

ther his interest nor duty to undermine.—Above party spirit himself, he was determined from the first to abolish the ridiculous distinction of Whig and Tory which had so long distracted the nation, and to extend his power and protection equally to the whole body of the people. This he has at length accomplished, though not without much trouble and loud complaints from the expiring factions.

Wishing to unite all his subjects in harmony and peace, he has gradually removed those religious disabilities which the seclusion of the Stuarts from the throne and the protection of the national church had rendered necessary. Many severe laws had been enacted against the Catholics, who were supposed the friends of the banished family, and the Dissenters, by forsaking the established church, deprived themselves of many valuable privileges which their fellow subjects enjoyed. But no sooner did these dangers diminish, than the king cheerfully concurred in lessening the restrictions. From the reign of king William to that of our present sovereign, the Catholics of England had laboured under many privations, with a silence and patience which at length excited the attention of the nation. The parliament therefore, in conjunction with the king, removed those grievous penalties which had been imposed for the preservation of the constitution, then struggling into birth. That liberal spirit of christian charity which animates our king, made him rejoice in promoting such a measure, and eager to repeal laws which were calculated (now that

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