

either as a Speaker to Parliament, or as a Writer to your Constituents at Bristol. You forget, that while you hold forth your own Party as the most virtuous men in the Kingdom, you lead us to make comparisons, which probably may not be favourable either to them or to yourself: or even allowing them to be so, you make no account for the operation of the common passions of mankind, for the envy you must naturally excite in being admitted to so virtuous a Company. But I imagine that I shall not seem paradoxical in declaring, that all violent combinations of Virtue are seldom governed by that principle. The man who uniformly opposes a Minister is, generally speaking, in the wrong; for, with every allowance to the frailties common to every one, he who has the strongest obligations to be good, is most likely to be so. If, therefore, a Party, "*a Conservatory of Virtue*," associate together for the purpose of hunting down a Minister, and stedfastly persist in the chace, however they may deceive themselves or others by the specious names of Patriotism and Virtue, it is in reality a mark of neither. To stem such a torrent, few would accept the office of Minister, while the very name is an object of reproach, and which subjecting to censure the good equally with the bad, destroys the distinctions of Vice and Virtue. Such is the tendency of Party Spirit, which opposing itself to the acts of Government indiscriminately, does harm without intention,