

certain conditions, the least evil. They knew that, when the people thought themselves aggrieved, they must be redressed. They knew that discontent was one of the most undesirable states of the public mind. They knew that discontent, when shut up, grew stronger and more menacing; and they conceived that it was true political wisdom to provide it a channel by which to express itself. Mr. Pitt is determined that there shall be no discontent. At least he is determined, that discontent shall not declare itself, and that no clamours shall be heard. He shuts up every avenue, of open consulting, of political publications, and of private conversation. Ministers will be found perhaps, to be sufficiently ignorant at present of the state of the public mind. It is one of the great problems of political government to be adequately acquainted with it. The most fatal effects have always followed from this ignorance. The American war was begun, from a persuasion that the majority of the people were loyalists: and the present war would probably never have been undertaken, if the English government had not believed, that the great mass

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