

insignificant Fortrefs of *Furnes* excepted, I should think that common Prudence might incline us rather to Peace, on Terms so advantageous and honourable, than to the Continuance of a War with no very auspicious Aspect.

For with regard to the Safety of the *Dutch*, or the vague Balance of Power, how can either be affected by the Detention of so inconsiderable a Place as *Furnes*? And with regard to the trading Interest of these Nations, which should be the constant Object of our Attention, I believe it won't be controverted, that it is clearly out of the Question. Sure I am that the Trade and Independency of *Great-Britain* can never be affected by *Furnes*, or any other inland Fortrefs sever'd from the *Austrian Netherlands*.

Not but that I should be as averse as any Man in *England* to every Increase of the *French* Power or Territory. But in such a Case as the present, I am for bending to Necessity, rather than holding out too stiffly against all Conviction. The Condition of *France* may be bad, tho' I am persuaded 'tis not so desperate as some among us affect to paint it. But let us look at home, and see if we be in Plight to support an Increase  
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