

Princes and the States of *Germany*, that notwithstanding he was able to awe the Empire into acting against *France*, yet many of its Princes held a secret Correspondence with that Crown, from an Apprehension, that if *France* was reduced as low as the Confederates seemed desirous of seeing her reduced, it must then be a Prey to the Power of the House of *Austria*. On the other Hand, *England* and *Holland* bore much too large a Share in the Expence of that War, which involved them in Debts and Difficulties, with which they had much ado to struggle, and at the same Time, the Coldness and Inactivity of the Princes of the Empire, and the Pride and Poverty of the Emperor, who ready to promise, and ever failing in performing his Promises, deprived them of the Advantages they might otherwise have gained, and left *France* an Appearance of Superiority, though in Truth, she was much inferior in Force to the Allies. So that at last all Parties being weary, a Treaty of Peace was concluded at *Ryswick*, which rather pacified than composed the Troubles of *Europe*, and left both Parties at Liberty to form such Negotiations, as might enable them, in Case of a new War, to achieve what they had respectively intended when they entered into this.

The Reader will easily discern that the Weakness of the Empire, in this and in the succeeding War, was not owing to want of Force, but to a want of Resolution, and of a Desire of actually performing what they seemed to intend. The Truth of the matter was, that in Virtue of his hereditary Dominions, and the Influence of his Authority, the Emperor was in a Manner Master of the Imperial Diet, and engaged the Empire to enter into Wars with *France*, as often as he found it convenient for his Interest: But as many of the Prin-

ces