

Neglect of not expressly declaring that the Allies should be at Liberty to re-fortify *Mons, Aeth, Oudenarde* and *Menin*: No one can now doubt that *France* would immediately take Umbrage in case of such an Attempt, would complain of Designs formed on her State, and with her Arms disturb the Works; if nothing of this sort should happen, it is more owing to the *Inability* of the Empress than the *Care* of the Treaty; however it is far from an Impossibility to put the Affairs of the *Low Countries* in a better Condition, and after some Time and proper Regulations to raise Funds for making those Places defensible. But I know not how to express to you the Amazement which I was under when I perceived that nothing was provided to remedy that Evil which gave Rise to the last War, and in the common Course of Things must inevitably produce another. It is not astonishing that we should at the Time of our Negotiation have rode triumphant in the Seas of the *East* and *West Indies*, of *Africa* and *Europe*, absolute Lords of the Ocean, and yet could not procure that single Naval Advantage, or rather that common Justice that our Ships should go free from the Search of the *Spaniard*?

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