

P R E F A C E.

Disappointments should discourage Engagements, founded upon the Principles of Justice and Common Safety. Then for Four or Five Years the Bloody Game seem'd doubtful, and the making of a Stand look'd like a Prefage of Victory: For when Powers that assume to themselves the Titles of *insuperable Strength* and *immortal Glory*, meet with Difficulties, and are check'd in their ambitious Progress; this casts Disparagement upon their high Pretences, and makes suffering Mankind hope they are not so great as they would willingly look to be: Like Men that affect the Character of being Rich, Couragious or Religious, yet are not really so, this assumed Shape may for some time command Awe and Respect, but when at last, by the Effects, the Disguise appears, the Hypocrites become more contemptible and ridiculous. I shall not say, That the Events of the Two or Three last Years of the War make it appear probable, this was the Case of the Enemies of our Monarch and Country, for they had Substance, Conduct and Courage; though I must take it to be as plain, that their Power and these Qualifications were by no means equal to the Union form'd against 'em, and manag'd by the same *Incomparable Head and Hand* that first gave it Birth. For when *Savoy* left the Confederacy in 1696. one would have thought so considerable a Weight taken out of our Scale, would have given the Con-
trary