

the most successful warrior, yet the weight of this alliance broke the power of the French, and made them sue for the peace of Ryswick. And the good faith which was observed in the conducting that treaty, and the equal regard, which was paid to all the Princes concerned, gave so general a satisfaction, as to lay a firm foundation of confidence in the honour of the English government; and enabled King William to form a second like alliance, when the death of the King of Spain, and the seizure of that whole monarchy for the grandson of France, made it necessary.

France, in consequence of that first alliance, beheld five armies of 50,000 men each upon its frontiers, three of them commanded by the Electors of Bavaria, Saxony, and Brandenburg, not fighting with one another for the French diversion, but invading of France upon the Rhine, beside the grand army of the Empire under the Duke of Lorraine, and the united force of England and Holland in Flanders. And, though the strength of France was at length exhausted by contending with the troops of all Europe; yet the long opposition, which it made to the united efforts of Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Savoy, Spain, Holland, and England, proves the immense height of power,

narch had at one time, including his land and naval forces, 450,000 men in pay. Neither the Turkish Empire, nor the Roman, had ever so many wars at once to support.

VOLTAIRE le SIEC. cap. xv.

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