

may not be continued in their proper state and use, conformable to the intent of the cession, when I consider the conduct of courts in general, and of *France* in particular. With respect to the former, all history proves that princes are frequently attended, and sometimes surrounded, by those who use every mean their imaginations can suggest to induce them to look at one or more, many or all, political objects through the false medium prepared for them with the greatest art and dexterity, whereby delusion often taking place of conviction their best intentions are rendered abortive, and different measures are adopted; and what *Flavius Vopiscus* said of the *Roman* emperors in his time is not to be confined to any particular age or country, viz. "Four or five meet and consult together how they shall deceive the emperor: they declare what is to be approved. The emperor, who is shut up at home, knows not the truth, his knowledge is wholly confined to their information; he appoints unfit persons to be judges, and removeth from the service of the commonwealth those who ought to be retained. In short, as *Dioclesian* said, *The good, the wary, the most excellent emperor is sold [m].*" And in case of the future improper state or use of these islands, the facts may be unknown to his most *Christian* majesty, or misrepresented to him; or some groundless pretence of wrongs done by the *English* set up as an excuse or equivalent, or other reasons of state devised for the continuance thereof: but, to proceed to more certain matter, the past conduct of *France*, which will best enable us to judge of the future, the treaty of *Paris* cannot, I presume, be held more obligatory than the treaty of *Utrecht* was, yet the manifold gross violations of the latter compelled us to enter into a war, which

[m] Colligunt se quatuor vel quinque, atque unum consilium ad decipiendum imperatorem capiunt: dicunt quid probandum sit. Imperator, qui domi clausus est, vera non novit: cogitur hoc tantum scire quod illi lo-

quantur: facit iudices quos fieri non oportet, amovet a republica quos debet obtinere. Quid multa? ut *Diocletianus* ipse dicebat, *Bonus, cautus, optimus venditur imperator.*

*Vopiscus in Aureliano.*

for