

T H I N G S

S E T I N

A P R O P E R L I G H T.

B E I N G

A full ANSWER to a Noble AUTHOR's
MISREPRESENTATION of

T H I N G S A S T H E Y A R E.

L O N D O N,

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T H I N G S

S E T I N A

PROPER LIGHT, &c.

NOTHING but a love of truth on one hand, and an entire conviction on the other, that she must triumph in the end (over all the combined efforts of genius, eloquence, and art) could have induced us, thoroughly sensible of our own weakness, to enter the lists with so formidable an antagonist as the author of the late political pamphlet called *Things as they are*.

The dangerous doctrine therein concealed under a seductive mask of the most genuine patriotism, is so implicitly received, as to call aloud for an answer, by which *Things set in a proper Light* may put a stop to the spreading contagion, whose fatal

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tendency may, perhaps, be, thro' a very artful and strained exaggeration of inconveniencies, real or imaginary, to which Hanover subjects us, to alienate the minds of the people from their allegiance to his most gracious majesty, and their well-founded esteem for the present truly British administration; which heaven and the guardian angels of liberty avert.

While we admire the abilities of the writer, our constitutional principles, and zeal for the happy establishment we live under, incite us to expose his sophistic insinuations, and the fallacy of his doctrine in general.

We therefore shall begin with his article of assumed modesty, in order to win his readers over to him, tho' the tenor of his conduct throughout the pamphlet be quite contrary to so very plausible a declaration.

“ The following sheets then are not
 “ impudently meant to set up a private
 “ opinion, in opposition to the public au-
 “ thority of those great and wise states-
 “ men, at present so happily and so glo-
 “ riously

“ riously in charge with the conduct of
 “ the British *system*, if any *such* system
 “ there exists ; but purely to state mat-
 “ ters of fact, so as to put every one
 “ into a way of exercising his own judg-
 “ ment upon them, with a request to every
 “ reader, which surely will not appear a
 “ very *immodest* one, of his not preferring
 “ any man’s reason to his own, nor any
 “ prejudices he may have imbibed, to his
 “ own conviction of truth.”

You will notwithstanding, courteous reader, be soon convinced, that the chief purport of this *modest* requester, is to set up his *private opinion in opposition to the public authority of those*, &c. Nay, here the impatience of his party-principles draws aside the mask too soon, by invidiously insinuating, that even now we have no political system ; which is a tenet in direct contrariety to the general opinion, that is as fastidious of our having one, since disinterested *Palinurus* took upon him the steering of our state-helm, as it had been the universal outcry heretofore ; and is now the

people's confirmed sense, that there was none before his condescending in pity to his country to be a minister.

To render Hanover contemptible, and to wean our affections from espousing the Prussian hero's cause, seem to be the main drift of this elaborate piece ; as for instance :

“ France, whom he had twice left in
 “ the lurch, could have no great confidence
 “ in him, and imagined she should make
 “ her market better with Austria; now
 “ not only thoroughly indisposed towards
 “ this nation, but frightened at once at our
 “ desertion, and at the designs of Prussia
 “ against her.”

Instead of the partial charge of France being twice left in the lurch by his Prussian majesty, without specifying the reasons and provocation why ; it would have been much fairer to have recounted the mighty obligations the French king and kingdom were under to him, and which it will never be in their power to repay. He rescued France from ruin, and perhaps

Lewis

Lewis the Fifteenth from falling into the hands of his enemies (but now unnaturally allied friends) the Austrians.

The time we speak of was, when the present French king lay dangerously ill at Metz ; when Prince Charles of Lorraine had crossed the Rhine ; when in the pockets of slain Mentzel, the famous partisan, a plan was found, and a very practicable one, of levying contributions even to the gates of Paris with the Austrian irregulars.

There being no certain commander during the grand monarch's malady, the confusion and consternation of the army he had with him would soon have rendered it an easy conquest to the enemy. The provinces between Lorraine and Paris apprehended immediate devastation, and an universal dismay reigned in Paris, seeing no hope of relief by any exertion their nation's strength could then afford them ; for Count Saxe at that time covered French Flanders, by marching and counter-marching, in order to keep in play the allied army of Dutch, English, and Hanoverians. In

In this deplorable situation of the affairs of France, the King of Prussia marched forth their deliverer at the head of his army. His rapid progress to Prague obliged Prince Charles to repass the Rhine, and hurry back as fast as he could to protect Bohemia, and renounce the flattering opportunity of invading France.

That kingdom's ingratitude since to their then saviour, illustrious Frederic, furnished him sufficient cause to give them reason to repent of their insincere dealing : nay, when thought proper at last for France's interest, that the two monarchs should come to a thorough explanation, it was discovered, that the ill treatment given the King of Prussia did not proceed from the French monarch, but from a treachery in his ministers, who had been tampered with by the court of Vienna.

The then cardinal, that old scarlet-robed priest Fleuri, fitter to be a superior over a seminary of young ecclesiastics, than to execute the weighty charge of ruling a kingdom, was won upon by petitionary
letters

letters to him from the Queen of Hungary, written in her own hand ; wherein she threw herself under his protection, styling him on all occasions *Mon cher Papa*, strenuously entreating, “ that for the honour
 “ of God and their holy religion, he would
 “ not permit her, a Roman Catholic sovereign, to be ruined by a heretic; and that
 “ he should consider what he must have
 “ to answer for before the tribunal of the
 “ Most High, before whom all state-juggling and political equivocation are of
 “ no avail.” But above all she bid him to reflect, what a scandal it must give to all true believers, that he should have concurred in ruining the antient house of Austria, and exposed its subjects (when under a Protestant prince) to the necessity of becoming heretics.

