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Of the Political and Civil Rights of the British Colonists. [Continued from page 205.]

VOL. I.

of the in the HY then is it thought fo heinous by the author of the admi-niftration of the colonies, and others, that the colonifts fhould afpire after 1 = 100giflative power" not independent of, but subordinate to the laws and parliament of Great-Britain ?-It is a miltake in this author, to bring fo heavy a charge as high treason against some of the colonists, which he does in effect in this place, by reprefenting them as " claiming in fact or in deed, the lame full free independent unrestrained power and legiflative will, in their feveral corporations, and under the King's commission, and their respec-Aive charters, as the government and legislature of Great Britain holds by its conflictution and under the great charter." No fuch claim was ever tho't of by any of the colonists. They are all better men and better subjects; and many of them too well versed in the laws of nature and nations, and the law and conftitution of Great-Britain, to think they have a right to. more than a provincial subordinate legislative. All power is of G O D. Next, and only fubordinate to him, in the present state of the well formed, beautifully constructed British monarchy, flanding where I hope it ever will stand, for the pillars are fixed in judgment, righteousness and truth, is the King and Parliament. Under these, it seems easy to conceive subordinate powers in gradation, till we

descend to the legislative of a town council, or even a private social club. These have each " a one whole legislative" subordinate, which, when it don't counteract the laws of any of its fuperiors, is to be indulged. Even when the laws of fubordination are transgreffed, the superior does not destroy the subordinate, but will negative its acts, as it may in all cafes when disapproved. This right of negative is essential, and may be enforced : But in no cafe are the effential rights of the subjects, inhabiting the fubordinate dominions, to be deffroyed. This would put it in the power of the superior to reduce the inferior to a state of flavery ; which cannot be rightfully done, even with conquered enemies and rebels. After fatisfaction and fecurity is obtained of the former, and examples are made of fo many of . the latter, as the ends of government require, the reft are to be reftored to all the effential. rights of men and of citizens. This is the great law of nature : and agreeable to this law, is the conftant practice of all good and mild governments. This lenity and humanity has no where been carried further than in Great-Britain. The colonies have been fo remarkable for loyalty, that there never has been any inftance of rebellion or treason in them. This loyalty is in very hand fome terms acknowledged by the author of the administration of the colonies. "It has been often suggested that care should be taken in the administration of the plantations, lest, in some future time, these colonies should become independent of the mother country. But perhaps it may be proper on this occasion, nay, it is justice to fay it, that if, by becoming independent, is

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