

ADVERTISEMENT.

DURING the blockade of Malta by the English, whose superior navy and able officers left little room to doubt that it would shortly be rescued from the hands of the French, and from those of the rebels who had delivered it into their possession; the idea struck me, that, unmindful of the sovereigns who, for nearly three centuries, had reigned over Malta in so glorious manner, this island was at that moment regarded merely as a military post, of the same nature as that of Gibraltar. This reflection first induced me to write the History I now present to the Public, which, as will plainly appear, was completed before the signing the definitive treaty:—this treaty has proved the fallibility of my opinion on various points; I, however, think it a duty to publish those opinions in their original state, hoping at the same time, that such a proof of frankness and submission to superior judgments will entitle me to the indulgence of the able negotiators of a peace, which, by securing the tranquillity of Europe, is cheaply purchased at the expence of still more important sacrifices.

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