

convinced, that Peace and a steady Regard to our own Interest, are the only Means by which our Liberties can be secured, our Trade extended, and our Authority, with Respect to our nearest Neighbours in particular, and all Europe in general, effectually established, and for ever maintained.

That whenever we have been drawn to depart from these Maxims, to gratify the Ambition of our Kings, or the Notions of our Ministers, we have been driven back to them by a Series of Misfortunes, which might have been easily foreseen, and of Consequence without Difficulty avoided. For in the Prosecution of such Views we have been made continually the Tools of others, not only without the least visible Advantage, but even to the manifest Prejudice of ourselves. This we have from Time to Time acknowledged, though we have as frequently relapsed, and upon every Relapse have been forced to recur to right Measures, by finding ourselves deceived in our Expectations, exhausted of our Treasure, and deserted by those for whom we were so unreasonably prodigal. Neither has this been our Case only, but the Case of every other Nation possessed with a Romantic Zeal for settling the Rights of Mankind, and of interfering with the Prerogative of Providence; which was so clear to that great and honest Statesman John de Witt, that he wisely laid it down, in his Maxims for the Conduct of the States of Holland, that this was a Point always to be avoided, nor does it appear at this Day that his Countrymen have forgot his Advice, which I speak to their Honour, as well as for the Instruction of ourselves.

That throgh these repeated Mistakes, we are at last fallen into such a Condition, that nothing but a settled Resolution of opening our Eyes at last, and of keeping them open, can save us from Ruin. Our Taxes are so high, that, according to the most moderate Computation, they amount to upwards of thirteen Shillings
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