

what I blame, what the Merchant, and the Country who is a Sufferer thro' him has to complain of, is that, considering we had the Experience of the *French* playing that Game (I can call it nothing else) upon us from *Dunkirk*, when no Rebellion subsisted in this Country; a Rebellion raging, very little Share of Sagacity and Forecast was requisite to foresee that they would not fail of renewing the same Game, when they could do it to so great Advantage by striking a double Terror, and rendering the Rebellion more formidable at Home, by Dangers threatening from Abroad. And yet as little Forecast as was requisite, it was all wanting to our inexpressible Distress; for being surprized by a Shew of Preparations at *Dunkirk*, and obliged to collect almost all the Ships we could for this Service; in a very short Space of Time we lost a very great and surprizing Number of Merchant-Men. Whereas, if a Man of Abilities had had the Direction of our Affairs, he would have taken early Care so to have disposed our Fleet, that some Ships might have been spared for the Protection of our Trade near Home; and tho' by calling some Ships Home, he had lessened the Security in other Places, would not have left the most material one quite defenceless. Nor must I pass over in Silence the original Cause of this Disaster, as well as of many others, the unaccountable Delay of suppressing the Rebellion. But tho' our M—rs Genius doth not lie in Land or Naval Armaments, nor in the Management of Finances; perhaps we shall find it in the Affairs of the Cabinet, in improving at the different Courts of *Europe* all the favourable Opportunities, which offer themselves for the Advancement of the common Cause.

The Disposition of the Empress of *Russia*, in the Year 1745, towards the Elector of *Saxony*, and the strong Declarations which she publish'd of
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