

been that our Confederacies have so indifferently succeeded; notwithstanding, that we had in Reality, as well as in Appearance, a Power on our side infinitely superior to that of France, if we had known how to use it, or rather how to judge rightly, of our own Interest, and those of the Germans.

That we have been absolutely mistaken in attributing one while to the Weakness of the German Princes, at another Time to their Wickedness and Perfidy, their not crushing the French in the two last general Wars; when in Reality they failed of Success, not through Want of Power, but Want of Will. They did not Fancy, as some People on this Side of the Water did, or at least pretended so to do, that their Interests were Diametrical Opposite to those of France; but they judged it requisite to leave such a Strength in that Power, as might for ever secure to them the Advantages, which by the Assistance of that Power, they had gained by the Treaty of Westphalia. This secret Inclination for France, which we were pleased to call by the infamous Name of Treachery, appeared to them in the Light of Patriotism; for they wisely distinguished between a blind Fondness for their Country, and a Rational Concern for their being Free in that Country. They hated the French heartily, so long as they had Reason to fear them, but they loved themselves too well to suffer this Passion so far to get the better of their Understandings, as by undoing France, to leave it in the Power of the then Imperial Family, to undo themselves. These were then, these ever will be the Principles of their Conduct, and if we have not Penetration enough to see it, or Sense enough to regulate our Conduct thereby, this will not alter their Schemes, though it may perhaps ruin us.

That the present War in Germany is a fresh Proof of the Truth of these Maxims, and is so far from proving