

EVEN long after Luxury, and every Vice had prevailed at *Rome*, a virtuous Emperor recalled the People to Greatness and Felicity; the Reigns of *Trajan* and *Antoninus Pius* were equal in Happiness and Glory, to the most flourishing *Æra* of the *Roman* Name.

VIRTUE and Wisdom, Vice and Venality, have ever been ; the first the Sources of national Happiness and Success, the latter of Decline and Ruin.

To flatter ourselves then, that the same Causes which destroyed *Greece* and *Rome* will not generate the like Consequences in *England*, is to delude ourselves like Children with self-willed, over-weaning Fondness. It is to suppose that the original Institution of all Things is established on vague and capricious Principles, and that those degenerate Faculties of mental Nature, which have begotten Ruin in all other Countries, will not produce the same Effect in this Island.

It is to believe that Corruption of Heart, and public Virtue ; Love of Ease and Search of Danger ; Insolence and true Bravery ; Contempt of Heaven and Contempt of

B                      Death,