

If we consider rightly the prevalence of interest in mankind we may readily conclude, that men of ability will seldom devote themselves to the public service, to the prejudice of their own affairs.—Nor is it necessary that they should; for were they actuated merely by public virtue, however they might be satisfied with the consciousness of it themselves, they would seldom find, that even the gratitude of their country kept pace with their exertions.

It is certain that salaries apparently the most enormous, may ultimately become advantageous to a government, by promoting energy in its different departments.

But it is a fatality attendant on great economists, that they are seldom able to penetrate far into causes and effects, and I believe it may be easily demonstrated on a calculation, that the debates on encreasing or diminishing salaries a few pounds must generally create an expence much more considerable than the sum in dispute.

About the same time a bill was brought in to settle and pay the civil list, which underwent several discussions before it passed, and probably was not then satisfactory to all the officers of government.

The salaries of the members of the Council seem to be fixed on the lowest scale, and as they have heretofore been much more liberal, it may be worth while to inquire by what means they have become so peculiarly the object of that economy, which has of late prevailed in our appointments.—An opinion I believe has gone forth, that the powers of the Council, and even of the Governor, are extremely confined, and many persons look upon the former as almost an unnecessary establishment.

With respect to this opinion, I may venture to affirm, that whoever examines our constitution, will find the powers of the Council, so various, and considerable, as to require men of great ability, and the most firm integrity for their execution.

The appointment of various officers, which is placed in their hands, is certainly an object of greater magnitude than is commonly supposed, and if it is judged expedient to allow liberal salaries to any officers of government, with a view of rendering them independent, and above the reach of temptation, a moment's reflection on the duties of the Council, must shew the propriety of extending the principle to them.