

Civil Life are dispossessed by their SERVANTS! And a New Set of Men, who were made use of as Instruments to fight their Battles, and to destroy the ROYAL PARTY, employ the SWORD, they were intrusted with, to make themselves MASTERS of the Two contending Powers.

THERE is nothing so necessary to be studied by the Leaders of Parties, as the Genius and Temper of the People they have to deal with: But there is one Failing common to the MULTITUDE in all Nations; a Tumultuous Zeal in pursuing what they are bent upon, without the least Regard to Consequences, whether Good or Bad. I shall leave it to my Reader to verify this Remark upon the ENGLISH, by Examples of his own choosing; which will serve that this Popular Disposition was well understood by the Marechal de Bassompierre; who seeing how closely the Siege of Rochelle (the last Retreat of the PARLIAMENTS, who were the only Ballance of Power against the approaching Tyranny of the Crown) was press'd by Louis XIII. wrote to a Friend, That the Zeal of the Catholics against Hugonotism was so warm, That he believed, They would be Fools enough to take the Town.

BUT if we examine more particularly the Conduct of the Men of Power in the ENGLISH CIVIL WARS, we shall perceive their Zeal carried them contrary to Common Sense. A very little Reflection will convince a Man, that the Bulk of any People are always fond of the Form of Government to which they have been long accustomed. It avails nothing, that a projected Change is, in Speculation, for the better: For, it is evident from Historical Facts, that when a Nation has been through many Years inured to the very worst Form (an Absolute Monarchy) if by Accident they acquire LIBERTY, it is very difficult, if not almost impossible, for them to preserve it. A People long enslaved are wholly unacquainted with the Means necessary for their Defence and Preservation; like a Tyger bred up in Confinement: If at last he breaks loose from his Chains, not knowing where to find his Food, and unacquainted with the proper Haunts and Places of Refuge, he becomes an easy Captive to the first Person who shall endeavour to re-ichain him.


BUT if, to a People's being long accustomed to TYRANNY, an universal Corruption be added; it becomes altogether impracticable to establish a publick Liberty. ROME, upon the Expulsion of the TARQUINS, as yet entire in its Virtue, was able; not only to assert, but to maintain its LIBERTY: But afterwards, enervated by Luxury, and habituated to TYRANNY, in vain were the CALIGULAS and the NEROES destroyed: The Spirit of Liberty was extinguished; and not a Patriot left, who even entertained a Thought of restoring the Common Wealth: Their Wishes aspired only to the Change of Masters; and their Ambition was confined to a poor private Revenge on a Tyrant. When a Nation once comes to this State of Degeneracy, it is incapable of Liberty; and can only shift from one Tyranny to another: And should a superior Genius be able to impose Freedom on his fellow-Citizens, it would vanish like a Dream at his Death. Thus SYRACUSE, which had groan'd under the Yoke of the DIONISII, was compelled into Liberty during the Lives of DION and TIMOLEON; but upon their Decease, it precipitated to its wonted Slavery.

BUT to come nearer to the Troubles of our PARENT-COUNTRY; The Experience of all Ages shews, That whoever purposes to New-Model the Government of an Ancient State (especially where the Constitution allows the

Subjects a great Proportion of Liberty) he ought, in Prudence to preserve as many of the Antient Forms of Administration, as possible; since by that Precaution, he will retain in his Interest the Body of the People, who are more governed by the Appearance than the Reality of Things. Thus when the ROMANS created two Consuls instead of a KING, They would not suffer them to exceed the Number of LICATORS which usually preceded their KINGS, lest the People should be shocked with an unusual Mark of Terror: By the same Prudence they continued an Officer, dignified with the Title of KING; that the People might not want a Person with that Character to assist in certain Sacrifices instituted during their Monarchy.

THESE Considerations (to omit many others which might be added) make me wonder, how it could enter into the Thought of any English-Man to attempt contrary to the universal Disposition of his Country-Men, to attempt to convert that Kingdom into a Common-Wealth; and, which is yet more absurd, a Common-Wealth (as it was projected) in which the Members of the supreme Council were to be elected from Counties of different and distant Situations, and opposite Interests. A Common-Wealth of a great City may be comprehended; but a Common-Wealth of a large extensive Country, is impracticable: And yet this was the Scheme which the Heads of the PARLIAMENT-PARTY pursued. The People were amused with so many contradictory and extravagant Forms of Government, that being weary with Change and not able to agree upon Another, They restored the Antient Form; which was done with such Precipitation, that they did not so much as think of Capitulating for That Security for their Liberties, to obtain which, They at first began the WAR, and which (during the Prosecution of the War) they had in the Heat of their JEALOUSY rejected.

I cannot conclude this Discourse without observing, That since every Expedient proposed to remedy any growing Mischief in a State is more Excellent, the smaller, or rather the more Imperceptible Changes it makes; on this Account the Late Revolution may be justly esteemed not only the Happiest but also the most wisely conducted Affair that was ever executed by Man. By the Success of so glorious and prudent an Enterprize, the Immortal King WILLIAM rescued Three Kingdoms from Slavery; and effectually remedied all those Evils which the unhappy Policy of his Predecessor had introduced; and this without causing the least Alteration in the Antient Constitution of the Kingdom.

N^o. 10. 

I am Yours,

THE PLAIN-DEALER.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Moscow, Oct. 13. N. S. The Emperor, who has been in the Country these five Weeks, is hourly expected here. On the 23d Instant, being the Anniversary of the Birth of our Emperor, his Majesty will give a splendid Entertainment. The Table of the Emperor, at which will be admitted the Foreign Ministers, Ministers of State, and Ladies of Distinction, is to be in the Shape of the Letter P, which is the first Letter of the Name of his Majesty, who is to set in the Middle. Opposite to his Majesty, there will be a Tri-umphal State.