

and his Conduct in respect to the *Dutch*, was far from answering the Obligations he was under to that Republick. His obstinate Refusal of all Terms of Accomodation with *Spain*, for a long Time kept the Ballance of Power fluctuating, as his sudden and unnatural Conjunction lost it, by the Turn that Alliance gave to the Politicks of the Maritime Powers. His War with the *Turks* was ill-contrived and worse executed; and his Dependance upon *France* to the last, from an Apprehension that Zeal for Religion would bind her to his Interest, was an Error for which his Family has smarted severely since. Taking therefore all this together, I make no Scruple of saying that the Power of the *Germanic* Body is increased by this Change; and that there is more Reason to expect the Princes and States of the Empire should vigorously exert their Force, now they are free, then there was to hope it, while they were under the Influence of an Emperor who considered them absolutely as his Subjects, and yet confined his Cares to the Inhabitants of his hereditary Dominions, or rather of the upper and lower *Austria*.

This I know will be considered by many as a Political Paradox, and by some as a dangerous Maxim, the Belief of which ought by all means to be discouraged. But this moves not me; I write from no other Motive than from the Love of Truth and my Country, for which Reason, I think myself as little bound to conceal whatever I have Reason to think may be divulged to her Benefit, as to publish what may gratify the Prejudices of particular Persons, and yet prove little to her Advantage. It is a Jest for any Man to pique himself upon being an Enemy to *France*, or a Friend to *Germany*; the sole Characteristick here of a Patriot, is his Love to *Britain*; for whoever sacrifices