

weak enough to exchange the most valuable Rights of their Posterity, for a Mefs of *Soup Maigre*. — Or suppose *Gibraltar* and *Minorca* to continue ours, it will then be observed, where is the mighty Merit of this? They were ours before the War, and it is a poor Satisfaction for Thirty or Forty Millions, to boast of being just *in statu quo*, with respect to our Possessions. But besides, tho' *Gibraltar* and *Minorca* be valuable Possessions, it must be confess'd they have cost us dear, and it is not very clear, that they have answer'd all the ends of supporting them. We experienced to our comfort at the beginning of the War, how prodigious a *Levant* Trade the *French* had acquired, and Ships of ours have been taken within Sight of *Gibraltar*, in Spite of any thing the Men of War there stationed could do to save them. Would not a wise Administration have considered all this, and have taken some valuable Equivalent, either in Money or Dominion? But our Misfortune is, that our M——rs consider their present Reputation more than public Utility. They fall in with every popular Humour, tho' to the manifest Detriment of their Country. This indeed would be a tolerable Motive, were it the
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