

will soon have it out of his Power to relieve, how much Feeling soever he may have for the Wants of others. It is the same Thing with Nations, if they Regard nothing but their own Interest, they will necessarily become Hateful and Hated, they will provoke the Envy of their Neighbours, and their own Conduct will afford such Colours for attacking and destroying them, as will give a Shew of Justice even to the Work of Malice. This was the Case of the *Carthaginians*, they were Selfish to the last Degree, and this made them most assiduous in their Commerce, this again made them Rich, when they were so they grew Proud and Insolent, which naturally brought on them Difficulties, Distresses, and in the End Destruction. But though Selfishness be so bad an Ingredient in Policy, when it is there in too great a Degree, yet we must take Care not to leave it totally out; a Nation prodigal in supporting others, and vainly fond of having fine Things said to her by her Neighbours, may be led into such Expences, as it is out of her Power to support, may even in a just Cause be drawn to Ruin by Profusion, and be undone herself by a preposterous Desire of saving Others. This was the Case of *Sweden* under *Charles XII.* He was not content with repressing Acts of Hostility against his own Kingdom, he would needs be the Protector of distressed Princes, and the Saviour of enslaved Nations; nay, at last he extended his Care of Mankind so far, as to set up like another *Hercules* for the Pulling down of Tyrants; but his first Expedition, in that way, proved his last, his generous Enthusiasm undid him, and which was worse still undid his Subjects.

We see therefore, that Moderation is alike necessary in all Things, and that it is a Rule in Policy, as well as Prudence, not to be Righteous