

4 GALLICA FIDES: Or,

ever plagued the World. And what are your refined Politicians, but the most exquisite Knaves, who rack their Inventions for Pretences to invade the Territories of their peaceable and unthinking Neighbours?

Such is the Difference between the Temper and Conduct of the two Nations, the *French* and *English*. The latter are a People brave, generous and open-hearted; never pick Quarrels with their neighbouring States with a Design to conquer or enslave them; keep religiously to their Treaties, and are so far from revenging an Affront or Injury, that they too often pocket Insults and the grossest Provocations, without offering to do themselves common Justice; an Insensibility which frequently exposes them to the Jest and Ridicule, not only of their Enemies, but of the whole World. But tho' the *British* Lion may be play'd with; yet, if you wound him to the Quick, he will instantly rouse himself to Vengeance, and woe be to them that dare oppose him in his Fury.

The *French*, on the other Hand, are an artful insidious People, who are continually plotting some Mischief against their Neighbours, if they have but the least Prospect of reaping an Advantage by it. By their Finesse and Chicanery in Politicks, they have gained more than ever they did by their Arms; for they never rendered themselves conspicuous, either for their Courage or Bravery. No People in the World are more insolent in Prosperity, (or more dejected by Adversity) none more insulting when victorious (or more abject when conquered) * 2 They never will be at Peace till they are drubbed into it, and then keep it no longer than a fair Opportunity offers to break it; and if that fails them, they are not long at a Loss for Ways and Means to accomplish their Purposes.

But that the Reader may not imagine that we blacken or distort the Features of our good Neighbours, to make them look more ugly and frightful than Nature made them, the following *FRENCH political CREED*, written by JEAN PETIT, 1677, and translated from the *French*, is a sufficient Proof, that we have done them no Injustice.

Violence is but a bare Precaution. Conquerors ought to provide for the future, by destroying whatever may hurt them. There is no Law but the Sword, the Appetite of governing, and the Glory to be obtained by aggrandizing a Nation at the Cost and Ruin of its Neighbours. * 2

* This must be a great mistake
* 2 No truth in this quite the contrary