

Empire, so the *German* Princes grew extremely uneasy at the extravagant Growth of his Power, as well as at the ill Use, they thought, he made of it. The Religious Disturbances that then broke out, afforded Pretences for both Parties to associate and arm themselves, for the Defence of their respective Causes. The Protestants entered into a defensive Alliance at *Smalkald*, which in the Year 1535 was renewed, and had then so formidable an Appearance, that the Emperor could not forbear testifying his Resolution to dissolve it. The Protestants, under *John Frederick* Elector of *Saxony*, and *Philip* Landgrave of *Hesse*, immediately took the Field with 100,000 Men, and if they had attacked the Emperor with the same Expedition, they had, in all Probability, effectually secured both their civil and ecclesiastical Liberties, against the arbitrary Designs of that tyrannical and fraudulent Prince. But their Slowness gave him Time, not only to raise a puissant Army, but to create a dangerous Diversion, by the Help of *Maurice* of *Saxony*, Cousin to the Elector, so that the next Year, the Emperor beat the last-mentioned Prince, in a decisive Battle, near *Muhlbergh*, and took him Prisoner; proceeding afterwards with such Severity, as to pass on him Sentence of Death; and the Landgrave of *Hesse*, having submitted himself upon the Emperor's Faith, was in Breach of it, put in Prison.

This Defeat of the Protestants, gave the Emperor the Opportunity he wanted, of securing the Possessions of his Family, at the Expence of the *German* Interest; for in the Year 1548 he engaged or rather forced the States of the Empire, to take upon them the Guaranty of the Circle of *Burgundy*, which comprehended not only the Dutchy and County of that Name, but also all the

Low