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From the MONITOR.

ET the Sort, or Scheme of Government be what it will, those are ill Governments where ill Men govern, or are generally employed in the Offices of State. Yet this is an Evil under the Sun, to which all Things under the Sun are subject, not only by Accident, but even by natural Dispositions.

How can a Prince, says Sir William Temple, always choose well such as he employs, when Mens Dispositions are so easily mistaken, and their Abilities too? How deceitful are Appearances? How false are Mens Professions? How hidden are their Hearts? How disguised their Principals? How uncertain their Humours?—Many Men come out, when they come into great and public Employments; the Weakness of whose Heads or Hearts would never have been discovered, had they kept within their private Spheres of Life. Besides Princes, who see with other Mens Eyes, and hear with other Mens Ears; or are confined in their Choice of Servants to a small Number of Courtiers, who give their Attendance about the Court, in order to advance themselves to Honours, to Fortunes, to Places and Employments, do not always prefer the best and wisest to the great Offices of State; but most commonly they choose Men the least worthy of the Royal Favour and Confidence, least capable to manage an important Trust; and better Servants to their own private Interest, than to the Government.

The Needy, the Ambitious, the Half-wit-

ted, the Proud, the Covetous, are ever restless to get into public Employments.—The Froward, the Busy, the Bold, the Sufficient, pursue their Game with more Passion, Endeavour, Application, and thereby often succeed, where better Men would fail.

Yet all these cover their Intentions with most worthy Pretences, and those Patriotic Sayings, *That Men are not born for themselves, and must sacrifice their Lives for the Public, as well as their Time, and their Health*; though it is certain they mean quite the contrary.

The Danger in such a Case arises from a Faction between those Subjects that would support Government, and those that would ruin it, or rather between those that possess the Honours and Advantages of it; and those that, under Pretence of reforming, design chiefly to change the Hands it is in, and care little what becomes of the rest. When these Storms are raised, the Wise and the Good are either disgraced, or laid aside, or retire of themselves, and leave the Scene free to such as are most eager and most active to get upon the Stage.

This is such a Danger as will sooner or later eat out the vitals of Government, unless the Prince and State consult their own Safety, by avoiding all Innovations in antient and established Forms and Laws, especially those concerning Liberty, Property, and Religion, and thereby leave the Channel of known and common Justice clean and undisturbed; and by pursuing the true and common Interest of the Nation, they govern without espousing any Party, except in such Cases where they must incline to one or the other: Then let them choose