

fyng them with employments at court, may be a proper means for breaking an opposition, or frustrating the designs of a factious cabal; but there cannot be a more dangerous error for a prince to fall into, than to entrust the exercise of his power with those he deems unworthy of his confidence. For the minister who finds himself distrusted, will expect his dismissal from his post, whenever a favourable occasion offers itself for filling it with another. Common prudence will, therefore, direct him to secure a retreat among the people in the best manner he can. He will endeavour to court their favour by sacrificing the authority of the prince to their humor; he will indulge their prejudices by debasing the dignity of his master: Such were the practices of Robert duke of Albany, and Murdo his son, when they sought to enhance their own merit with the Scottish nation, at the expence of the sovereign, with whose authority they were invested. "They neglected nothing" says that energetic historian Dr. Robertson, "that could either soothe or bribe the nobles. They slackened the reins of government; they allowed the prerogative to be encroached upon; they dealt out the patrimony of the crown, among those whose enmity they dreaded, or whose favour they had gained, and reduced the royal authority to a state of imbecility, from which succeeding monarchs laboured in vain to raise it."

The present circumstances of this country bear so near a resemblance, in many instances, to the condition of the French nation, when Henry the Fourth ascended that throne, that measures similar to those, by which that great prince restored order and dignity to his government, and tranquility and prosperity to his people, cannot fail of being attended with the like happy effects in Great-Britain. Henry, says Sully, began his discourse to his council by drawing a very natural representation of the perplexing situation he was in. "Irreconcilable enmities in the nobility of the kingdom, hatred amongst themselves, and rage against him, mutiny and disobedience in all minds, treachery within, violence without." "The methods" continues the same great minister, "this great prince took, to render all the intrigues of those who endeavoured to disturb his government and thwart his purposes, ineffectual, were, to apply himself, with his accustomed attention and assiduity, to the affairs both within and without his kingdom, and to fill the intendancies, and other public offices, with such men only as were distinguished for their merit, their probity, and zeal for his service. He permitted me," says he, "to be continually laying before him the state of his affairs, informing him of the use and destination of his money; and I carried my solicitude for order and œconomy so far, as to reproach him with even the smallest needless expence; but I amassed him treasure, I filled his magazines, and pointed out to him
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