Old Mother Fleuri blubbered at the part where the Queen of Hungary, in the style of a daughter, painted her distress ; and afterwards looked aghast, as if besieged by a legion of demons, on reading the several *anathemas* she denounced against him,
 if

if he should abet any longer those out of the pale of the church.

In fine, the Hungarian queen's cunning had so great an effect upon the French ruling cardinal, that he counteracted the real designs of his royal master, and so far slackened the military operations against the Austrian interest, that France lost considerably in consequence.

When an *eclaircissement* of the transactions of those times was made, in compliment to the Prussian monarch's resentment; matters were so bolstered up, that Mons. Amelot, a creature of Fleuri's, was to stand in the gap to save his patron. Amelot accordingly was dismissed from his ministerial function with a pension; and from that period the cardinal dwindled in the esteem of his master, and formerly royal pupil; who, till that breach of confidence, by intercepting the King of Prussia's letters, had a kind of veneration for, which prevented his immediately discarding him with infamy.

There

There are several private anecdotes of those times, which remain as yet secrets in the cabinets of both courts, and may hereafter appear in future histories. Prussia's early diffidence of France has lately had fresh cause of confirming its first suspicion, in discovering that France had entered into a private treaty with Austria, Saxony, and Russia, against him.

This treaty also alarmed our sovereign in his double quality, as Elector of Hanover, and as King of England. As Elector of Hanover, his territories he saw would be liable to the incursions of the French; who, from our insular situation, could make no inroad upon England. His business was then to enter into an alliance with the only power that could be of any assistance to him, and defeat all schemes against the electorate, either from France or Austria; and that power which sound policy, as well as natural affection, pointed out to him was Prussia.

As King of England, his jealous fears against the encroaching power of France

were more alarmed than ever, because of its formidable alliance with the house of Austria ; the only in Europe that for a series of years had been able to oppose and occupy it on the continent ; that it should never at any one time think of bending its whole force against the British dominions : which (let us talk as big as we please occasionally) we should find a very difficult matter to resist for any length of time.

Deserted by Austria, forgetful of all her obligations to England, most of whose national debt has been contracted upon her account, his majesty's great prudence ; without loss of time, entered into an alliance with Prussia, the sweet effects of which we all enjoy : because since that æra, so glorious for the protestant religion, the vapouring French have ceased to threaten us with invasions in flat-bottomed boats. Nay, such a spirit of wisdom has guided our councils since, that we have turned the tables upon them.

What

What an indecent butcherly image is this of the immortal Frederic, in regard to her Hungarian majesty? "The sword of Prussia evidently whetted against her throat." It is to be presumed, from the elegant turn of that monarch's mind, if within reach of any lady, much more a queen, he would think of some more delicate operation than whetting a sword at her throat.

Thus far relates to the misrepresentation of our salutary alliance with Prussia. Let us now proceed to other matters, in which we shall find to the full as much candour.

"In September of that year his Prussian majesty made his irruption into the protestant electorate of Saxony, of which, by a new, and till then, unheard of distinction, he took possession in the form of a depofite.

"There is no need of characterising this step here." What our author means by his cautious circumspection we know not; for all the characterising that can be

given to this step is very obvious, to wit, that it was a prudent one.

If in private life A receives information that B, C, D, E, have entered into a private conspiracy to rob him of his property, and only wait for a fair opportunity to put their wicked plot in execution; will it not, according to all laws human and divine, be pardonable in A to be beforehand with them, in order to defeat the completion of their wicked scheme ?

What more has the King of Prussia done than disabled B, his next neighbour, from doing him any harm ? The temporary seizure of his electorate, &c. is to be looked upon as nothing more than the wresting a sword out of a man's hand intent upon mischievous deeds; which is to be returned to him when all dangers shall be over, and he reason'd out of his bad connections, and dissuaded from pursuing a wicked plan.

The King of Prussia never meant to keep possession of Saxony longer, than till the

the present disagreeable disputes should be blown over ; and the dove returning with her olive branch restore peace, happiness, and universal harmony among the principal members of the Germanic body.

Our paradoxical author says, “ The war “ was hotly carried on in Germany ; a war “ that seems to have been a contest for “ which side should commit the greatest “ blunders ; those of Prussia were, un- “ happily for him, the fewest.”

This word *unhappily* is truly marvellous by the place it occupies, and the sense it conveys ; or is it not rather a-kin to a blunder ? There is a novelty in advancing, that the happier of two contending parties is that which commits the greater number of blunders.

Nor is there less novelty in what our sagacious author asserts a little after, in regard to the success of the Prussian monarch : “ Two such victories as would, in “ former times have probably transferred “ the whole Roman empire to the gainer “ of them, have not as yet produced to
him

“ him the recovery of a part even of his
 “ own dominions, which is to this instant
 “ in the hands of his enemies.”

By this part of his dominions, Wesel we suppose is meant ; grant it. But in virtue of those victories, the electorate of Saxony (an infinitely more than equivalent) remains in his hands. With what propriety the transferring of the Roman empire, in consequence of two such victories, is alluded to here, does not immediately appear. If by it should be meant the number of the slain on the field of action, nothing is less true ; because it is well known, even to the least conversant in history, that far greater numbers fell in battle (supposing equal forces) before, than since the invention of gunpowder.

The second character principally struck at after heroic Frederic's, is that of our noble *patriot*. There is a daringness of spirit to attack only the most distinguished personages, in order to dethrone them from the hearts of a zealous and admiring people.

