

adding to that motive, another base one, of avarice, we bring into the competition, another description of men, who, forgetting the meanness of their talents, the indolence of their dispositions, the cowardice of their minds, and their total want of elevation, extent of views, and true magnanimity, are apt, by every unworthy art, to thrust themselves into public departments, and to conceive, that they have fulfilled, the whole of their duty, when they have received their salaries, whilst they leave the public business, to be woefully conducted, by Secretaries and Clerks.

It is so far from being true, that the higher and more important the office, the salary should be the higher, that it is directly the reverse, because the honour annexed to high and important offices, is sufficient, without emolument, to induce all, who are fit to hold them, to aspire eagerly, at these situations, even to the prejudice of their private fortunes; and if no salaries were annexed, there is reason to believe, that very few would be induced to continue in office, after they felt, and the nation was convinced, that they were unfit to continue.

Notwithstanding the immense waste of public money in the government of France, yet it is a remarkable fact, that almost the whole essential business of the State, is carried on, at this hour, with little or no expence to the public, and that people eagerly press forward to act in public situations, merely on account of the honour and the influence, with which it is attended.

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