

The governments of it, though various, have been balanced by each other ; and the people in general have been happy even under the most despotic forms it contains, because the views and conduct of princes have been moderated by their mutual jealousies. Was it for us, who had exclaimed so loudly against universal monarchy, and had laid out so much blood and treasure to oppose those ambitious powers, who, at different periods, were supposed to have conceived the idea, was it for us to extend our dominions from pole to pole, and to all the shores that are washed by the Indian and Atlantic oceans ? Was it wise in a free state to raise such a jealousy in other states, as would produce a combination against us, which might one day prove our ruin, whether we conquer or are conquered ? For, in the first case, we should certainly perish by our own corruption, as, in the second, by the power of the enemy.

To this cause is probably owing that weakness of government, which has been of late so much felt and complained of, and which no capacity seems hitherto able to repair.