

Man *positively* to defend the first as he cannot know the Springs of Action, so 'tis impossible, *absolutely* to applaud the last, except he can be certain, that *Ambition, Envy, or Ignorance* had no Part in their Sentiments. 'Tis possible a Minister could raise his Character and baffle all Opposition, were he at Liberty to tell the Publick what secret Advices he had received from Time to Time, which alter'd his Scheme of Politicks, and made That right to-day, which would in the Nature of Things be wrong to-morrow: But 'tis scarcely to be conceived that any Man, much less a prejudiced Person, shall raise Difficulties, and censure a Conduct where he can have no real Idea of the Affair, other than what the Minister shall think proper to communicate, which must always happen to be but a slender Part of the whole.

But Sir, Defending or Censuring is not my Province, it must suffice at present, that according to my Promise, I lay before you a Sketch of the *Profit and Loss* of this present War, and enable you to judge, whether it has been conducted in that blundering Manner, the Writers of a Party, and every News-Paper daily set forth.

In an Attempt of this Nature, 'tis impossible to ascertain the Number of Prizes, or absolutely