

any kind of œconomy in our having put ourselves in three years time to an expence of twelve millions, to prevent France from getting six hundred thousand pounds out of Germany ?

But the poor people, it may be said, deserve our compassion. True, they do so ; and for that reason we ought to let them alone, and not make their country the theatre of a war, which must ruin them. A small State, which is invaded by the armies of one infinitely greater than itself, is doubtless under a great misfortune ; all resistance is useless, and it has nothing to do but submit. But there is a way of doubling this misfortune ; and that is, by having another great State, almost equal to the invader, undertake the defence of it. If the country submit, it has but one army to maintain ; and may in the beginning yield upon terms, which are tolerable ; but if it be defended, it has then two armies in it, and is sure to be oppressed by them both. An army is a many headed monster, that must be fed ; and the defending army ought to have as many mouths, as the attacking ; and each will get but all they can from the poor inhabitants.

We have indeed heard, with concern, of turning a country into a mere desert. But what was the reason ? Not because the country was conquered ; that is a reason for preserving it ; but to prevent the danger of its being lost.

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