

If every war between England and Holland, or between either of these and Germany, or in Germany itself, between any two States of the Empire, be, so far as it goes, a prejudice to Europe, and a security to France; it follows, that whenever such wars shall arise between any two German States, and much more between any two principal powers of Europe, it will be the policy of France to encourage and inflame them. Thus the French court, in Charles the II^d's time, encouraged the Dutch to undertake a war with the English, and afterwards excited the court of England to declare war against Holland, promising to both the assistance of their fleet, but leaving them both in battle to destroy each other.

On the other hand, whatever wars shall arise between any two States of Europe, or any two princes of the Empire, it will be the interest of every other State, except France, to compose these differences, if it can be done, by their mediation and good offices.

If every war, which arises between any two particular States of the Empire, be itself a misfortune, and contrary to the interest of Europe; the evil will be still the greater, and the mischief so much the more extensive, if France shall make itself a party in the war, and shall join itself to either of the two sides, to keep the dispute alive so much the longer. Accordingly we find that this has been the constant