

grievances, and the great depravity of manners which they have introduced, be suffered to remain unchecked and uncontrolled, it is to be feared that they will quickly be attended with ruin and desolation.

Much will depend upon the deliberations of this present parliament; but the wished for reformation may also, in some measure, be promoted even by persons in private stations, as the domestic policy of a state is a subject equally open to every one conversant in history, and who by his natural inclination is led to turn his thoughts to matters of government. The author of the following reflections has endeavoured to delineate the outlines of such a plan of policy as he hopes would tend to advance the prosperity of Britain; and he will think himself extremely happy if any thing here suggested can afford the least hint to those who make the welfare of this nation their care and study.

As it is the opinion of many judicious writers that the population of Britain has been declining for these several years past, and that we have not of late had a sufficient number of men to carry on our various manufactures, and at the same time to fight our battles, the utmost attention ought to be given to remedy this capital deficiency. At the conclusion of a war, which is a time of dissipation, many of our people being at a loss how to dispose of themselves at home, are apt to rove abroad; therefore it ought to be our principal concern immediately upon the ratification of the treaties, to provide for the soldiers, sailors, and carpenters discharged from the public service. Their number will be very considerable, probably no fewer than 40,000 soldiers, 40,000 sailors, and 4000 carpenters and labourers, in all