

abilities were indeed excellent, and he came with the best intentions to the throne, but he had the misfortune to fall into the hands of a vigorous but implacable faction, and rather appeared for some time the head of the Whig party than the illustrious chief of a united, powerful and loyal nation. George the Second, with less ability, was still more attached to his electorate, and during his reign, the British thought that they were involved, without any necessity, in every continental dispute. From being auxiliaries, they commonly became the principals in different wars, and were obliged to bear the most enormous burdens in order to pay nations for fighting their own battles.

These opinions, whether correct or not, were universally believed and lamented by the people. They were lamented even amidst that brilliant train of victories which closed the reign of the conqueror of Dettingen.* Our present sovereign was hailed at his accession with the most sincere and affectionate congratulations; his administration was expected to produce a kind of millenium when British interests alone would sway the measures of government—nor have these hopes been disappointed. The blood and treasure, the bravery, the public spirit, the enterprise and the virtue of the British nation were no longer sacrificed for interests not their own. Ascending the throne in the bloom of youth, our monarch was animated with the most tender affection for his mother country, and willing to guide himself by the abilities and experience of his Parliament, he confi-

* See NOTE I.

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