

whole Course of his Administration. But, so it seems, the Fulness of Time for his resigning was not yet arrived ; he was not yet tired of *guiding* and governing. But when he had taken a nearer View of the Port, to which the Vessel was driving with all the Sails he had crowded upon her ; when he saw the Rocks and Shallows and Breakers, that threatened his Entrance into the Harbour ; when he saw the Coast covered with the ship-wrecked Reputations of former Ministers, he prudently quitted the Helm, and retired, a simple Passenger, to his Cabin.

BUT really what had Spain *already done* ? She had written to France, to desire her good Offices with Great Britain ; that when her Minister was forming the general Articles of Peace, he might likewise pay some Attention to certain Matters of mutual Complaint between us and the Spaniards, which might possibly occasion some future Rupture between the two Kingdoms, and disturb the Tranquility of Europe. What is there either so injurious, or offensive in this Proceeding, that could have justified the Nation in declaring War, or could particularly justify the Minister, who had born, with rather a too passive Spirit, some real Indignities from the Spaniards ; some real Injustice.

BUT Mr. Buffy probably exceeded his Commission, or executed it with Insolence ; or if this Letter could reasonably give Umbrage to us, why not call for an Explanation of it ? Why not demand a Copy of it, and if denied—— “ No : the Spaniards will certainly declare War against us. Let us prevent them.” When it was urged, that they would think twice before they declared War against this Kingdom : “ I will not give them Leave to think,” was the spirited Answer of our Minister. “ This is the Time ; let us crush the