

his most gracious Majesty, in his speech to both houses of parliament on 13 June 1749, was so thoroughly satisfied, That he says, " All the powers concerned have declared themselves in so clear and friendly a manner, on this subject, as leaves no room to doubt of their sincere disposition to render the peace lasting in all parts." The sailors were discharged, the ships of war laid up : The shipwrights paid off, and permitted to enter, as did our seamen, into the service of France and Spain. Our army was reduced to 18,000 men ; and, what was equally as impolitic, we had disgusted our late allies ; disposed them to receive overtures from our natural enemy, and took no regard to secure any others ; except Bavaria, which was engaged by an annual subsidy of 40,000 l. two thirds to be paid by Great Britain, and the other by Holland, to keep 6,000 men in pay to march at the requisition of those powers, for six years ; but not to be employed against the Emperor, nor the Empire ; with promise of indemnification by the maritime powers, in case Bavaria should suffer any damage on this account.

The affairs of the North, which threatened to break out into troubles on the expected death of the King of Sweden, favoured the political conduct of France, always ready to snatch every advantage from the quarrels of other nations. The consequences of France's interfering in those troubles, on one side or other, might be no less than the flames of a new war ; which might by treaties involve us again in connections, that would en-

A. D.
1749.

Troubles
in the
North im-
proved by
France.