The

The commonest English reader may guess who is glanced at in the following lines:

“ The nation in its hurry for a choice
 “ of new protectors, was contented to take
 “ the readiest and the first that presented
 “ themselves. These were those who had
 “ once before risen by the *speech trade*, in
 “ this speech-making age, and who had
 “ the most recently galled and fatigued,
 “ by popular harangues, especially against
 “ continental connections, those very mi-
 “ nisters, with whom they had for years
 “ continued very quietly, and tamely
 “ co-operating, in consequence of that
 “ wretched bargain they had once before
 “ made of the popularity they had ob-
 “ tained by abusing them.”

The latter part of this assertion is entirely false, if levelled at Mr. P—, because he never continued for a number of years quietly and tamely co-operating with the advocate for continental connections. As to the sneering expression “*speech-trade*,” all we shall reply (pitying the author’s prejudice or envy at the same time) is,
 that

that the greatest talents human nature is capable of, may be spoke gibingly of; nay, the cotemporaries of Demosthenes might have twitted him on account of his commanding eloquence, with the opprobrious term of "*speech-trade*."

"The dull nauseating farce of concerted, temporising, insignificant refignations was now played, and by amusing, satisfied the bulk of the people."

We appeal to the candour of the public, if this be not a very bare-faced misrepresentation of our disinterested patriot's retiring from a high station, rather than be participant of measures he looked upon as quite unconstitutional. It would have been but fair in our author, to have pointed out, and specified, wherein Mr. P—— has deviated from the principles he at first set out upon, and has always professed. Neither dogmatic assertions, nor striking periods, are proofs; they indeed may stun and dazzle weak intellects.

It appears to us from what has preceded, as well as from what follows, that our author

thor has had only a loop-hole view, and not a full or comprehensive one of the present administration of foreign as well as of domestic affairs ; and therefore reasons upon *Things as they are* in his own warped imagination, but not as they exist in reality : of which there are proofs in almost every page. But to avoid quoting the whole pamphlet, we have determined to confine ourselves to a few of the most glaring instances.

“ The period was come in which these orators, who had in a great measure gained their popularity, by fulminating against all continental connections, were whiffled round into advocates for perhaps the most dangerous one of all.”

Here again our author should have particularized who those orators are ; for we have the pleasure to assure the public, that their darling minister is not one of the number, and that he persists as firm as ever against pursuing any such continental measures, as may be detrimental to England’s interest ; then how can all this invective affect him ? This writer’s endeavours to strain every thing to a perverse sense, are manifest on all occasions.

“ Of all the injuries however done to that illustrious prince (the King of Prussia) not one can be a greater, from the ridicule of it, than the ranking amongst his motives the protection of the protestant religion.”

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There

There are few besides this gentleman who will think it an injury done to the King of Prussia to say that one of his motives to undertake the present war, was the protection of the protestant religion. The reasons to judge so, are stronger than those against it, can be. Was it not alarming, not only to a protestant prince, but even to every private member of the protestant religion, to see such a formidable alliance as the houses of Bourbon, Austria, Saxony; &c. confederated?

The long hereditary animosity between the two great Roman Catholic powers of Vienna and Versailles, hath perhaps prevented the protestant nations of Europe being hitherto obliged to embrace the Romish religion. And so sensible have the *jesuits* been of this truth, that in order to execute their coercive views upon the consciences of men, they have long laboured, and at last succeeded in bringing about a reconciliation between those mighty powers.

What a dreadful prospect is this alliance for protestantism? Nay, to what a low ebb would the protestant interest of Europe have been by this time reduced, were it not for the unexampled heroism of the Prussian monarch, and the victories which he has obtained contrary to all expectation. This unequalled hero is in our degenerate days, what the great Gustavus had been heretofore, the
rock

rock upon which all popish combinations have split, and been shipwrecked.

“ Yet ignorance, always credulous, and always furious to maintain the absurdities it has once swallowed, has found him amongst enthusiasts and methodists here, panegyrist of a principle that on this occasion never once entered his thoughts.”

To assert, that the defence of the protestant interest in Germany, never once entered into the Prussian king's thoughts, is very cavalier, when we reflect that this important object (perhaps dearer to him than any new acquisition of dominion) was propagated by his direction through all the protestant states of Germany.

Moreover, the reflection thrown out against the said monarch's admirers, here in England, is not only unpolite, but far from the chapter of fair play. Because it would maliciously insinuate his having none but among methodists and enthusiasts. Whereas it may, in contradiction, be asserted, and with the firmest confidence, that there is scarce a member of the established church in England, who is not a strenuous panegyrist of Frederic's wonderful exploits. Therefore we need not dwell any longer on the refutation of said falsehood.

“ His crushing a co-estate, which the first in Europe received the light of Protestantism from Luther, its first missionary, and
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“ had

“ had moreover the double merit of remaining firmly attached to that religion, under a Roman Catholic sovereign, and of its retaining its allegiance, though of that faith, can be no proof of his over-tenderness for any Protestants that should stand in the light of his political views.”

What a strange confusion of things is here ? The King of Prussia's original intent was not to crush a co-estate. All that he meant was, to oblige the Elector of Saxony to recede from that pernicious alliance he had entered into against him ; and, in consequence, to prevent the said elector's protestant subjects being employed against him, and through him against their own religion. That thereby he and his troops should avoid the necessity of shedding the protestant blood of the Saxon troops, through their faithful allegiance, when misled by their popish sovereign.

Answer us now, over-weening essayist, was not this a signal proof of his tenderness for Protestants ? Besides, was it not to be feared, that if the scheme of the grand alliance to crush Prussia should succeed, the Elector of Saxony, in complaisance to his powerful Romish allies, would take measures for forcing his subjects to become of his and their religion, as James the Second had vainly attempted the like in England, by the instigation of France ; of which kingdom the

the Elector of Saxony's daughter is now married to the presumptive heir. Had the author in question reflected on these accumulated circumstances, he could not have thus harshly pronounced.

