

system, the present consumers will equally have the articles; and under both can have them only at the same high price; but the government and the public morals gain. Smuggling must nearly cease, and with it the large cost of the present preventive system.

Such, therefore, is the general condition of public affairs with which we have to enter upon the commencement of a new year.

After this brief and plain statement of what has been done, and what has been omitted, and through what difficulties, and under what embarrassments, is it too much for a candid observer to conclude, that his Majesty's ministers are fully entitled to the praise of a zealous performance of all their public duties; and are so much the more justly entitled to this praise from a generous and discerning public, inasmuch as they have themselves declined to vindicate or assert their just and obvious claims. Is it too much to say, that there is something peculiarly grateful to the English character in this effectual prosecution of business without pretension—in this sober, steady, victory over the most appalling difficulties, without the levity and vanity of a triumph? Is it unreasonable to express a confident assurance, that the future annalist, if not the passing generation, will recognise the public obligation to the ministers of George the Fourth, and will hereafter enumerate them among those wise and substantial, but unpretending and untalking benefactors, who in times of great peril and difficulty—in times of much vamping and frothiness—when every popular leader has his new measure, and all the infinite variety of political wisdom is reduced into theories—when every one assumes to be the builder of a system, and every stone is marked with the builder's name—when British officers follow in the train of a mob against the police of the country, and wise men come from the East to show how cheaply a nation can be governed—is it too much to claim for his Majesty's ministers the praise of those, who, *nihil non agentes quod reipublicæ necesse fuit, et sine ulla ostentatione agendi*, deserve the mere applause from others, as, under the most unequivocal public services, they least assume it for themselves. *De Agrippa et Mæcenate qui postea judicabunt, sentiendum et prædicandum est, vix quosque reperiri posse, qui, in tantis rerum periculis, tam multa et magna, et cum tam minimâ perturbatione hominum atque rerum, pro Senatu Populoque Romano, re atque actu fecerunt.*