LETTER TO THE ABBE RAYNAL.

A MIND habited to meannefs and injuffice, commits them without reflection, or with a very partial one; for on what other ground than this, can we account for the declaration of war against the Dutch. To gain an idea of the politics which actuated the British Ministry to this measure, we must enter into the opinion which they, and the English in general, had formed of the temper of the Dutch nation; and

COMMON SENSE.

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nay even misfortune, would be death; for though neither might be immediately mortal, yet either of them would difable him from living, and reduce him to a ftate in which he might rather be faid to perifh than die.—Thus neceffity, like a gravitating power, would form our newly arrived emigrants into fociety, the reciprocal bleffings of which would supersede and render the obligations of law and government unneceffary, while they remained perfectly just to each other. But as nothing but heaven is impregnable to vice, it will unavoidably happen, that in proportion as they furmount the first difficulties of emigration, which bound them together in a common caufe, they will begin to relax in their duty and attachment to each other, and this remiffnefs will point out the neceffity of eftablishing fome form of government to fupply the defect of moral virtue,"

ABBE RAYNAL.

triumphed over fo many evils, that he has fashioned this globe to his ufe, reftrained the rivers, fubjugated the feas, infured his fubfiftence, conquered a part of the animals in obliging them to ferve him, and driven others far from his empire, to the depth of deferts or of woods, where their number diminifhes from age to age. What a man alone would not have been able to effect, men have executed in concert; and altogether they preferve their work. Such is the origin, fuch the advantages, and the end of fociety. -Government owes its birth to the necessity of preventing and repreffing the injuries which the affociated individuals had to fear from one another. It is the centinel who watches, in order that the common labours be not difturbed."

from

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