

gain an Esteem and Reputation among a Company of Grocers, low Bookfellers, and Cobblers, superior to real Merit? But that a Set of Men, who have Opportunities of being better informed, should so far decline the Use of their Reason as to suffer themselves to be carried away by the Tide of popular Clamor, artificially raised in favor of this or that Man, fills one with no less Astonishment than Contempt. Public Virtue, or at least the Appearance of it, is essential to the Schemes of political Ambition; for without a Mask she would appear so horrid hideous and despicable, that no body could possibly countenance her. He, therefore, who has formed Designs of aggrandizing himself, is obliged to disguise his real Sentiments, - that he might more easily take Advantage of the short-sighted, ignorant, and weak Part of Mankind, who
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