

P R E F A C E.

itary a mighty Advantage; and the costly and even mean Flatteries and Cares that were employ'd to detach that Prince, and the Triumphs us'd on that Success, should confirm the Opinion: But what Effect had it? None to the Advantage of our Adversaries. Some casual Deficiencies at Home defeated the Designs abroad, otherwise our Enemies might in this last Interval have felt more Evils, then, I hope, we shall ever now have occasion to wish to 'em. For the *Great King* condescends that the House of his Majesty shall become the Place of Treaty for Peace, and there settles to the *Empire* and *Spain*, Barriers so firm and strong, that their Enemies cannot by Force, in Ten Years, recover what was by Agreement restor'd to 'em here, except gross Negligence, Treachery or Discord open their Gates, which are Evils the Possessors only can provide against. For, in the present Circumstances of *Europe*, all any single State should reasonable wish, is, to be in a Condition to prevent Surprize from a Neighbourhood, and to have a Power sufficient to defend it self *for some time*; and then doubtless those Potentates whose Interest it is, that the Aggressor should not, by the Ruin of another, grow too powerful, will come to the Assistance of the Oppressed: For the late celebrated League does demonstrate, That the Gross of Mankind seldom vary from their Interest, when they know it and
are