

been admitted by the most ardent democrats. In all the constitutions which revolutionary madness established in France, some qualification of property and independence limited the right of suffrage. But Mr. *Burke* makes mere number the test of lawful government, and holds that no political power can be vested in any man or body of men but by the express or tacit consent of *a great majority of the people*.

But observe the extent of these principles. Since as Mr. *Burke* asserts, all political government is from God, and is communicated by the ministry of the people, they have the power to change it whenever they please. Nor, according to him, are they bound to consult any other rule in the change than their own sovereign pleasure. "If the authors of the revolution," says Mr. *Burke*, "were justifiable, or not, or even, in the most unfavourable sense, suppose them *perfectly unjustifiable*; if the American revolution was as *causeless* as some writers have represented it; still, he says, "it does not in the least diminish the force of his reasoning." The despotic people then, without cause, and without justification, may destroy a subsisting government; the political power established by them becomes immediately a lawful authority. They may again alter it *causelessly*, and unjustifiably; still all is right. They may repeat the experiment again and again as often as their inclination for such pastime recurs; these ministers of God can do