

the higheft ; and I believe they might continue with little variation to the beginning of the War a few Years after. Here then I fix the Meridian of the *French* Greatness and *Lewis's* Glory, to which the Domestick Administration of *Colbert* contributed more than all the Victories of *Condé* and *Turenne*.

BUT it seems Prosperity has in it self the Principles of its own Destruction. *Lewis*, intoxicated with good Fortune, began a most barbarous Persecution against such of his own People as happened not to be of his Religion, contrary to all the Rules of good Policy ; and as for his Neighbours he ravaged their Dominions, and violated the most solemn and sacred Engagements *de gayeté de Cœur*. Above half a Million of his most valuable Subjects fled from his unnatural Cruelty, and together with their Effects, carried with them their Industry and Arts wherever they went, to the irreparable Loss of their Native Country. Thus the bigotted Tyrant tore up the Roots of his own Power. To precipitate
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