“ But as to his Prussian majesty especially,
 “ no man in his senses will suspect him of
 “ so false a zeal, as that of kindling a war
 “ in favour of the protestant religion, when
 “ there was not the shadow of a proof, ei-
 “ ther of its being attacked by any Romish
 “ power, or of any intention of its being
 “ attacked.”

All this is *gratis dictum*, as we have already shewn. This Protean pamphleteer, not satisfied to divest the Prussian monarch of all affection, or concern for the protestant religion, would fain, in a very artful manner, insinuate his being an abetter of Popery: for thus he continues immediately after our last quotation from him:

“ No; he (the Prussian monarch) took a
 “ much better and more effectual way of
 “ serving it, (the protestant cause) and of
 “ shewing his sense of the weakness of the
 “ Roman Catholic religion, in the permis-
 “ sion he gave to the famous Mecenati,
 “ said to be the same man who some years
 “ ago appeared in England, under the as-
 “ sumed title of Count Ughi, to build a
 “ magnificent Romish church in the heart
 “ of

“ of his dominions, in his capital, in Berlin itself.”

What can be deduced from this fact, either in behalf of the Protestant, or of the Romish religion ? Nothing. It is indeed a great proof of the superiority of the Prussian monarch’s way of thinking, above that of all those enslaved by the prejudices of the countries they rule over.

“ In that concession too a begging brief for contributions to it, was included and authorized under the seal of his own chancery.” Well, Sir, this proceeding was very necessary, because without it none would have contributed to the building of said church.

“ The first stone of it was laid in his (the king’s) name by the Count de Haake, the thirteenth day of July 1746. A medal was struck on this occasion, with the following inscription : *Fautori suo religio romana catholica.*”

The history of the building of the great church of Peking, relates as much to the present war of Europe, as this of the Romish church in Berlin ; and nothing can be more vague or idle than the conclusion drawn from it, as here follows.

“ Superstition is always blind, and did not see in this indulgence that profound contempt of it, which is so evidently implied.”

With

With our very sagacious essayist's leave, it was not from a motive of contempt but from one of the soundest policy, that the king of Prussia gave permission to build a Romish church in his capital.

Because from observation and reading he was sensible how much several nations suffer by depriving themselves of the service of great men, when of a different from the prevailing religion. He therefore, towering above all prejudic, resolved soon after his accession to the throne of Prussia, that said kingdom should be the asylum of all great men, whose abilities should be debarred exertion in their native country, on the shameful account of their religion. Therefore, while Frederick adheres inviolably to the Protestant faith, he stretches out an inviting hand to the persecuted worthies of all other nations ; whom, if he cannot gain over to his way of thinking by mildness and example, he scorns to employ force, and leaves every man to enjoy his own religion in Berlin.

If the present monarch of France, being of an equally generous way of thinking with the Prussian, should allow a Protestant church for the free exercise of said religion in Paris, it would be a very strange way of reasoning to conclude, that such a permission proceeded from a profound contempt ; nay, to the full as absurd as if any one should say, that it was from a motive of profound contempt

tempt of Luther's religion, that Lewis the fifteenth made the late Marshal Saxe, a Protestant, captain-general of all his forces.---- This author's uncommon penetration finds cunning views, where none were certainly meant ; to wit :

“ Even the court of Rome, that has made “ so many bubbles, was on this occasion the “ bubble of that prince. The Pope expressed “ his grateful sense of that grant.”

It would be, in our opinion, not an easy matter to make it out, that the bubble-making court of Rome was become the king of Prussia's bubble, thro' the pope's expressing his grateful sense of that grant. The pope would have been greatly wanting to himself and that church, over which he presided, had he not done so. Moreover, the papal *thank-giver* was the late Lambertini, so universally esteemed throughout Europe by all sects; and who to his honour was called the *protestant pope*, by the ignorant part of his clergy, for having abolished several idle holidays, and superstitious practices.

Nay, we might assert (if we were persuaded the assertion would not have the same effect upon the pamphleteer under our observation, it had upon a protestant *hot-head*, in one of our coffee-houses) that on the occasion of the Romish church built in Berlin several letters passed between the late pope and his Prussian majesty---“ How, quoth

“ our

our zealot, “ *Frederick the Great* write to the
 “ pope; if true, he shall be no longer my
 “ hero, for whoever corresponds with the
 “ pope of Rome, cannot be a good Protestant,
 “ that is certain.”

This reasoning is not very dissimilar to that in *Things as they are*. The court of Rome thinks it a high acquisition, so far from being bubbled, whenever she can obtain permission to erect a *church* according to her rites, in kingdoms whose powers are of another persuasion. She hath appropriated funds and resources for all expences relative to the propagation of her doctrine, and to which there are some reasons to think that our shrewd remarker is not an implacable enemy, but rather a disguised, perhaps a jesuitical friend, and for these reasons,

1^o. By his endeavouring to excite jealousy in the protestant bosoms of this kingdom, against his Prussian majesty, as not being a violent assertor of the reformed religion, and his seeming to incline to popery, by his suffering a church of that persuasion to be built under his eye, in the very capital of his kingdom.

2^o. By running out into violent and unnecessary rants against the court of Rome, in the angry strain of a new convert from popery: a trite artifice of papists. For he thus expresses himself, with not altogether that christian meekness and charity recommended in the

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gospel,

gospel, and which those of the protestant religion are in general remarkable for.

“ Rome is a court of conservancy of some
 “ of the most blasphemous and absurd fic-
 “ tions that ever dishonoured the human
 “ understanding for swallowing them; a
 “ court that has put the sacred truths of the
 “ gospel to a not less vile use than that of
 “ making, under favour of them, its spurious
 “ ingraftment of those impostures go down,
 “ on which it has erected its whole system of
 “ lucre and tyranny.”

