

measure, to bring over, or at least silence, such an orator ; and to have the external affection of employing men of undoubted honesty and abilities : therefore he was at that critical period (1746) when the two brothers and their coadjutors resumed their places, appointed vice-treasurer of Ireland, and soon after pay-master general of the forces, and sworn a privy-counsellor. In his office of paymaster he was still governed by his inflexible integrity, his steady and uniform adherence to honour and honesty ; he refused certain gratuities common to his post, and he introduced a great reformation into it : even his warmest enemies do to this day acknowledge HE BEHAVED UNCORRUPTLY IN OFFICE. It was by these acts of strict justice and virtue, that he acquired an unparalleled popularity, and an unlimited confidence ; and hence he was adored by the honest and unprejudiced part of the nation.

The temporary peace of Aix la Chapelle was soon followed by a renewal of the war, which was both unskilfully and unsuccessfully conducted till the period we are going to treat of. When (in 1755) Sir Thomas Robinson resigned his post of secretary of state, his late majesty appointed Mr. Fox, who was then secretary at war, to succeed him. It must be observed, that Mr. Fox and Mr. Pitt never agreed in any thing but in opposing Sir Thomas ; therefore, upon Mr. Fox's promotion, Mr. Pitt resigned his office of pay-master general, not chusing to serve when his antagonist was put over his head* ; indeed it would have been next to a miracle,

* This resignation has been thus accounted for by one of his friends :—" He relinquished this subordinate power, rather than co-operate with weak or wicked men, in schemes pre-judicial to the common interests of his country."