

ly proper to detain it in our Hands while the Contest for the *Spanish* Crown remained undetermined. But I was ever of Opinion it would have been our Interest, as a trading Nation, to have had it restored to *Philip* V. on the Conclusion of that general War. We might have had any commercial Concessions we would, any Advantages, over other trading Nations, we could wish for, if that Fortrefs had been yielded to *Spain* by the Treaty of *Utrecht*.

But as much as it would have been for the Benefit of the Nation to barter away *Gibraltar* in Exchange for solid and substantial Advantages in Trade, it might have been dangerous for the then Ministry even to make the Proposal, considering how impetuously the Current of the *national Prejudice* ran in Favour of the Detention of the Conquest.

Besides, seeing the domestic Opposition Lord Treasurer *Oxford* met with in perfecting the Work of Peace, he might very well be excused suffering himself to be carried away with the Tide of *Prejudice*, and even to avail himself of  
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