

their Manners and their Form of Government altered, and which is a little extraordinary it has now and then reverted to its first Principles. For Instance, the Original Government of the *German* Nations, like the Original Government of our own Island, was by petty Princes who governed their little Sovereignities, not at Will, but according to a Scheme of Laws, sanctified by common Consent, with an Occasional Dependence, on a supreme Chief, or great Commander, who in Times of Difficulty was chosen to a Sort of Dictatorship. *Charles* the Great, and the Emperors his Successors, were however Princes of another Sort, for they possessed a Kind of absolute Dominion ; but finding it necessary to appoint several Officers, some for executing Justice, and others for directing Military Affairs ; and disposing of these as they thought convenient, in the several Provinces of their Empire, these Officers by Degrees enlarged their Power, transmitted it to their Descendants, and established again, in a great Measure, that very Kind of Government, which at first prevailed.

As Powerful as these ancient Emperors were, and as much as they were inclined to assume to themselves the Prerogatives of the *Roman* Monarchs, whom they pretended to succeed, yet they were not able to give Law to their Neighbours, notwithstanding the vast Extent of Territory they possessed, and the great military Power, which they had always in their Hands. *Charles* the Great, who was Master of *Germany*, *France*, *Italy* and Part of *Spain*, made a League with the *Scots* ; and when he attempted to prescribe Bounds to one of our *Saxon* Princes, he treated that Interposition with Contempt, and the Emperor was afterwards glad to court his Friendship. When
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