

28 *The RISE and FALL of the*

necessarily either shake off the yoke, or soften the asperity of their manners.

From the situation of things at that time, this was the result; either that Rome should change the form of its government, or continue for ever a small, poor monarchy.

Modern history furnishes us with a very remarkable example of what happened at that time in Rome; for as men have been sensible of the same passions in all ages, the occasions which gave rise to great revolutions are various, but the causes are for ever the same.

As Henry VII of England increased the power of the commons, merely to humble the nobility; so Servius Tullius enlarged the privileges of the people, in order to depress the senate; but the people, growing afterwards bolder, ruined each of the monarchies under which they lived.

No flattering colours have been employed, in the picture which is left us of Tarquin; his name has not escaped any of the orators who declaimed against tyranny; but his conduct before his calamities, which it is evident he foresaw; his gentleness and humanity towards the conquered, his beneficence to the soldiers, the arts by which he engaged such numbers to endeavour at his preservation, the edifices he raised for the public use, his courage in the field, the constancy and patience with which he bore his misfortunes, a twenty years war he either carried on, or caused to be carried on against the Romans, though deprived of his kingdom, and very poor; these things, and the resources he perpetually found, prove manifestly, that he was no contemptible person.

The rank or place, which posterity bestows, is