

and it may even be doubted, whether the preponderance which France held through centuries in the scale of European powers will not eventually be destroyed by the effect of her present successes; or, at least, whether, so far as the political interests of Great Britain are concerned, she will remain an object of as much jealousy and alarm as she was under the late monarchy.

In saying this I am not seeking to conceal our embarrassments, or to palliate our disappointments; nor am I insensible to the unmerited fate and desolation of individuals and countries connected with us in the war: I am not disposed to under-rate a calamity subversive, for the present at least, of the balance of Europe, and which has threatened to demolish a system of civilization, under which my country enjoys a prosperity unparalleled in the history of man. But after avowing the evil, I may be permitted, in the hour of retirement and reflection, to examine the chances and means of emerging from it. If
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