

Political discrimination was another characteristic of this illustrious man. In questions of the utmost difficulty and delicacy, and of the greatest importance, such as have occurred in the present age beyond any former period, his penetrating mind hardly ever failed to distinguish with the greatest accuracy the right, the honourable, and the useful ; and to steer an even course between opposite and perilous extremes. He was the friend of reform, but of temperate and peaceable reform. He was the advocate for peace ; and had his counsels been pursued, they would probably have ensured universal peace : but it was his avowed principle that even peace might be bought too dear ; when it was purchased at the expense of the honour, the liberty, or the safety of the country. Tyranny in every shape was the object of his implacable aversion ; but he was equally an enemy to licentiousness and anarchy, and was a zealous supporter of the authority of the law as the only security of rational liberty ; and in all the turbulence of the times, he seldom, if ever, failed to observe