

whose actions, in the ordinary course of things, the body of the people have no controul.

XI. Accordingly we find that those princes, or other eminent and ambitious men, who have aimed at making themselves absolute masters of the states they lived in, have always begun the execution of that design by drawing to themselves, and uniting in their own persons, the several different great magistracies of the state: as several kings in Europe have taken to themselves the several great offices in their respective kingdoms.

XII. I believe, however, that the pure hereditary aristocracy that is established in the several commonwealths of Italy may not make those governments quite so absolute as those of the Turkish and other Asiatic monarchies. The greatness of the number of the magistrates, who are invested with the powers of government in those republicks, may probably somewhat soften the exercise of the powers belonging to the magistracies themselves; all the nobles are not always engaged in the same designs; and different tribunals, though formed of the same body of the nobility, are composed of different members

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