

The first of these arguments is erected upon the weak, sandy foundation of a sophistical philosophy, that has no existence but in name, and yet strikes at the very vitals of all industry and commerce, those principal supports of every government! at a time that it seems to have no other object in its view than the general emolument.

“Had our American colonies (say they) been still held in our possession, and had we obstinately insisted on never restoring those valuable acquisitions to our enemies, our ruin had been inevitable; luxury and profusion had immediately introduced themselves into all orders of the people, nor could any thing have preserved us from destruction, the corruption of the times had been so universal.—The history of all ages, and the annals of all nations (continue these elaborate and disinterested reasoners) are fraught with an infinity of examples where prosperity and power have brought their most considerable possessors to ruin; and, if any proofs are necessary in assertions so indisputably just, let us only turn over a few pages of the Grecian history, or examine the rise and decline of the Roman empire.”

'Tis a great pity that very florid and very sentimental set of authors have not something like common sense and sound argument to support any of those specious positions, which we find them so ready to assert. If power and prosperity are such dangerous enemies to a state, it must necessarily follow that insecurity and distress, the opposites of those blessings, are the greatest of its friends; and that there is no way to save us from ruin but by being absolutely destroyed. Wretchedness and poverty must, at this rate, be the criterion of national happiness; and if affluence and security are so much to be dreaded, the miserable natives of Scotland must be the most fortunate set of people alive. The prudent and philosophical ORNAMENT of the Highlands indeed seems to be perfectly of opinion that there is no way of consulting our happiness, unless our interest is attacked; and, thanks to the indefatigable zeal of this patriotic nobleman, as far as he could, our security has been promoted; for, in every department of government, since his accession to power, the welfare of THIS kingdom, has met with a most laudable neglect. It were to be wished, that the same method taken to advance the happiness of all true-born Englishmen, was observ-

ed to consult the advantage of the Scotch; for, during the present administration, every means to ruin these brave, loyal, and affectionate people has been tried, by raising them to honours, and lifting them to place.

This terrible apprehension of growing too powerful or becoming too rich, is to be sure a very alarming circumstance. In the name of wonder, if we are so fearful of arriving at an excess of power, or a super-abundance of wealth, whence comes it that plans of industry are daily proposing, or that the extension of commerce is so earnestly recommended by the best of Sovereigns, and encouraged by all who have any real attention to the welfare of this kingdom?—If the abettors of a Scottish faction were not either utterly incapable of thinking, or desirous of sacrificing every thing like thought, they would have undoubtedly considered that we have a rising generation constantly ready to enter upon any growing acquisitions; and that luxury is at the present æra as firmly established among us, as if we had the mines of Mexico and Peru to support or keep it up; and yet there is little or no reason to think the decline of the British Greatness at hand, unless the Scottish class of Ministers, to whom we have been hitherto so very much obliged, should think of proceeding in the blessed path which they have trod in, or should not be called to a strict account for having ever entered it at all.

Greece and Rome fell thro' their luxury and venality; but what is that to us? England, without having one half of that extensive dominion which we now see her possessed of, saw the total system of her government overturned, and her monarch brought to the block. Luxury and venality could have never produced a more extraordinary change than this. Was it the luxury or venality of the kingdom, which drove that infamous stain to royalty, the second James, from a throne which he had so greatly dishonoured and abused? Luxury—stuff! so far from being an enemy, 'tis an advantage to a state; it spurs up the members of the community to a laudable pursuit of industry, and excites an honest desire wherever we see a wish for the elegancies of life, to come at the necessary means.—The gradual increase of the English power has no where enervated the sons of Freedom. Are we not now, as much as five hundred years ago, equally warm in the pursuit of honour, and equally impatient