This impetuous volley of abuse, altho' directly levelled at the court of Rome, was intended to glance on the king of Prussia, for being a fosterer of her doctrine in his dominion, which the Author says is, *a system of lucre and tyranny*; that is the sting of his invective, which he would have applied to Frederick the great. He still continues to bewilder himself.

“ Whilst what it has the supreme impu-
 “ dence to call the *only* church, in which
 “ the salvation of mankind can be obtained,
 “ is palpably nothing but a strong hold of
 “ pillage and oppression, manned by knaves,
 “ and maintained at the expence of preju-
 “ dice-ridden fools.”

How can unfortified Rome be called a strong hold of pillage? and as to this strong hold being manned by knaves, nothing is more false, for his holiness's troops are stig-
 matized

matized throughout Italy, for ninnyism and cowardice. How then can they be the active constituents of a strong hold ?

This artful writer still harps on the King of Prussia's not acting in this war from any motive of *Protestantism*, in order to throw a damp upon our zeal in his behalf ; and grossly abuses all those sincere and honest people of England, who think their justly admired Frederic, acts if not solely, at least partly, from protestant views.

“ To those then, who are not groveling
 “ in the dirt of ignorance or of low pre-
 “ judice, beneath the reach of the influence
 “ of truth, nothing can be more clear than
 “ that lugging into the quarrel the Pro-
 “ testant religion, is in fact the greatest in-
 “ jury that can be done to it, or to that great
 “ prince, in whose favour they imagine so
 “ false and exploded a pretence, is of a na-
 “ ture to pass for a reason of our union with
 “ him, however emphatically it has been
 “ founded as such.”

It is amazing, how often this nice and casuistic gentleman returns to the charge ; as also, with what warmth he labours to unprotestant the King of Prussia's views in the present war. Why so much pains to invalidate that report, if some people, whether of St. Omer's or any other place, have not reason to apprehend the truth thereof, and therefore strenuously employ themselves to defeat

the to them dreadful consequences, which are as devoutly to be wished by all true constitutionists, unadulterated friends, to our present establishment in church and state.

The author of this insidious and danger-hatching pamphlet, not satisfied with having taken very indecent liberties with the King of Prussia's religious views, has the farther effrontery to travesty his military exploits ; and sneer at the progress of his arms.

“ His great exploits in Saxony met with quite another interpretation than he had given it in his *voluminous* manifesto. No lawrels could cover the baldness of his apology.”

The former phrase would insinuate the badness of his Prussian majesty's plea, because, according to an old vulgar notion, a good cause needs but a short defence ; but the King of Prussia, having published a voluminous one ; *ergo* his cause is bad : a pretty way of reasoning truly ! It was his delicacy of honour to be voluminous on this occasion, by nicely detailing every minute circumstance that gave occasion to his commencing the present war.

Knowing full well, in his great wisdom, how busy and active the enemies of his house, with their emissary legions, would be to blacken his cause, and misrepresent *Things as they are* ; he, in his ample and satisfactory manifesto, has supplied all friends, and the

well-wishers to his Arms, with sufficient arguments, all stamped with the seal of truth, to defeat his combined enemies, whose number is almost infinite, But his pious and heroic maxim is,

Si Deus pro nobis, quis contra nos?

If God be for, no matter what numbers arm against us!

The puerile figure of, “ No laurels could cover the baldness of his apology,” is the awkward winding up of a false evidence. But, in order to reduce these tropes to a little common sense; pray, why may not laurels, if sufficiently strewed, cover a baldness? and what monarch has ever gathered them faster than Prussia’s Frederic? Either in the arts of peace or war, has he not been equally crowned by the two *Minervas*?

The original passage, perhaps, from which this figure is lamely hauled in here, was written by doctor Garth; who if we remember right, expresses himself somewhere to this purpose, in regard to Dryden, for whom he had the greatest veneration, “ The falling off of his grey locks, and baldness of his head, served but to render his laurels the more conspicuous.”--But, it is the well known finesse of authors, when they find themselves weak in argument, to have recourse to figurative expression:

What

What immediately follows, indeed, is not figurative, but sheer abuse. “ The princes
 “ of Germany, imagined they had reason, in
 “ the fate of that electorate, to dread their
 “ own, whenever they should unhappily be-
 “ come obnoxious to the displeasure of his
 “ Prussian majesty.”

This is misrepresenting the sage monarch of Prussia, as a despotic monster who gives no other reason for his actions than his will ;
Sic volo, sic jubeo, stat pro ratione voluntas.

In the name of fair reasoning, what had any of the princes of Germany to fear for themselves from Frederic, in consequence of the fate of the electorate of Saxony, unless like its sovereign they should enter into combinations against him ? Therefore groundless is what follows :

“ They had seen him proceed, without
 “ other form of trial than that of a mili-
 “ tary execution, to drive an aged king out
 “ of his hereditary dominions.”

It was left to the option of that not aged king, to remain in the undisturbed possession of his dominions, if he would renounce the alliance he had entered into, and sign a neutrality ; which the more obstinately he refused, the more justly it alarmed the King of Prussia ; no part of whose conduct could have given any grounds to the following accusation, in regard to the powers of the empire :

“ They

“ They had seen others of the princes of
 “ Germany over-awed with threats of the
 “ same usage, some of which were actually
 “ executed. They had seen him, in short,
 “ with all the brow of despotism, give his
 “ fellow-subjects of the empire his will and
 “ pleasure for a law, his suspicions for proofs,
 “ his armies for pleaders, and his power for
 “ a reason.”

