

T H E

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From my Lodgings in Spring Gardens.

THE Perusal of a Pamphlet just published, entitled, *Ministerial Artifice detected*, gave me some Pleasure, as the Author concurs with me in his Opinion of the Piece on which we have both made some Remarks; he in this Answer, and I in my last Journal. But as we have not hitherto fallen on the same Particulars, I shall proceed with what I had further to say of the famous Performance in question.

England (says the Author) does indeed make a great Sacrifice; but she is fully recompensed by an equivalent Restitution, or one that is nearly equivalent. This Crown suspends the prodigious Successes of her naval Expeditions: But at the same Time, she puts a Stop to the Progress, not less prodigious, of the French Armies in the Low Countries. She inatches from the Punishment they deserved, ungrateful Provinces, which the Loss of *Maastricht* would soon have forced to overflow themselves, in order to shun the Vengeance of a Crown to whom they owe their Creation, their Preservation, all that they are, and all that they have been; but whose Benefits have been repayed, even at the Time they were bestowed, only by Disservices, by Hostilities of all Kinds, and by an Antipathy, in which particular Care is taken to educate their Inhabitants from their most tender Infancy. England restores also to the Court of Vienna, by the Preliminary Articles, a Country which that Crown looks upon as a Barrier to the Maritime Powers; and if Credit may be given to certain secret Articles, that have taken Wind, she procures to the Dutch, in particular, a more convenient Barrier than that which they have lost. She finds Means to refer to the future Discussions of the Congress, her Differences with Spain. The Treaty of London, in 1718, is renewed in these Preliminaries, and the House of Stuart expressly abandoned. Consequently, the Crown of England makes, in all Respects, the most honourable and most advantageous Peace, that she would have had a Right to expect from her past Fury to continue the War, and from the present Conjunctions.

This Paragraph opens the whole scheme and Design of the pretended Frenchman's boasted Work; and deserves therefore, for the sake of the Public, to be considered somewhat at large.

Very true it is, that all which has been done for both the House of Austria and the Dutch, may be said to have been done by England: But this, at the Price it has cost us, is one of the great Subjects of Complaint. We have done so much to save them, who made few Efforts to save themselves, that our own Interests, instead of those of the Empress Queen, and the House of Bourbon, seem to have been neglected and betrayed. The Author allows our prodigious naval Successes, at the same Time that he puts us in mind of the prodigious Progress of the French Armies in the Low Countries: But he does not tell us of any one Advantage we get by the former, except that of putting a Stop to the latter: An Advantage, that, to us, is at least more remote than to either of our Allies; whereas our naval Successes were wholly our own, and ought, independent of the War on the Continent, to have been turned to our particular Benefit.

But France, it may be said, abandons her own particular Benefit as well as we. She suspended her Conquests in the Low Countries, at the Signature of the Preliminaries; she gives them up in the Definitive Treaty. Why then is not it right that we should make equal Sacrifices, in that Part of the War where we had the Superiority?

Now that France abandons her particular Benefit I absolutely deny. We are not yet certain, that she entirely gives up all

ed, that the Barrier of the States General, when restored to them, will be considerably indented in several Places, notwithstanding the Article of mutual Restitutions. If this should prove true, the said Article of mutual Restitutions will be much like that for the Guaranty of the Pragmatic Sanction: The Terms of both Articles are general, but certain Exceptions are made to them; which Exceptions are all in Favour of the House of Bourbon, or her Allies. That is, the French restore and guaranty the Whole, when they lopped off such Parts as they think convenient and proper.

But however it may be in the Netherlands, where the French are undisputed Conquerors, we are certain that in Italy, where the Fortune of the War has been generally wavering, and once turned entirely to their Disadvantage and Disgrace, they make great Acquisitions: For such I call the obtaining an Establishment for a new Branch of the House of Bourbon, in the Person of a Prince, who is himself Cousin German to his Most Christian Majesty, and has married one of his Daughters. It cannot be said that Parma and Placentia, at the Time of the Treaty, were conquered by the Arms of the House of Bourbon. If that House therefore restore one Country, which it had over run, but could not peaceably possess, for another, of which it had no Possession, but had obtained a solemn and guaranteed Conveyance, can it be said to abandon its Interests? Does it not even obtain more than an Equivalent, considering the precarious Tenure of the one, and the absolute Cession and Security of the other? Parma and Placentia, as well as Brabant and Flanders, may, at a convenient Season, forward the Scheme of Universal Power in Europe: The only Difference is, that Italy, by this Exchange, may be in more immediate Danger than the Low Countries.

This it appears that the pretended Moderation of France, in first suspending the Progress of her Arms, and then restoring her Conquests in the Low Countries, is fully and amply rewarded. It avails nothing to say, that the present Establishment of Don Philip is transient only, in case that Prince or his Issue should ascend the Throne of Spain, or the Two Sicilies: The Faith of Treaties, on the Side of Power, is so well known, and within twenty Years past has been so fully exemplified in Italy itself, that it is needless to offer Argument against Experience so very notorious.

But has the Moderation of England, in suspending her naval Successes, and at last giving up her American Conquest, been compensated in the least Degree? The Public, I am sure, would be glad to be inform'd of such a Compensation. Have even her Allies, since it is so fashionable to blend their Interests with hers, any Restitution to boast of for this Moderation? Surely the Case on our Side was not so extremely desperate, that the great Sacrifices we made were necessary to preserve the Empress Queen on her Throne, and prevent the intire Dissolution of the Republic of the United Provinces. Something like this the pretended French Author seems to insinuate in the Paragraph before us: But how justly, we may in a proper Place have Occasion to consider. For at present, I perceive, I cannot proceed so fast as I would wish, through the complex Falshoods of this Performance.

Thus much however is already manifest, that England is so far from obtaining an equivalent Restitution for the Sacrifices she makes, or one that is nearly equivalent, that the Suspension of her prodigious naval Successes, and the Reddition of *Cape Breton*, are intirely free Gifts to the House of Bourbon: Which is in other Words, that we give back to that House its Trade, of which we were well nigh absolute Masters; the Means of molesting and insulting us, which were the very Cause of our first Quarrel with that House; and the Power of growing upon us in those Articles of Commerce, which were the greatest Fund of our national Wealth, the Fisheries and Sugar Plantations. — That for ourselves we obtain nothing in lieu of these, was be-