

justly merits, yet as matters of this nature is like navigating in uncertain climates, amongst rocks, shoals, and quicksands; so it may not be in the power of the ablest pilot to extricate himself from the danger, it not so much depending on wit, spirit, and judgment, as on favourable and friendly weather.

In the formation of this scheme, a great extent of genius was not in any sense requisite; it being simply plain, that neither the court of Vienna, nor the states of Holland, either could, or would in earnest, support a barrier against France. The next reflection was very natural, that the French would soon be masters of the Netherlands, by that means open a free passage into Germany on that side, and at the same time either be absolute masters of the seven united provinces, or at least so powerful a neighbour as always to direct their measures.

This nobody could perceive better than the king of Prussia, whose inclination at once to save Hanover and Holland, exactly coincides with the notions of the British ministry; there was no great difficulty in bringing those together, whose sentiments
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