

directly in the way of that pursuit, is *the naval empire of Great-Britain*; its reduction is therefore the object, upon which the hero of the nineteenth century must first employ his natural and moral faculties, and all his supernatural talents. [*Cobbett's Register.*]

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THE CONTRAST, NO. 2.

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The second example, we draw from Charles the second's reign: so little did England, at that time, regard the Balance of Power, that in the year 1664, War with the Dutch was entered upon, by the inconsiderate advice, and at the instigation of Parliament. This produced a close correspondence with France, tending greatly to enlarge and strengthen that Monarchy, and has since cost England a profusion of blood and treasure. It was not long however, before the eyes of the nation began to open. France was making rapid strides in power, England debilitating her resources, therefore in January 1668, a strict alliance, and in the Month following a Treaty of Commerce was concluded with the United Provinces. Charles the XIth. of Sweden acceded to the Treaty which henceforth was called the Triple League, to support the Peace made at Aix-la-Chapelle.† It was stipulated by a secret article that, in case His most Christian Majesty should refuse to accept of the Peace with Spain, as concerted by this Treaty, England and Holland were bound to wage War against France both by Sea and Land, until matters were again brought back to the condition they were in, at the Ratification of the Pyrenean Treaty.

The views of the triple league were to restore to Europe that Balance of Power, which two successful wars carried on by France against Spain

had much endangered. To understand the motives which led to this alliance, we will take a brief and cursory view of the changes which took place in the relative situation of these two Powers, and the circumstances which preceded them.

The superiority that Spain had derived from her immense wealth and extensive possessions, the Tyranny and high hand with which she exercised that superiority prior to the memorable Treaty of Munster concluded in 1648, had raised the jealousy and indignation of the other European Powers to such a degree, as made them behold with pleasure, the many and important concessions drawn from Spain in that Treaty; and demonstrate, by public rejoicings, their satisfaction at the humiliating terms, by which alone, the Catholic King obtained Peace with the United Provinces, after a vigorous War of eighty two years. The Empire, France and England, it is true, each in their turns had contributed to their support. This powerful combination produced the desired effect, for not one of the seventy nine articles of the Treaty but was calculated directly for the Benefit of the United Provinces; not one, but carries the evident mark of a forced condescension on the part of Spain.

Still, under, apprehensions, created by the remaining Power, and strengthened by the ambitious views of His Catholic Majesty, Europe tacitly acquiesced to the article of agreement between France and Spain signed and sealed in the Island of Pheasants, in the River of Bidassoa, on the confines of both Kingdoms, November the 7th 1659, commonly call'd the Pyrenean Treaty; altho' by this Treaty, France increased in territory, wealth, Population and Industry, and acquired an important chain of strong fortified Posts for her frontier.

† Martin's Recueil des Principaux Traités.