

Protestant interest in Germany, by setting two Protestant Electorates at variance, is just the same; and the Popish States alone can rejoice in the destruction of either. There have been times, when the zeal of the Popes of Rome made them hold frequent consistories to consult, how they might best destroy that pestilent northern heresy, as our religion was once called, when the reformation was first adopted by the northern powers of Germany; and there have been bigotted Emperors, who have formed leagues, and made many attempts, in conjunction with the court of Rome, for the destruction of Protestants; which Providence was pleased to disappoint. But what is there, that the bitterest enemies of our religion could have devised, so effectually to serve their purpose, as the lighting up a war between these Protestant States themselves? Which, without raising any jealousy of Papists; without the cruelty of persecution; without the odium of incurring any breach of faith, should set these Protestant powers upon worrying each other, with infinitely greater destruction than any the sharpest persecution ever produced, and ruining the whole north of Germany.

Could a Gregory or a Ferdinand have wished for any thing more, than that Saxony, where the reformation first began, should be ravaged from end to end: its country wasted, its cities ruined, their suburbs burnt, its princes and nobles driven into banishment, its merchants beggared, its peasants forced