

the Empire became Elective, it was an Honour to which Princes of all Countries aspired, and amongst the rest the *English*. *Richard* Duke of *Cornwall*, Son to King *John*, and Brother to *Henry* III. was crowned Emperor at *Aix la Chapelle*, on the 2d of *May*, 1257, and this Piece of Vanity cost the Nation immense Sums of Money, of which when the *Germans* had got all they could, they fairly turn'd him out ; and having likewise drained considerable Sums from *Alphonso*, surnamed the wise King of *Castile*, they set up *Rodolph* Count of *Hapsburgh*, from whom the House of *Austria* are descended. He was succeeded by *Adolphus* Count of *Nassau*, who was opposed by *Albert* Son to the late Emperor, and we took Part in the Quarrel ; *Adolphus* served in our Army against the *French*, and at that Time we were weak enough to put ourselves to a vast Expence, to enable that Emperor to recover the Kingdom of *Arles* : For this Purpose we sent over to the Emperor *Adolph*, a vast Sum of Money, to raise Troops for the Support of the common Cause, which he employed in the Purchase of *Thuringia*, for his Family ; and *Albert* of *Austria* taking Advantage of this wrong Step, and being powerfully supported by *France*, attacked, defeated and killed the Emperor *Adolph*. On the Death of *Lewis* of *Bavaria*, the Electors chose *Edward* III. King of *England*, but he was too wise a Prince to be cheated by the Shadow of a Sovereignty, or to run into any Expences about it ; and therefore he wisely declined accepting this Offer, that he might not embarrass himself, or exhaust his Subjects. Throughout this Period of Time, the Policy of the *German* Princes, was plainly directed to the single Point of making the most of the Imperial Diadem, by offering it to such foreign

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