

with herself, to prevent that of the enemy. I have heard very able politicians say, that this arises from the government's not being sufficiently powerful to suppress dissensions abroad, nor sufficiently absolute to destroy dissensions at home : a mixed state that will one day make it a prey to its enemies, or a victim to its subjects.

A trifling affair gave rise to a great misunderstanding between the court and the parliament, which was the distribution of the alms collected for the mendicants. The directors of the hospital of Paris had never yet been blamed by either the court or the city, because the war had engaged the attention of the government ; but peace being restored, which gave them leisure to inspect into the minutest affairs, they at length took this into consideration.

The archbishop of Paris claimed this jurisdiction by right ; the King was of the same opinion ; but the parliament judged differently, and henceforward representations and depositions took place. A Prince of the blood royal said upon this occasion, *The parliament of Paris must have very little to do, when they quarrel with the King about beggars.*

Lewis XV. issued an arret in favour of the archbishop ; it was to be registered, and now dissension broke out. The parliament went to Versailles and came back—they met, they adjourned ; but the King shewed himself absolute. He wrote in these terms to the chambers assembled. “ If I have
“ thought proper to allow you to make remon-
“ strances to me upon the edicts and declarations
“ which I send you to be registered, I never gave
“ you the power to annul or alter them, under pre-
“ tence of modification.—It is my will that my de-
“ claration concerning the hospital be registered
“ purely and simple. I shall see that my parliament
“ obey my orders.”

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