

Equally free to excuse as condemn, I will acknowledge there is some foundation to plead the privilege of a too favourable opinion ; the want of opposition, or rather total silence that hath ensued since the publication of a certain pamphlet *, hath too long given the advocates of that system occasion for triumph, and cause for the most wary of my countrymen to be, in a manner, reconciled to their insinuating, but delusive arguments; not only delusive as being erroneous or superficial in matter, but by misrepresenting circumstances, and evading the chief points in dispute with all the arts of sophistry and subterfuge. These arts, Sir, have been carried to such height, that I cannot say, even with respect to the author himself, “ That I have lived to see subjects of the
 “ greatest importance to this nation, publickly discussed
 “ without party views or party heat, with decency and
 “ politeness, and with no other warmth than what a
 “ zeal for the honour and happiness of our King and
 “ country “ might” inspire.” †

If we differ thus much in matters of sentiments, no wonder we should, in matters of fact ; and that we do this, and pretty largely too, will appear in the course of these sheets.

I do not “ affect to discover self-interested views at
 “ the bottom of the fairest, and most generous conduct ;”
 I do not affect to be so inquisitive into “ human nature,”
 Reason and Justice are my advocates in our present difference.

When I saw men publish their opinions, without previously consulting their judgment ; when I heard them in a dictatorial tone exclaim, that we should have “ a

* The interest of Great Britain considered with regard to her colonies, and the acquisitions of Canada and Guadaloupe. † Id. p. 1.

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