

The NORTH-CAROLINA
MAGAZINE;

OR,

UNIVERSAL INTELLIGENCE R.

From FRIDAY AUGUST 24, to FRIDAY AUGUST 31, 1764.

The NORTH BRITON. No. LXV.

To what could it be owing that the reigns of so many of our kings have been inglorious, unfortunate, and even fatal to themselves? If we may give credit to history, they evidently proceeded from one of these causes; that is, either from the ill designs and contempts of the prince himself, against the liberties of his subjects; or from his suffering SOME OTHER PERSON to engross his authority, and TYRANNIZE over them IN HIS NAME.

CRAFTSMAN, Jan. 1736.

SATURDAY, October 8, 1763.

To the NORTH BRITON,

SIR,

It has long been a maxim with your puny essayists to cover the barrenness of their own parts, with extensive extracts from other publications. These sort of Geniuses seize on every popular production as a lawful prize; and having written a previous encomium to introduce it with some degree of colour, which generally furnishes a single paragraph only, the piece is cut down to their size, and happily serves to fill up the remainder of the paper. I have observed, Mr. North Briton, that you have never been so deficient in matter, as to avail yourself of this convenient artifice; nor, if affairs continue on their present footing, do I apprehend you will ever experience a scarcity of subjects. The insolence, ignorance and in-

activity of the ministerial Herd, are too fruitful of murmurs among the people, and too pregnant of censure from a patriot writer, to lay you under any necessity of treading in the ingenious steps of your unprolific brethren. There are, however, some cases, in which an extract may be highly apt and useful; and particularly when it is from a piece, which, from the original form of its publication, and the length of time since it appeared, it is natural to suppose may neither be generally known, nor generally remembered. If, therefore, you think this a sufficient reason for printing the following, taken from a pamphlet published about twenty seven years ago, and which then made a very great noise, it is at your service: If not, I submit to your better Judgment.

The fatal Consequences of Ministerial Influence; or, the Difference between Royal Power and Ministerial Power, truly stated.

IF ever the crown, or rather the ministers of the crown, should be able by the many posts and pensions at their disposal, to influence elections of all kinds, and both houses of parliament, so as to have always a majority in each house, under the absolute direction of the prime minister for the time being, it would be no way necessary for any minister to desire a farther sacrifice of our constitution; for, by both houses being under such a direction, our constitution would be as effectually destroyed, as if both houses had joined in an absolute surrender of all the liberties and privileges of the people.

The outward form might, and probably would, be kept up; but every man must see that