





S O M E
REMARKS

UPON A

PAMPHLET,

ENTITLED,

A short VIEW of the State of Affairs, with relation to *Great Britain* for Four Years past.



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S O M E

REMARKS, &c.

THERE has lately appear'd a Pamphlet entitled, *A short View of the State of Affairs,* &c. which for the Substance of it, very little deserves our Consideration; but nevertheless, I think myself oblig'd to take some Notice of it, because it is publish'd by Authority. (I mean, by Mr. *Francklin.*)

The true Occasion of this Book appears to be the late Treaty of Peace; but, as there was not a great deal to be said against it, it was thought proper to enlarge the Subject, by tacking to it some of those Arguments which have for some Years employ'd us, notwithstanding they have been already sufficiently answer'd.

It would be unnecessary for me to examine into the Cause of the *Vienna-Treaty*, or to give Reasons for our refusing the sole Mediatorship, and for entering into the *Hanover-Treaty*; because these have been already set in a clear Light by the Author of the *Enquiry*—and I am certain that, if after the Confession of the King of *Spain's* own Ministers, after his late Majesty's Affirmation of it, and after so many Circumstances, which were sufficient, without farther Grounds, to satisfy any reasonable Man: I say, if, after all this there are some, that either do

not, or will not believe, that the *Emperor* and *Spain* had enter'd into Engagements prejudicial to the Peace of *Europe*, those Persons are not to be convinc'd by any Means in Nature.

The Gentleman is extremely willing to blame the Ministry of *Great-Britain*, for having concluded the Treaty at *Hanover*, and no-body is surpriz'd at him for it; but we may very well be astonish'd that he should expose himself so much, as to find Fault with us for making an Alliance in Opposition to a formidable one, already in being against us—How much soever he may be displeas'd that the Nation has by that Means preserv'd itself from Ruin; yet I think it would be more for his Interest to conceal his Uneasiness.

As for the Expence of our Three Squadrons, the Patience we exercis'd in the Affair of *Gibraltar* and the *Spithead-Expedition*, which he ridicules so much, the Success they have all had is a Proof of their Necessity, or at least it is so far a Proof of the Judgment of the present Administration, that leaves no Room for them to be found Fault with.—And let any Man answer me this Question, Whether, in all Probability, we could have terminated our Differences so soon, and whether our Expence had not been greater, if we had gone to War? It certainly would; we should have lost more Men in one Battle, and we should have spent more Money in one Year, than this Affair, tho' so very tedious, has cost us all this while.

When Gentlemen seem to be surpriz'd at the Time that our Negotiations have taken up, they greatly betray their Ignorance in Affairs of that Nature. They are much mistaken, if they think a Treaty is made with as much Ease and Expedition as a Treasonable Libel, or a *Craftsman*.

I cannot help thinking that he has acted very ridiculously, in blaming the Government for publishing a Pamphlet call'd, *Observations upon the late Treaty of Seville*; not only because he shews by finding Fault with these less material Circumstances, that he is at a Loss for something to blame, but because in reality they could not have done any Thing more obliging.

He makes a very extraordinary Assertion, which is this, That we have *strain'd the Treaty to a Sense which the Words will not bear, and could not possibly be intended by the contracting Parties*. By this he either pretends to know more of a Transaction in which he had no Hand than those who transacted it, which is impudent and absurd; or else he must confess what he will not care to own, that he carries on a Correspondence with the Ministers abroad.

The Author at last, after having taken up 22 Pages about Things either trifling or entirely foreign to the Purpose, begins to consider this new Treaty. The first Thing he takes Notice of, is the securing the Succession of *Don Carlos* to the Dutchies of *Tuscany, Parma and Placentia*. He says, he is very much surprized that our Ministers should so suddenly alter their Opinions, and now be the most forward in the Quarrel of a Person, whom they represented but a short Time past to be a Bugbear to all *Europe*.

This very Circumstance is sufficient to convince any unprejudic'd Person, that this Gentleman either wants common Honesty or common Sense. *Don Carlos* was never said to be that terrible Man on Account of this Succession. It was not the Possession of a small Tract of Land in *Italy* that would have made him universal Monarch. It was an Alliance he had enter'd into with the *Emperor*, in Consequence of which he was to marry the eldest Arch-Duchess to be Heir to the *Austrian* Dominions, and consequently to be Emperor. It was the Prospect he had of becoming King of *Spain*, his elder Brother being very

unhealthy; and it was the Probability of his being King of *France*, if the present King had died, (he then having no Son.) All which was certainly sufficient to give us some Uneasiness.

But the Case is alter'd. The Alliance between the *Emperor* and *Spain* is fortunately broke, he is not to marry the Arch-Dutchess, and will consequently have no Interest in the Empire. His elder Brother is now grown healthy, and is marry'd; and the King of *France* has three or four Children: So that now, instead of its being likely that *Don Carlos* should be Emperor of *Germany*, King of *Spain*, and King of *France* at one and the same Time; if it were not for these *Italian* Dominions, it is very improbable that he would ever have a Foot of Land in the World.

And after this, I submit it to the Judgment of any one, whether it is fair, just or honourable, to blame our Ministers for altering their Opinion when the Face of Affairs is so wonderfully chang'd

But, before I leave this Head, we will consider what we have done in this new Treaty to give the *Emperor* any Cause for being angry with us. We have now done no more than he himself did by the Quadruple Alliance. He consented to the settling *Don Carlos* in *Italy*, in the very same Countries; and in order to secure them to him, he agreed that the chief Fortresses should be garrison'd with the same Number of Troops. The only Difference is, that *Spain* having good Reason to doubt the *Emperor's* Sincerity, do not think themselves so secure with Neutral Troops (which they were to have been) as with a Body of Soldiers of their own Country.

