

extreme to another, but retain their form ; and though introduced with caution and solicitude, when proved to be salutary, (which can only be known by their effects on the happiness of the subjects governed) should be irrefragable. Without these, extension of territory is extension of cruelty ; and conquest, in its abstract, is only a wanton waste of the blood of mankind. It is not the airy inflation of the declaimer, but a truth attested by the solemn authority of ages, that the pride of power has frequently destroyed armies, to gain or to keep *unprofitable* possessions ; for there are men who, without virtue, labour, or hazard, grow rich as their country is impoverished, rejoice when obstinacy or ambition adds another year to slaughter and devastation, and laugh in their closets at bravery and science, while they are adding figure to figure, and cypher to cypher, hoping for a new contract from a new armament, and  
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