

POPE flattered tyrants too much  
when he said

“ For forms of government let fools contest,  
“ That which is best administered is best.”

Nothing can be more fallacious than this: But poets read history to collect flowers not fruits—they attend to fanciful images, not the effects of social institutions. Nothing is more certain from the history of nations, and the nature of man, than that some forms of government are better fitted for being well administered than others.

WE ought to consider, what is the end of government, before we determine which is the best form.—Upon this point all speculative politicians will agree, that the happiness of society is the end of government, as all Divines  
and