And therefore, as the Difference is so small, and what Difference there is, is calculated only for the Performance of a Thing, which he has pretended to be as zealous for as ourselves, he cannot oppose it without declaring publickly, that he engaged to do what he never design'd to perform.

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And if the *Emperor* has little Reason to complain, so I am sure we have very little, since we by this Means save the Payment of Two Thousand of those Neutral Troops, which we were before oblig'd to maintain.

As for the Consequence of the Peace, I cannot pretend to assert positively that the *Emperor* will not go to War about it: But, according to all human Probability he will not, because he cannot have any lawful Pretence for it; and that he really has no great Prospect of Success.

But, supposing we were sure of a War with the *Emperor*, I cannot so far agree with our Gentleman, as to think that a War with him would be more burthenfome and impracticable to us than a War with *Spain*. It was always my Opinion, and it has been generally understood to be that of the whole Nation, that we are better able to bear any Expence when we have the Assistance of a beneficial Trade to help us, than when we draw all that we spend from a Treasure which receives no Increase. In short, a Man that denies this may as well assert, that a Vessel that leaks at the Bottom, tho' it is continually replenish'd at the Top, will empty itself sooner than another Vessel which has the Leak, but not the Liquor to supply it.

The second remarkable Particular which he has taken Notice of is the Affair of *Gibraltar* and *Port-Mahon*. And upon my Conscience, I don't see how those important Places could be better secur'd to us. Had the King of *Spain* made the most formal and express Renuntiation of them, they would not have been confirm'd to us any otherwise than by a Treaty; and that they now are by the Treaty of *Utrecht*. Whatever Objection can be made to the Validity of such a Concession, will be equally an Objection to the Validity of any Treaty that ever was made from the Beginning of the World to this Time, or can be ever made hereafter.

As for his Jesuitical Quibble concerning the Difference between the Words *Possessions and Kingdoms, States and Dominions under our Obedience*, it is too mean to be answer'd; and I am sure, very inconsistent with the Rank which he bears in the World, and more so with his Professions of Sincerity and Honesty.

But *Gibraltar* is not only confirm'd to us by the Treaty of *Utrecht*, but is guaranty'd to us together with all other Territories which belong to us by *France*, and even by the King of *Spain* himself.

The second Point relates to the Restitution and Reparation which is obtain'd by this Treaty to our Merchants. He pretends there is no Hopes of Satisfaction at all, since these Enquiries are to last three Years; and that since the King of *Spain's* Losses in the Year 1718, are to be consider'd, and that there's a Possibility they may be made to over-balance the Merchants Accompts, he concludes it will be so.

It were to be wish'd, indeed, that it were possible to adjust Differences of this Nature in a Moment; but such Affairs must always take up a great deal of Time. Vouchers and Witnesses must go backwards and forwards, not only from *England* but from *America*; but however, I have not observ'd any Article in the Treaty to prevent the settling these Things sooner, if it can be done.

And after all, would any Man say it were just to deny the King of *Spain* Liberty of examining into his Losses, if he thinks he has had any? Or not to give him the Satisfaction of seeing whether our Merchants have represented their Damage fairly? We all know that many of them have carry'd on an unlawful Trade, and consequently were lawfully seiz'd; and in that Case, would it be reasonable for the King of *Spain* to make Restitution?

These are all the most material Objections which have been made against the Treaty; and I really believe

believe the Body of the People will not think that they are sufficient to hinder us from calling it with Reason, a just, an honourable, and an advantageous Peace.

It is *just*, because we have taken all reasonable Methods to obtain Reparations for the Losses of the Merchants; *honourable*, because we have enter'd into no Engagements but what are agreeable to Justice, to former Treaties, to the Interest of *England* and Advantage of *Europe* in general, by settling that Ballance of Power, which is so absolutely necessary for the Safety of every Kingdom. And lastly, it is *advantageous*, because it preserves, and confirms to us those Possessions which we esteem most valuable; it restores our Trade, which was before in a bad Condition, and will in all Probability prevent a long and bloody War, of which no Man could have foreseen the Consequence.

And now, since discontented Persons will find Fault with this, (tho' by the By, the most violant of their Party have publicly confess'd it was as good a one as the Circumstances of our Affairs could admit of) let those Men form a Treaty just as they would have it, and publish it to the World, we should then be convinc'd of their Capacity for publick Business, and the Condition the Nation would be in, if they could obtain their Desires.

Before I conclude, I cannot but take Notice of the Fidelity of a certain Power, which has been shamefully used in the most publick Manner. From the whole Beginning of this unfortunate Business they have been as hearty in our Cause as we would have been ourselves. Upon the Siege of *Gibraltar* they offer'd to declare War immediately; but the Preliminaries being then forming, our Ministers were unwilling to have it lye upon their Consciences, that they had engaged in Blood whilst there was Hopes of Peace; and not long ago they agreed with us to do it in a very short Time, had not the happy Conclusion of the Peace prevented it, They

They have constantly been at a prodigious Expence, and at a moderate Computation, they have annually exceeded upon this Account, above 1,500,000 l.

And yet, after all this Charge, they have agreed to this Treaty, without obtaining for themselves any other Benefit than that of preventing a War, and establishing Quiet once more in *Europe*.

To conclude. Notwithstanding the Discontent of some few in this Kingdom at this Peace, in all other Countries they are amazed that it should come out so much to our Advantage; and every Body is of Opinion, that no other Potentate in *Europe* has gained from it as ourselves.

F I N I S.

