

policy of France, to mix itself in all quarrels in the Empire, and keep up the disputes of the contending parties as long as it can ; till one or the other is reduced, or they shall both see their interest to agree.

Should England or Holland take the opposite part in any such dispute, this would be a still greater misfortune ; and could only serve to extend and multiply the evil, and lengthen the continuance of it : and, whoever be the parties, or whatever be the event of the war, must be a misfortune to Europe ; and so long as it continued must be a weakening of Germany, and a service to the cause of France.

Thus let the whole force of Germany be considered as equal to a hundred : and let any two powers of it be at war together, whose force shall be to each other as eight to ten of those parts. So far as this war goes, it is a loss to Europe by the destruction or diminution of the force of eighteen parts. If the quarrel be adopted by any of the other powers of Germany, that produces a loss or diminution of so many more parts : If France, to keep up the contest, should take the weaker side, and add to the power whose force is eight, so as to make it superior to ten, the evil is not lessened, but made greater. Should England be so unfortunate as to join in the contest, and send its land force of fifty into the war, and France there-

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