

that the rest should let their Thoughts remain in Silence, to avoid being overborn with a Storm of Clamour and Impertinence. Yet such are too often the political Writings of the present Age : And all Sciences appear as despicable, when they suffer so unworthy a Prostitution. A Minister (whether from Party-Prejudice I will not determine) seldom fails of suffering by Abuse, or of being exalted with smooth Panegyric ; from the Folly, the Violence, or the bad Intentions of his Cotemporaries.

THESE are the particular Circumstances which have stigmatized the Science in general, and cast an Odium on the Writers without Distinction. Nor is the Aspersion ill founded ; the numerous Treatises, Essays, and voluminous Performances on this Head, serving rather to entangle than unravel the Knots of political Reflections : But the Evil is not to be remedied ; and such is the boasted Liberty of the *English* Press, that every free-born Briton has a Right of exposing himself with Impunity.

HERE let me not be accused of Arrogance or Presumption, nor endeavour to raise my own Fame on the Ruins of another's Reputation.