

voſt, incloſing an act of the council, which, with the letter, is already in the hands of the public.

Neither our ſituation, nor our ſentiments, diſpoſed us to enter into a diſcuſſion of nice points and diſtinctions, which, however ingeniouſly drawn up, or however calculated to puzzle, could not have the ſmalleſt effect upon our rights. Our rank as burgeſſes, either *individually* or *collectively*, gave us an indiſputable title to what we requeſted; and we earneſtly ſet about the diſcharge of that duty which, on this occaſion, we owed to ourſelves, and our fellow citizens.

The reception we met with at the Town-houſe, bade fair for a happy termination of this buſineſs, as we found there all that appearance of openneſs and candour, which our moſt ſanguine hopes could have warranted.

This was ſtrengthened by the moſt flattering aſſurances, of a ready concurrence in whatever might be conducive to the views of the burgeſſes, and the greater good of the town.

The period allowed us was extremely ſhort, comprehending only a part of three days, during which time, as well at the Town-houſe as elſewhere, we were conſtantly employed.

Diſpoſed to act ſtrictly agreeable to our profeſſions, we were determined to avoid whatever might tend to perplex; and, more inclined to impute the embarraſſments in which the public funds are involved, to the faults of a bad ſyſtem, than to charge it on individuals, we choſe rather to draw up a few motions, in the form of reſolutions, which might, in ſome degree, prove corrective of future abuſes, than to adopt a re-*troſpect*, which would have been painful to ourſelves, by its pointing at perſons who now were, or had formerly been, in offices in the council.

If the motions ſhall appear marked with inaccuracy, or inadequate to the purpoſe intended, we have to lament that the ſhortneſs of our time, ſurrounded as we were by a variety of objects, did not anſwer to our zeal and good intentions, in the ſervice of our fellow citizens.

No one ſet of motions, we preſume, could have comprehended ſo much as to have proved a remedy for every abuſe; but had our time permitted, we were willing to have exerted our beſt endeavours, at leaſt to have led the way for others, who, with ſuperior abilities, might afterwards have improved on our original deſigns.

We have only farther to obſerve upon this part of the ſubject, that plans of a nature no way diſſimilar, have formerly been propoſed to the council by a committee of themſelves; and that ſome neglected acts of that body point to objects precisely the ſame.

Had theſe been attended to, in the manner their tendency juſtly merited, our labours in this buſineſs would have been greatly leſſened.

But it would appear, that in the courſe of the laſt five and twenty years, matters have been intirely managed under the influence of *party*, whoſe views ſeem to have been, that all authority ſhould center in them-
ſelves,