

prejudice of other histories, that is, who knows no facts but what are related in Mr. Hume, or any other relation of them, and is void of any political or religious principles relative to this constitution; in short, whose mind is free from the shackles of previous information. It is amazing what a new light he has thrown upon every thing; nay, one need but read this author to be satisfied, that we are mistaken in our opinions of all the people of those times, both as to their hearts and their understandings. In particular, as to learned men, that Sir Francis Bacon was not half the man we take him for, being exceeded by many foreigners in many respects as a philosopher, and that he was withal a most miserable writer; and as to the celebrated *Defensio pro Populo Anglicano* of Milton against the Royalists, it was a scurrilous, illiberal and contemptible performance. In short, from a few particulars and passages of lives and books, he establishes universal positions with respect to the merit and demerit, and general cast and character of an author, the whole life and conduct of a man, and the tenor of a reign. Nothing can be more satisfactory. My Lord Clarendon, a good royalist, was however an Englishman, subject of course to the national prejudices of one, and saw every thing, therefore, with the eyes of an *English* Tory; but Mr. Hume is a foreigner, bred under other laws, and tho' a royalist too, yet he sees things through very different mediums, and therefore judges more soundly, and, upon the impartial ground of his own country, lays on the true and proper colouring. In order to see what different writers they were, and how differently they draw cha-

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