

Let us now see whether the Consequences of the Treaty of *Hanover* will not justify our Account of *these Accessions*. It was said, at first, to be a *defensive Treaty* only; and, indeed, it contain'd no *offensive Stipulations*, any more than the Treaty of *Vienna*. *Holland* would not have enter'd into it, even under the *Limitations*, upon which she acceded at last, if it had been an *offensive Treaty*; and neither *Holland* nor *France* did any Thing more, than prepare Themselves against *Attacks*; but *England* hath been charg'd with acting *offensively*, by sending two Fleets of Ships of War, one to the *West-Indies*, and the other to the *Mediterranean*. The former of These block'd up the Merchant Ships of *Spain* in their Port and lay in the most unwholsome Climate in the Universe till the Ships were almost destroy'd, and scarce Men enough were left alive to bring them back in that ruinous Condition. The Consequence of This was, that *Spain* interrupted the *British* Commerce in all Parts, and plundered our Merchants without any Reprizals; for though the *Considerer* speaks of *Hostilities between the Crown of England and of Spain*, I do not remember any *Hostilities* that *We* have been guilty of towards *Them*, since the *blocking up their Galleons*. The War between *Us* and *Spain* seems to have been carried on in much the same Manner with That, mentioned in *Terence*,

-----nunquam vidi iniquius

Certationem comparatam, quam hac hodie inter nos fuit.

Ego vapulando, Ille verberando, usque ambo defessi sumus.

In the mean Time, *France* and *Holland* were permitted to carry on their Trade, without Molestation; as They suffer'd the *Spaniards*, in Return, to besiege *Gibraltar*, without furnishing any Quota of *Men, Ships, or Money*, for the Defence of it; and indeed *England*, being thus charg'd with beginning *Hostilities*, was in
a man-