All this is without doubt spiritedly and
 cleverly said ; and if true, the Prussian mo-
 narch ought to be looked upon as a monster.
 But as mere assertion, however energetically ex-
 pressed, is no proof, sure the ingenious but
 partial writer ought to have produced a few
 corroborating facts, before he could expect
 our concurrence to the condemnation of so
 great a king.

Yet in another part of this pamphlet truth
 escapes from this author in regard to the
 King of Prussia, where, in contradiction to
 what is here advanced, he says of him,
 “ He has given undoubted proofs of his
 “ not being animated by the spirit of con-
 “ quest, or oppression, since even after his
 “ victories he has, of himself, offered terms
 “ of peace.”

This fact is undeniable ; for he has hitherto
 marched with the olive-branch in one hand,
 and the sword in the other, ready to lay
 down the latter and present the former, when
 those powers, of whom he has justly ground-

ed jealousies, shall think proper to make him easy on that head.

But from this escape of truth, the said author relapses into strange vagaries about the possible contingencies from the present war. " He (the King of Prussia) cannot now but see, that the levelling the house of Austria to the dust, is a task more dangerous than he might at first apprehend."

In the first place it is very much to be doubted, that he has ever had it in his views to level the house of Austria to the dust; and in the second place, if he had, he has too great a knowledge of the state of Europe, his own strength, and the military art, not to competently know how far dangerous such an undertaking must prove, notwithstanding that the Austrian power is here so greatly magnified.

" It is a colossus that, should it even fall by his efforts, must fall upon himself, and crush him with its weight." Why so, pray? It is not long since we have seen the Imperial diadem wrested from the house of Austria, and transferred to that of Bavaria; where it must have continued to this day, but for reasons too tedious to enter on here, and which cannot at all make for our author, who inconsequently says,

" All Europe shaken to its foundations,
" and Germany especially enraged to see its
" system

“ system overturned, its laws trampled upon,
 “ or derided, could not but unite for re-
 “ venge on the author of all this ruin, and
 “ especially to obstruct the advantage he
 “ should reap from it.”

Why all Europe should be shaken, to its foundations, we cannot see, no more than any cause for Germany's being enraged, since we see no power bent to overturn her system, trample upon, or deride her laws. If, however, there can be any such, according even to this party-pamphlet, it cannot be the king whom it declares to have already made offers of peace: yet our prevaricating author says elegantly, but not truly, “ Peace is a horizon that flies before him.” On the contrary, she attends him ready to put an end to the horrors of war, when his combined enemies shall renounce their confederacy against him.

The covered wickedness of this pamphlet at length glaringly breaks out; for, having thus far endeavoured to sink the Prussian monarch in the esteem of his zealous friends, the people of England, now to do it more effectually, a disadvantageous picture of him in regard to the said people is exhibited.

“ In the mean time, few who do justice
 “ to the depth of penetration, and to the
 “ solid way of thinking of his Prussian ma-
 “ jesty, can suppose him to be the bubble
 “ of all the popular acclamations, and en-
 F “ thusiasm

“ enthusiasm of admiration for him here.” In the name of common sense, what room is there to suppose him a bubble, and of what ?

“ He has reason indeed to imagine they serve his own present point with us ; but beyond that, he knows how to value them at no more than they are worth.” To despise them then is to be supposed, a pretty gentle hint of his royal ingratitude for our national and religious zeal in his behalf. Sly emissary of France and Rome, now the cloven foot appears. This artifice to cause dissension among us, and according to the old maxim, divide and govern, will not do ; tho’ indeed it must be owned that you have laboured the point, in a very masterly manner. What follows is not a whit less artful than what has preceded.

“ He cannot but see with contempt Englishmen pluming themselves upon victories not won by Englishmen, and the public attention lacqueying all his motions, as if the fate of Britain was to turn upon them.”

And perhaps without straining points it in some measure does ; for suppose (which thank heaven, and his superior abilities, there is not the least danger of) his Prussian majesty were to be crushed by the combined efforts of France, Austria, and their tools, might they not then turn against us ? — a word

word to the wife is sufficient: We know what card might be played; and we also know in the present very critical juncture of affairs, how ready the ungrateful Dutch would be to co-operate in any scheme, either with their troops or ships to annoy, and throw us into confusion.

Now let us take a view of what this declaimer says of the French affairs. "D'Etrees, the French general, having been sacrificed to a court-cabal, had quitted his command, and delivered up his army to his successor Richlieu."

"The military reputation of this man had been but very little raised by the surrender of Minorca to him, amongst the French especially, to whom the defence of the place had not appeared in quite so high a light as the title and ribbon conferred on the person who lost it, attested here."

The author, almost tired of abusing the Prussian monarch, to vary the subject a little, makes a short tour to France for invidious informations, to indirectly reflect upon the judgment of our most gracious sovereign, and tear the hard-won laurel from the aged brow of Lord Blakeney.

The military capacity of Richlieu (which our author inclines to depreciate) has been established since the battle of Fontenoy. For to his preference of mind, relative to the four pieces of cannon, which (the French army

being all in confusion) he ordered down to play upon the English column, that Voltaire elegantly calls,

“ *Cette masse de feu, cette horrible colonne*
 “ *Que la terreur devance, que la flamme en-*
 “ *vironne !* ”

“ A mass of moving fire ! tremendous
 “ column ! preceded by terror, and wrapt
 “ in flames ! ”

and also to Richlieu's intrepid example, charging at the head of several corps, the success of that day was chiefly owing. See *Voltaire's History of the last War*.

But the drift here is through Richlieu's suspected military character to degrade Lord Blakeney, and reflect on our sovereign's judgment ; for it is a received maxim, that nothing stigmatizes a nation more than an injudicious dispensation of rewards and punishments.

