

some people, be matter of doubt. Nor will I undertake to determine whether they do, or do not, enjoy it. It is sufficient for my purpose that this degree of liberty is established among them by their laws, and consequently that, *so far* as their laws are put in force, *so far* they must enjoy it. How far that is, or in what degree their laws are put in execution, and in what instances they are violated or neglected, I shall not inquire.

LXIX. I do not mean, by this description of the advantages of the English government, to throw any contempt upon the other governments which we see established in Europe, nor to insinuate that the view of this very high degree of political liberty ought to mortify the subjects of other states who enjoy but a moderate share of that liberty. Such an intention would be very inconsistent with my principles, who have always been of opinion that excessive advantages of any kind are not calculated to make men happy, insomuch that even a very uncommon share of understanding and mental ability is not desirable, but that mankind always find their account best in the possession of moderate advantages of all kinds,
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