

C H A P. VIII.

WE are now to consider upon what the preservation of Governments in general, and of each State in particular depends; and, in the first place, it is evident, that if we are right in the causes we have assigned for their destruction, we know also the means of their preservation; for things contrary produce contraries: but destruction, and preservation are contrary to each other. In well-tempered Governments it requires as much care as any thing whatsoever, that nothing be done contrary to law: and this ought chiefly to be attended to in matters of small consequence; for an illegality that approaches insensibly, approaches secretly, as in a family, small expences continually repeated, consume a man's income; for the understanding is deceived thereby, as by this false argument; if every part is little, then the whole is little: now, this in one sense is true, in another, is false, for the whole and all the parts together are large, though made up of small parts. The first therefore of any thing is what the State ought to guard against. In the next place, no credit ought to be given to those who endeavour to deceive the People, with false pretences; for they will be confuted by facts.

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