

of Holland, which independant of immense treasure to the French has given them at least Twenty Sail of the Line, the conduct of the Dutch has been infamous for a long time to our Soldiers (who were fighting their Battles). They have for several Months given every possible insult. Old England is still determined, allies or no allies, to Battle out the business, and now we shall have a Dash at *Von Dutchman*, a squadron is already sent forth, which brings their rich ships in by dozens, so that the Stadtholderian Family will not be any burthen to this Country. The French Grand Fleet, consisting of Thirty-Six Sail of the line, and Twenty Frigates, have been at Sea for some time in hopes to fall in with some of our Convoys expected home. Our Grand Fleet (and such a one so equipp'd as never sail'd out of the Channel) under the Gallant Earl Howe, consisting of Thirty-three Sail of the Line & a proportionate number of Frigates & Fireships, sail'd from Spithead with a fine Wind about Five days since, in quest of the Republican Fleet—every Loyal and honest heart in this Country hopes they may still be [torn] and that Lord Howe may fall in with them. He is gone to lay off[f] Brest and prevent their enterance—so great was his hurry having a fair wind that he did not bring too off[f] Plymouth as was intended. The numerous Men of War for all parts assembled there, on account to wait the event, are there [torn] to join him. The utmost exertions are now making in the Naval [torn] so than ever before, all the old Sixtys and Line of Battle Ships and many that never were intended to serve again are now ordered out and will have temporary repairs &c—and Government have even taken into the service a great many East Indiamen to be converted into 40 Gun Frigates, and to man this more than Extraordinary Navy, Meetings have been convened by the Mayor and Corporations of every Maritime Town in these Dominions, directed by [torn] Dundas's circular letter, and the Merchants are to find for the Navy one Man for 70 Tons and so on Twenty-Two Young Regiments are to be immediately turned aboard—in short it is intended to have a fleet of 150 Sail of the Line, besides Frigates &c &c and that too in a very