

bualities, however, must not be too often exerted: it is with them as with high spices in a ragout, of which too frequent use is apt to pall the taste, and makes them lose their effect upon a palate that has been long accustomed to them; whereas, integrity and plain dealing never lose their relish; they are like that simple and natural food which agrees with every constitution, and invigorates the body without inflaming or over-heating it. A Prince whose probity and good faith are publicly known, will of necessity conciliate to himself the confidence of all others: he will make himself happy without the assistance of knavery, and powerful by dint of virtue alone. The tranquility and welfare of his State are a center as it were, where all the radii of his politics unite, and to which all his negotiations ultimately tend.

The peace of Europe chiefly depends upon maintaining that due balance, by which the superior power of one State is counterpoised by the united strength of others: if this equilibrium should be destroyed, it is much to be feared some great revolution would ensue, and some over-grown Monarchy rise out of the wreck of those that have ruined themselves by disunion. The circumstances of the European Princes at present should therefore incline them to cultivate alliances, and to enter into treaties with each other, which may enable them jointly to oppose the attempts of any ambitious power they are afraid of; and they ought always to mistrust those that endeavour to excite discord and jealousies amongst them. Let them remember the Consul, who, to shew the advantage of union, took the tail of a horse in his hand, and endeavoured in vain to pull it off; but when he had plucked away one hair after another, as long as he thought fit, he easily pulled off the rest [a]. This is a lesson that may be recommended to the consideration of certain Princes in our times, with no less propriety than it was to the Roman legionaries: nothing but a strict union amongst them can make them respectable, and secure the peace of Europe.

It would be happy for the World, if there were no other means but negotiations to maintain justice, and re-establish harmony and tranquility amongst nations: reason then would take place instead of arms; and men would decide their differences by argument instead of cutting each others throats. But sad necessity forces Princes to have recourse to ways that are more inhuman. There are occasions which oblige them to defend the liberties of people by dint of arms, when others endea-

Prince had any design of invading Russia, found him poring upon a map of that Country, when he was introduced into his presence. Upon which, he waved all further endeavours to sound his intentions upon that point, imagining he had sufficiently discovered them from that circumstance:” and so indeed it proved.

[a] The old story of the bundle of arrows might have served as well here, and is much better known.