tain degree, and for a certain time; till the Germans ſhall ſee their own intereſt, and the French ſhall make themſelves odious. But if, as often as France declares on one ſide, England adopts the other, how is Germany relieved? France will always take care to ſend troops enough to keep the balance even; and all that England can do by its officiouſneſs, will be the drawing ſo many more parts of Germany into the quarrel, and enabling the Germans to cut each others throats ſo much the longer. That is, leave the French to themſelves, they will doubtleſs do as much miſchief as they can; but in time they may make themſelves generally hated, and the Germans wiſe enough to agree: and England, ſo long as it continues neuter, will be courted by both parties, and by its good offices may mediate a peace between them: but the hope of peace vaniſhes, the inſtant we declare for either of the parties; which are thereby ſet the farther at variance. That is, we double the calamity to Germany, and divide with France the odium of it.

But if the French are left to themſelves in Germany, this will increaſe their influence in the ſeveral courts of it. For a time it may; but Britain cannot help that. So long as the contending parties are exaſperated againſt each other, England, by eſpouſing the cauſe of either, cannot probably benefit the ſide it adopts; certainly cannot benefit itſelf, and only makes the influence of France over the other ſide ſo much the ſtronger.

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