

could have steered different from what she has done? Let the *laudatores temporis acti* declaim as they please; let the considerer ring his changes upon former measures; but whilst the power of France exists, is not Great-Britain to guard against her ambition? That the power of France exists, is the basis of our considerer's doctrine. That we have not pursued the war upon the principles and measures that directed us in former times, must equally be admitted. But for that reason objects are changed; the same system no longer exists; and the ballance of power, in the point where it formerly vibrated, is now a non-entity. Upon the supposition of this ballance being an entity, the considerer has raised his whole fabrick. The smallest spark of candour would have taught him, that when king William formed the grand confederacy, the support of the house of Austria, upon the continent, was his great object. Why was that his object? Because he reasonably thought that the house of Austria was the grand counterprize, upon the continent, to the ambition of the house of Bourbon; and the house of Bourbon was the power which England and Holland had then the greatest reason to dread. Had they dreaded the house of Austria, king William,

like