Minorca was vigorously defended as long as so scanty, and almost unofficered a garrison was able to do duty. It signifies but little how strong a place is, if there be not men sufficient to man, nor the requisite number of officers to direct them ; or that the too frequent return of duty quite harrasses them.

Lord Blakeney held out as long as could be done in such disagreeable circumstances ;
 and

and the high compliment paid to him by the French commander for his gallant defence of Fort St. Philip, will be recorded in history as a standing testimonial in his behalf.

Richlieu's being the distinguished favourite of his master, drew on him the jealousy of most ranks of men, particularly of the military, who therefore were very industrious to make flight of his invasion of, and subduing of Minorca. We shall not pretend to apologize for his conduct in Hanover, as it cannot, on the other side be denied, that a man may be a very gallant officer, and of a very rapacious disposition. Our great Marlborough was deemed not a little covetous.

So much for the royal uncle's judicial capacity in honouring military merit. Our author invariably fond of lessening all the glorious actions of the nephew, sets in a ridiculous light the battle which redounds the most to great Frederic's heroic reputation.

“ It was not till just after that rout of school-boys at Rosbach, when the pitiful run-away figure the French made, might have rendered them almost suspected of a collusive game with Prussia, that this spirit of the Hanoverians and Hessians declared itself.”

If the French made a pitiful figure on this occasion, it must be owned that the King of Prussia and his troops made a glorious one, and still much more so in the battle of Lissa ;

Lissa; in consequence of which it might, without any tincture of adulation, and in strict truth be said, that he ran from victory to victory.

Our persevering author being resolved to go through every branch of the Brunswick family, and to leave them as little merit as possible, thus descants upon another illustrious chieftain of that heroic house.

“ There is no one can deny, that the advantage gained by the gallant prince Ferdinand, at the affair of Crevelt, was great enough to deserve the proclamation of it, by the mouths of Tower guns, and by a solemn thanksgiving.”

Thus far one might incline to think this gentleman serious, but fearing lest we should, he thus corrects himself, by saying, “ Otherwife, it would have been mocking both God and man, and that palpably to no purpose, but to make the sending of troops from here to Germany, go down the more glib with soldiers and people, under all the smoke and flash of that recent success.”

A very modest insinuation, and not at all reflecting on his majesty's religion, who issued a proclamation for the observance of a thanksgiving day. Here he is shrewdly supposed to sport with heaven, and make it the tool of his politics. Can this be consistent with the whiffling character this author gives
of

of him in another part of his pamphlet, to wit, " One of the most pacific, humane, and " best intentioned monarchs that ever graced " a throne." How can this agree with mocking at heaven to impose on man ?

But the author, apprehensive he had gone too far, thus corrects himself, " Be it then " granted, that it really was as great as so great " a celebration requires it to be thought, and " that no statesman could descend to so poor " a state trick, as the exaggeration of it would " have been. But even our most authentic " gazette gives permission for not thinking " that action any ways a decisive one."

We shall now inform our author of something more than the gazette could have told him; and that is, if the action of Crevelt was not in his sense a decisive one over the French, it in all probability prevented the French obtaining a decisive one the following day, over the Hanoverians.

For had prince Ferdinand not made a judicious advance after the enemy, attacked and defeated one of their wings, their plan was to have surrounded him the following day, taking advantage of the unfavourable situation he was in.

This the prince, like an able general foresaw; therefore, would not wait for the ripening of the enemy's scheme against him, but taking time by the forelock, attacked and routed a wing of the French army, consisting

ing of their best troops, commanded by that experienced officer Monsieur de St. Germain. Sure then a day of thanksgiving for his majesty's troops having escaped from such imminent danger, was very proper and highly becoming of a christian prince, and defender of the faith.

Our vague, rambling, and inaccurate pamphleteer, rather than not advance falsehoods at any rate, thus pompously introduces a late celebrated hero, "Such at least was the well known sense of the great duke of Marlborough, than whom no man since the days of Henry the Fifth, had done more than himself, to level the power of France in the dust. Happy would it have been for the nation, and for Europe, if a little dirty, jealous, power-hunting court-cabal, had not snatched the sword out of his hands, just as he was on the point of giving that nation the fatal blow."

The court cabal, which are so politely epithetted here, did not oppose the duke of Marlborough, from a conviction of his real design being to humble France; but from the experience of years, that said general had made a trafficking war, and that the amassing of riches was uppermost in his thoughts. Nay, it was his abuse of spinning out the war, that has transmitted to posterity in England, such a national aversion to continental connections; a prudent use whereof preponderates to all arguments

guments against it, as might be easily made appear.

With what licentious contempt our expeditions against the French coast, are treated ?
 “ They may frighten a few peasants along the
 “ sea side, from their brown bread and onions,
 “ or destroy their fallad, and the hopes of
 “ their soupe maigre.” This is a pretty ultimate effect of British troops landing on the French shore ; nor is the picture of their returning from thence couched in the most flattering terms.

“ But, when they have done that, what remains for them, but, on the first alarm of
 “ the national forces coming down, to scamper
 “ back on board their ships again; a circumstance fitter to teach our soldiers the art of
 “ running away, than the art of war.”

Thus, in a moment, by the magic pen of this writer, all vigorously conceived expeditions or enterprises against the coast of France, are changed into so many floating academies of cowardice, which must brand the arms of England with infamy. Nay, so dexterous a transformer of things is this author, that he converts our hostile invasions into acts of friendship to the people of France, which he tells in a very unembarrassed manner.

“ As to any harrassment the alarm of an
 “ impending descent may cause along the
 “ coast, the French have rather to thank us
 “ for it. They are wise enough to have a

G

“ militia

“ militia on foot, and it is very kind in us, at
 “ our own expence, to keep the forces of it in
 “ breath, to find them in exercise, to inure
 “ them in some measure to fatigue.”

