

*Austria*, especially in the last Century, has been chiefly employed in maintaining and preserving, as far as it was able, the Dominions of the lesser Princes of *Germany*, from the Incroachments of an ambitious Neighbour, always watching and constantly improving every Opportunity to aggrandize itself at their Expence, as appears from the many Cities and Provinces that have been torn from the *Germanick* Body, and at this Juncture are, and for a long Time have been, annexed to the Dominions of *France*.

The same Spirit of Ambition, the same Lust of Power, the same Desire of making all her Neighbours subservient to her Will, induced the *French* Monarchs of the House of *Bourbon* to disturb the Peace of the rest of their Neighbours, and to endeavour, by Methods the most unjust and indefensible, to lessen their Power, in order to exalt her own. It was this Sense of common Danger, and Desire of providing for their own Safety by a strict Union amongst themselves, that induced many of these Powers to ally themselves with the House of *Austria* and with the Empire; from whence arose the great Concern of many of the principal Powers in *Europe*, as well as the Empire in general, for the Support and Maintenance of the Power of that Family: Experience had shewn that nothing but the Power of the House of *Austria* employed in Defence of the Empire, could have preserved many of its Princes and States from being swallowed up by the Power of *France*, which by the *Germanick* Body could be no other way considered, than as a Dissolution; and a Mortification in the Political Body, like that in the Natural, being begun in the Members, must, by a certain Progression, have soon reached the Vitals.