

TO THE READER.

AS this Edition of the Acts of the General Assembly of the Province is a public work, executed at the expence of His Majesty's Government, it is proper that it should be rendered as generally beneficial as possible. In times like the present, I should feel conscious of a neglect of the duty I owe to the King, if I did not avail myself of the opportunity which the publication of this work affords, to exhort His Majesty's Subjects, by a ready obedience to the Laws, and by the punctual discharge of every civil and religious duty, to shew themselves worthy of the great blessings we enjoy under the government of a Monarch, who is respected for his virtues even by his enemies:

It has been our misfortune to live at a period, during which every art has been used to destroy the principles of true religion, and to subvert the rules of civil government. The Christian religion, which is our sure guide to the worship of the true God; the allegiance of subjects to the King; the natural love of our country; the union of husband and wife; the duties of parent and child; the affection of brothers and sisters; and the attachment of friends and countrymen, have been, by impious and wicked men, styled prejudices originating in the human mind from the errors of a false education. It has been our lot to see those venerable principles, which our forefathers considered fixed as firmly as the pillars of the earth, shaken to their basis, and the fundamental rules of human happiness scoffed at, and ridiculed, in the publications of artful men, who have proved themselves the enemies of the human race. Works of this sort have been circulated far and near, and the opinions of those men propagated with a true satanick zeal. To give the name of a revolution to the events which have sprung from those novel doctrines, would be applying a term too feeble to comprehend the horrid and sanguinary actions of the apostles of liberty and equality. Their deeds have produced a convulsion in human nature, which has been accompanied with a degree of atrocity so dreadful, that it may be reasonably doubted whether our posterity will give credit to the pages of history, which shall record the wonderful events that have happened within the compass of a few years. I think I do not exaggerate when I say, that those diabolical principles, during the short period I advert to, have produced to the world more human wickedness, distress and misery, than any equal space of time has exhibited in the previous history of man.

If we contemplate man in his rude and savage state, for the purpose of comparing him with his fellow man, living in civilized society, ruled by Laws founded in equity and justice, and impartially administered, the difference appears so great, that it has been doubted whether both men have proceeded from one common stock:

The chief end of all human institutions is the preservation of men's lives, liberties, and properties. Our ancestors have manifested their wisdom in framing Laws peculiarly adapted to those great purposes, and their courage in defending those Laws, upon every occasion, has been equally conspicuous. English Subjects exhibit, in the history of mankind, a people possessing a form of Government, under which their lives, liberties and properties, are secured in a way that no other nation or people have yet experienced. The English Constitution has been viewed with admiration by the wise and learned men of all nations, and it gives to Great-Britain such a just superiority over all other countries, that she is become an object of envy and jealousy to them all. No people but the British nation, have ever enjoyed the happiness of being subject to Laws made by their own consent; and which are, in a great measure, put into execution by themselves. This Constitution,

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