

lent throughout the kingdom, and when every head, and every hand ought to have been employed for the general good, with deliberation, and void of the least partiality. Instead of this, systems were introduced, in themselves absurd, and rendered more so by the manner of introducing them, and such as tended only "to embarrass the negotiation, and render it a work of infinite difficulty."

It is not "the beauty of expression \*," nor an harmony of sounds that can bias my judgment; they may tickle my ear, but cannot seduce my heart; I do not pay such a blind deference to the external ornaments; I read them as such; I read them as introduced merely *Argumenti gratiâ*, often the effects of a bad cause, and often intended to cheat people of their proper understanding. But as my countrymen, in general are characterized for their great knowledge and wisdom, I hope they have not considered sophistry as fair reasoning, and suffered prejudice to gain too great an ascendant over them at the present conjuncture. Impartial men suspend their judgment till the matter has been properly canvassed, if they find the cause of their prejudices removed, they will then retract their too favourable opinion; reason will have its due influence, and will direct their approbation; but, whatever system they incline to, let me remind them to recollect the consequence, let them likewise recollect, that it is a unanimous perseverance in their own interest, which is the only means to check future factions; and that it will ever sustain the efforts of a wise and virtuous administration.

And you, Sir, I flatter myself, will pardon this familiar and intrusive address; the occasion, and your own

\* Int. &c. p. 1.