3/ ye Gradual changes have had influence in ye interests of Great Britain, which has never been much thought of; Mr. Cambell thinks y^t all those who have wrote against our interfearing with ye affairs of ye Continent are in ye wrong; as Sir Robert Cotton who wrote a treatise on y^t subject to dissuade K. Henry, K. James I. son from ye measures which had from his earliest Youth been inculcated into him. ye Instances, y^t this elegant author has given us, can be of no use, as things are so entirely chang'd since y^t time. Our K. formerly used to make expeditions into France to maintain their conquests there, & what makes us immagin them to have been necessary for us at y^t time, is y^t ye most popular of our Monarchs have been those, who were most renown'd for their conquests, & those who steer'd a contrary path, were seldom left in peace by their subjects.

Henry VII. who was always reckon'd a very wise K. is an exception to what has been laid down, for he had but little intercourse with ye continent, but his well managing ye share he took there always prov'd to his advantage, he has been unjustly blam'd for allowing ye French to annex ye D-y of Bretagne, to y^t Crown; for he could not hinder it; ye nation was very jealous of this, so y^t he got great supplies from Parl. & declar'd war against France, which he did not carry on very vigorously but soon made an advantageous peace, by which he got a Tribute from two French K.s successively. ye French then went on with a war with Italy, by which the was a great loser. Henry in ye mean time made alliance with ye H. of Austria, & an intermarriage; his Daughter soon after espous'd ye K. of Scotland, which he foresaw would unite ye whole Island into one K-m.

Queen Elizabeth who rais'd this K-m. to its greatest pitch of Glory, had great attention to ye affairs of ye Continent, by her conduct she hinder'd Philip II. from getting universal Empire. She prevented France from being a Prov. of Spain, & supported ye United Provs.

She encouray'd trade, & open'd a passage to ye Indies, which has since y^t been ye foundation of ye wealth of ye nation, & contributary to ye effects of ye Plantations of other Nations, our number of people is not lessen'd, but encreas'd since our settlements abroad, & has enabl'd to carry on ye long & bloody war we have. This may seem odd, but if justly consider'd, will plainly be seen, for those who are settl'd in ye Colonies

x tho'we have been their dread.

take more of our manufactures than if they had stay'd at home, so yt. they employ a great number of hands here.

Our Constitution as yt. of ye. Greeks & Romans, is mix'd; but so wisely settl'd, yt. by ye. Prerogative of ye. K. he can do great good to his subjects, but has it not in his power to do them any hurt. Having no pretensions on our Neighbours, tis not to be immagin'd yt. a British K. can wish to see his subjects involv'd in war. With regard to our Policy, we esteem'd it as [illegible] to be bias'd by temporary conveniences, which in other nations are some time stil'd reasons of State; [illegible]

Foreigners have said yt. our interest, & our commerce are distinct considerations, but this shews how little they are acquainted with either, for whatever is of use to our trade, is our interest, & what ever is detrimental to it, is greatly to be avoided by us.

Our reason must plainly point out to us yt. we ought to [illegible] of power. We should also try to get terms of security & indulgence from foreign Nations for our subjects & in return should do what is reasonable on our parts, for it is ye. true interest of Great Britain to keep ye. treaties yt. are made exactly. Further it is proper yt. if we are wrong'd, we should instantly resent it; particularly if we can with our naval force, for it will hinder our being neglected for ye. future. We should also assist any Nation yt. is unjustly attack'd if we are in a situation to do it, because it will shew yt. we are ye. just & lovers of freedom.

By following these Rules I should immagin yt. all ye. Powers of Europe would seek our friendship, & we ought some time to make treaties for ye. good of ye. whole which may hurt some particular trade.

We have always taken great part in all ye. transactions of ye. Northern Ps. but lately particularly connected with Russia but now yt. Power is united with France.

ye. German Ps. have always been assisted by us, but in my opinion we have thrown away more money on them, than they & ye. small speck for which it has been squander'd are worth. With ye. H. of Austria we have to our cost been closely allied, but they are now in ye. interest of France.

ye. K. of Prussia, formerly our determin'd Enemy, is now our only Ally in those parts, or almost any where. He may perhaps preserve ye. ballance of power, tho' there is but little chance of it.

ye. French are a power with whom we can seldom be long on good terms, for our interests clash so much, yt. we are always suspecting each other. they have now got a great fleet, which must [illegible] grieve every true Briton; therefore if we do not rouse ourselves & destroy their fleet, we shall become ye. contempt of all Nations &

+ for now ye City of London has 5 time as many inhabitants as in ye time of Qu. Eliz.; & other Cities & Villages are much encreased, but not in so great a proportion; some say y^t ye encrease of ye great Towns comes from many leaving ye Country to reside in them; but this cannot be so; for those who live in great Towns, consume more provisions than those who dwell in ye Country, & must be supplied by them, therefore if ye Towns encrease, ye number of ye People about them will.

Other parts of ye Dominions are also encreased, which clearly shew y^t those who are at ye Helm ought to see y^t all ye appurtenances of this Kingdom enjoy their just rights, & y^t greatest of blessings liberty, which this Nation has long been famous for, it's should be so fair certain y^t even our most distant Colonies which have been said to be at the dependence of Britain, will forever belong to it.

ye ballance of Power in Italy was formerly greatly attended to by us whilst we had ye Levant trade, which I fear we shall now entirely having by either ye weakness or neglect of some lost Minorca, where we had ye best port in ye Mediterranean.

It is our interest & yt of Spain to live well together & we are natural allies; at present yt Power seems to choose to be neuter & first to see how things tend, before they declare what part they will take.

We have long liv'd on good terms with ye K. of Portugal, our mutual trade makes this very necessary for both; & when Spain & Port. quarrell'd we sent a fleet to Lisbon, which ~~[illegible]~~ protected those people from being insulted.

Nothing can so much contribute to our happiness, & to yt of ye Dutch as a constant good harmony, which will make both encrease in wealth, & consequently be reverend.

It is impossible to say, but two months may again change ye System of affairs, so yt it is wisest not to pretend to conjecture what is yet in ye Womb of Fate.