

that one or the other of them would find their revenues brought to an end, and would be obliged to submit. Whether Prussia or Austria carried its point, cannot be a matter of the least consequence to England: for, beside that the country itself is at too great a distance for us to be affected by it; England has actually taken both sides of the controversy, and therefore cannot be really interested in either. But the misfortunes of Germany are not so speedily determined. Unhappily for the poor people, the one side called in the French, and the other the English. Can this be for the interest of Germany, to have the flame of a civil war fed with a stock of fuel infinitely greater than its own? To have the revenues of England and France poured into the Empire, so much the longer to enable the Germans to destroy each other, and multiply the miseries of this civil war through all the parts of the Empire?

But it may be said perhaps, that, if Britain does not take any part in these German wars, France nevertheless will: and therefore England's interfering is only a necessary opposition to France. How far this may be right in respect of England, shall be considered hereafter; but we are now treating of it only in relation to the interest of Germany. Doubtless then it is the interest of France, as often as any of the German princes go to war, to assist the weaker party, and blow up the contention. This the French may practise by themselves, to a certain