

prejudice of Europe : because it is a weakening of the rivals of France ; and keeping those powers at variance, from whom France can have nothing to fear, but in their union.

Ever since the times immediately preceding the treaty of Westphalia, it has been the constant aim of the French government to establish an equality of power and independence among a number of princes in Germany, and to keep them as much as possible divided from each other, both in interest and in religion. The crown of Sweden, and the Protestant States of the Empire, had for many years preceding that treaty, been indangered by the power of the House of Austria : and therefore, when Gustavus Adolphus declared war against it, France, to serve its own purposes, willingly entered into alliances with him, and his succeeding generals, through the whole course of the war : and the Cardinals Richlieu and Mazarine, while they were persecuting it in France, became the Defenders of the Protestant Faith in Germany. This independency of the several German States, which was so firmly established by the treaty of Westphalia, is what the German Princes call the Liberties of Germany, and the System of Germany. And the French willingly guarantied this treaty ; knowing, that while they kept Germany thus divided, they themselves should be the less indangered by it.