

overmuch, that is, not to be madly and fantastically desirous of obtaining all the World's good Word, and being so perfectly disinterested out of a Thirst of Praise, as to forgo that Profit, which is necessary for our own Preservation. It is just, it is laudable, to have a hearty Concern for the Welfare of our Neighbours, but the very Reason that convinces us of this, convinces us much more strongly, that it is not either just or laudable to be negligent of our selves. Yet so it is, that while Christianity seems, and I am very sorry to say it, to have but little Influence over the Conduct of Individuals, its Maxims, over-strained, seem to be the Rudiments of Modern Politicks; for otherwise, how should it come to pass, that in Order to be thought true *Britons*, and good Subjects, we are enjoined, over and above our Affection for our King and Country, to love certain Neighbours of ours, not only as well, but better than ourselves. Charity is most certainly an excellent Thing, but even with Respect to that, there is an old Proverb, and a true one, that *Charity begins at Home*. If I am ill of a Fever, my Neighbour has no right to expect that I should go to see him, because he has got a Cold, much less, that I should send him my Apothecary and Physician, and pay those he thinks fit to call, when I have infinitely more need of Medicines than He. If a Man is weak enough to call this Charity, I don't doubt but he may find Neighbours wise enough to sooth him in his Folly, and to keep him running about, as long as he has Strength to stand upon his Legs; but I know what his Family will think all the while; and I know that the Case is much the same, if transferred from a Man to a Nation.

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