

This hypothesis in its utmost extent may appear wild and extravagant to many, and possibly is so. But does it appear such to the Empress Queen? for this is the only question which concerns *Britain*. *France* would certainly find her advantage in it, whose present conduct in any other supposition would be absurdly mad, ruining herself in *Germany* to strengthen her only rival upon land, and to weaken and undo the only ally she could trust to against her. If we must suppose either of the monarchs fitter for *Bedlam* than a throne, *Lewis* or *Theresa*, can we hesitate in our preference? A woman fired with injuries and lusting for revenge, who feels with indignation that while her ancestors were contending against *France* in a conflict by which neither was a gainer, a subordinate Prince, in the eyes of pride her subject and vassal, rose to a height which mated her power, and with a sacrilegious hand tore from her diadem one of its brightest and most precious jewels. I say a woman thus agitated, may when denied by her friends the means of vengeance, be transported by a double resentment to throw herself even into the arms of an old enemy, now more compliant with her call and co-operating with her passions: so probably was this union produced. By the treaty of *Versailles* each power renounced

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