

State of former Wars, and made *Essays* to come at the *Profit* one Side or the other have made by them. In some we have found that the Success has not been answerable to the Justice of the Cause. In others, we have agreed that *Right* has triumph'd, and Oppression and Violence been subdued; and in others, both parties have contended, till *neither* had any thing to lose. But arguing from Consequences is fallacious, for Accidents of a Thousand different Natures will intervene in the best Cause, and ruin the best concerted Scheme Human Nature can produce.

For this Reason all wise Governments endeavour to evade even a *just War*, whilst there remains a Probability that their *just Demands* may be granted without it.

Thus in the Case of the present War. All *England* knew they were ill-us'd; every Individual was exasperated against *Spain*, and the Merchants felt the Effects of their *Depredations*. Could a Government sit still and laugh at the Calamity of the Subject? No surely, but on the other hand, neither could they, nor ought they, to plunge the Nation precipitately into a War.

Many were the Remonstrances made to *Spain* to redress the Merchants, which, with some