by the Court of Versailles, ~~that~~ (upon disbanding the British forces, and upon settling the British Sailors a drift) to take into the French Service all the British Seamen they can induce to enlist with them, while the Dutch or the other Part are to enlist into their Service all the British Land-Forces that can be tempted either by fair promises, or high pay.

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