

But here a notion occurs to me, by which this affair might very easily be determined, without disallowing the pretensions of either of the parties.

The French say, they did not want to go to war; but it was the English who desired it: they say very true, if they mean an open and declared war. The English pretend, they were attacked, and obliged to defend themselves: true, if by attacks they mean some little attempts made gradually, to dislodge a formidable neighbour, and a few precautions taken to put it intirely out of that enemy's power to do us any harm. You see, Sir, we may reconcile both parties, since the events have two different aspects, and it is our business to examine them thoroughly, when there is no longer any possibility to recall them. Yet in all probability, if the power of enchanting was still in fashion, as it is said to have formerly been, there would be no dispute at all in regard to this matter. We should have begged the favour of some magician to fascinate the eyes of our enemies, to render the
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