This is jocularly advanced, but we, dull-fighted folks, who cannot see so far as quintessential refiners in politics do, humbly imagine the French would be very glad that we should spare them the opportunity of thanking us on such occasions, which they cannot absolutely look upon as acts of kindness from us, as may be gathered from the bishop's mandate, issued at St. Maloe's-----likewise, vide Cherburg.

This strain of sarcastic irony, at all expeditions against the coast of France (which doctrine the politicians of Versailles would be very glad should prevail in England) is closed with a very extraordinary quotation.

“ But after all, is not this literally incurring
 “ the ridicule of what M. de Mirabeau, not
 “ without reason and humour, calls pretending
 “ to frighten mankind, by packing up men in
 “ wooden boxes, and sending them to spit on
 “ an enemy's shore.”

However proper this reflexion may be in a volatile Frenchman's mouth, it is very indecent in an Englishman to repeat it. All ideas relative to our fleet, should be magnified and kept up in the highest estimation, and not to be thus let down, and vilified by burlesque imagery, fit only for the pen of a *Scarron*.

This author's notion of fighting in single
 com-

combats, being as peculiar and uncommon as any of his political ones, we think his description thereof must prove entertaining to our readers, especially those who are pleased with a peculiarity of ideas.

“ In single combat, no one chuses to aim
 “ at those parts of his enemy’s body that are
 “ defended by proof-armour; he rather feels
 “ out for the weak and unguarded places
 “ where his sword may best enter, and
 “ wound to most effect.”

From the inapplicability of this manner of fighting in single combat, to the practice of moderns, especially in the year 1758, we must naturally conclude it purloined or translated from some antient book of chivalry; but what the devil business has it here? There needs no great effort of the human understanding to find out, that an enemy is in prudence to be attacked where we think him weakest; nay, the frequently skirmishing matrons of Billingsgate are of that oracular opinion.

The singularity of thought that runs throughout this pamphlet is surprizing; for tho’ quite against forming any descents on the French coasts, or sending any forces to the continent, to help in annoying the general disturber of Europe, it notwithstanding declares,

“ A considerable part of our army might
 “ well be spared on distant service; it might
 “ then, without *gasconade*, be said that the

“ existence of the French in Canada must
 “ take an end as soon as it should be vigorously
 “ undertaken.”

The sending the majority of our troops on some distant service, might be very favourable to the wishes of many persons disaffected to our present government, by making their long desired scheme appear more feasible; but that is a snare will hardly be given into.

The author has thrown out a very extraordinary question, which he impatiently answers himself, “ What great difference does
 “ it make to the honour of the nation,
 “ whether the character of the *Irish* or the
 “ *Irish* predominates in her councils? The
 “ latter is perhaps the most dangerous, and
 “ assuredly the most ridiculous of the two ”

Who may be surprised at here under the characters of *Irish* and *Irish*, we are really at a loss to find; and therefore wish the author had pointed them out clearly to us. In our sense, it does not appear that any, either of the late or present ministry, can, with the least propriety, be classed under either of these stigmatized denominations.

At the heel of a very indecent irony that concludes this very prolix and self-repeating pamphlet, breaks out all the virulence of the writer, whose aim throughout, it seems, is to render not only distressed, but even odious to us, those great characters, upon whom only all reliance for our present and future safety can be founded both at home and abroad.

“ The stale over-acted farce of resignations seems suspended, and will, it is to be hoped, never again come into play, in the shape of a recoil, only to come on the surer ; or to give the public no other satisfaction than the silly one of seeing rather other men than other measures take place ; or what is sillier yet, the same men, with the same measures, dancing the political hays, sometimes eclipsing, sometimes eclipsed by one another.”

For the dancing image we are obliged to poet Bays in the Rehearsal---But what can be the meaning of all this twisted jargon, as well as of the subsequent paragraph, equally malicious, and equally false, if any sense whatsoever can be tortured from it ?

“ The sense of the enlightened and the impartial multitude begins to look with an equal eye on the veterans of corruption, and the pretenders to patriotism ; on the worn-out tool of a court, and the mushroom of a much-abused popularity, ridiculously shot up to a cedar height.”

“ It now judges of both by the tenor and tendency of their conduct ; and does not pass its opinion on them without first asking itself that most essential question, *What have they actually done, or what are they capable of doing ?* To which the fair and obvious answer would so often be--- *Nothing, or worse than nothing.*”

This

This author, like certain fanatic preachers cries out, in order to terrify the people; ruin ! ruin ! and eternal damnation hangs over your devoted heads ! It would be kind in both to point out a practical method of salvation ; and if this writer be actuated by such a patriot spirit, as he affects to be, he will not hesitate to send in a penny-post letter to Mr. Pitt, (altho' he dislikes him) his superior views for the melioration of the present British system of government, which he may call, *Things as they ought to be !*

His last paragraph, like the last lines of the sixth Æneis of Virgil, seems to hint to us, that he has been but amusing us and himself all this while, and expires by putting this modest question to the public :

“ In short, if this is not the true representation of our present condition, or of *Things as they are*, it may at least be hoped, that to no Briton will it be imputed as a very high crime or misdemeanor, that he should devoutly wish that *they were so*.”

Pray then, Sir, if any Briton, free from imputation of crime, may devoutly wish that *Things were so*, as represented in this pamphlet, what necessity was there for the writing it ? A cynic would answer ; perhaps, that of the writer. But to us it appears a laboured Work of most dangerous tendency, and cannot be read with too much caution. The political poison is artfully diffused through every page.

F I N I S.

