before their sitting in Court. . . ." 17 Dec. Domestic Corresp. A/90. 50. f. 372.

317. Same to the Council of State.

"Since our last we have received intelligence of a sudden surprisal that hath been made by the enemy upon a garrison of yours in the Isle of Aran, lying at the mouth of the Bay of Galway, and near the two fastnesses of Ir-Connaught and Innisboffin, from whence the enemy landing (as we are informed) 600 [1] men, and with the assistance of the inhabitants of that island, they have possessed themselves of it. In the attempt of which also, the enemy had advantage from the weakness of the works, which were not altogether finished; but principally by reason of the want of shipping and vessels in that harbour, either to relieve the garrison or to make an assault upon the enemy at their landing. The ships appointed to attend that place, and which had directions not to depart that harbour until the works were finished, contrary to their orders leaving it, and putting out to sea, in whose absence this attempt was made by the enemy. Upon consideration of the consequence of which place, and of the import of it to your interest here, and how difficult it may be to reduce the same hereafter, when the enemy, by the assistance of those forces from Innisboffin and elsewhere, shall have finished the fortifications that are already begun, by advice of a Council of Officers here, orders are given for the drawing forth a commanded party of 1500 men, and for the fitting all other provisions and necessaries for the reducing of it, which because it is not to be effected without a sufficient number of shipping, as well to land our men and provisions and to secure the harbour, as to prevent any new approach of the enemy, it was further judged necessary immediately to despatch away a letter to Kinsale, for the going about of three or four good ships from thence to Galway, with such a quantity of victuals and provisions from Kinsale, as might enable them for some time to attend that service, there being no provisions of that kind to be had at Galway and those parts. . . ." 20 Dec. *Ib.* ff. 372-4.

318. Ordered that measures be taken for the destruction of

[1] *Cf.* No. 308.