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Hints on the
Regency

1709.

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The peculiar character of the present Chan-r, has been at the bottom of every change, that has happened, since the beginning of the year 1782. During the war, he never once approved of any measure brought forward, in the Cabinet: yet he would not propose any of his own. The news of Lord Cornwallis's losing his army, arriving in November 1781, shook administration to the center; and it was perceived by a great Majority of the K's servants, that they must give up, either America or their places. His M. was so much averse to the relinquishing any part of his dominions, that Ld. N. durst not press the subject: and, thus, matters went on, during the recess 1781 $\frac{1}{2}$, hastening to a fall, which happened about the middle of March.

The Ch-r finding that the party with whom he had acted was to fall, began, as early as the beginning of the year 1782, to break the other party, by tampering with some of them. The most accessible was the G. of Shel-b-ne. Though he joined the opposition in parliament, he was known to be united with them neither in views nor in principles. Some others, among whom was Mr. D-s, made overtures of a similar kind, but at a very humble distance. A treaty was so early and so firmly settled, that I was assured, from the best authority, just three days after Ld. N. agreed to resign, and before his Successors were appointed, that Lord Rock-m and his party were not to remain in office, after the 1st of July 1782. Such prophets were the contracting powers that the Minister died on that very day: and that saved the Chan-r and Sh-ne the trouble of turning him out, with his party.

During the discordant interval, which intervened between the fall of Ld. N. H. and the

The demise of Rock---m, Mr D---s, although his knowledge of the interior was but slight, as he had not the good fortune of being trusted, came to learn something of the ground through his friend Mr. Mh---n. He therefore cultivated the friendship of L^d Sh---ne. But the intelligence he received induced him, also to look forward to his Lordship's Ch---r of Exch---r, Mr. Pitt, who from his name and the advantage of a very early possession of a great situation, seemed to promise his being soon in play. Luckily for D---s, the Minister and his Ch---r of Exch---r, were totally ignorant of E. India affairs: and finding this, though he was as ignorant as either of them, he imposed upon them the knowledge of others, for his own:

This rivelled with them an idea that he could be of the greatest service to them, when India affairs should fall, under parliamentary discussion. To secure his supposed talents he received the boon, which he, now, possesses, the Treasurership of the Navy, together with the office which he holds in Scotland, for life: which had been absolutely refused to him under L^d N.'s administration.

In february 1783 L^d Sh---ne, having been frightened, from his office, by two adverse votes of the Commons, an interregnum of administration, if so it may be called, continued, for near two months. Those, who knew most of the inclinations of the L^d. renewed their intrigues, as on former occasions. The office of Minister was hawked about from door to door: Lord Gow---r hesitated for one day and Pitt for three. Both at last refused. The other party were, then, brought in: But their fate was determined, before they were nominated to their offices: Before the end of July, the day of the rejection of the India Bill, almost the very hour of the intended change of Administration, was prophesied by men in the secret; and the dissolution of

Of Parliament and the introduction of another India Bill were fixed to the very dates, at which both happened, in the following year. D—, who was in July in Scotland, was not, in this secret: for he was not trusted, by those, who knew the interior of affairs.

When Mr F— brought in the Bill, for regulating India affairs, it was so open that much advantage was immediately taken, by those, who had formed the plan, I have mentioned above. The Ch—, and more particularly some others, began to form a new administration: But, how, this could be done was the difficulty, for want of proper ostensible figures. Ld G—w—r was too timid to accept, then, what he had refused, some months before: Sh—ne was not to be thought of, on account of his great integrity, and direct conduct. P—t became the only object: But the line to be taken was rough and rugged, and he did not know the way. The secret springs, which move slowly but surely the State Machine, were not within the reach of his experience: and the consequence was, that he was frightened, at what he did not understand. The Game was, thus, nearly lost, though the Cards had been judiciously shuffled to win it.

It happened that from his natural shyness, and other circumstances, P—t was not sufficiently accessible to those, who could and were ready, to give the most judicious and most infallible advice: They were, therefore, obliged, though very unwillingly, to send their plans at second hand, through D—s. To execute this important business Mr M—k—n was chosen, who, on account of accidental but important favours, thought himself in much request with D—s.

From day to day, every difficulty, that arose, was removed, by the sound advice given: The very spirit of
Prophecy

Prophecy seemed to animate the advisers; for nothing was predicted, but punctually and literally happened. as there was no end to difficulties, there could be none to advice: Yet P—t was frequently, on the point of quitting, till some new project offered him, through the medium of D—s, revived his spirits; and induced him to stand. It was afterwards found, that D—s imposed the plans of others upon P—t, as merely the result of his own profound knowledge of men and things. P—t believed him infallible, and gave him his implicit confidence. D—s availed himself of the warm gratitude of his admiring friend: and obtained from him under his hand not only acknowledgements, that it was his (D—s) advice alone, that enabled him to stand, but that he would give him a complete & perpetual support: In short that nothing but death itself would induce him to desert his friend. Thus, whether he remains in, or returns to, office, P—t will, and must have his friend, in the line, in which his injudicious precipitancy has long placed him. The truth is, that D—s leads him, as a nurse does a child, when he first begins to walk; and there is not the least doubt but he is the first mover of all his present measures. The Seal turned King is D—s's crude idea: for every one knows, the wise intention of this Northern Lycurgus, in his first India Bill, was to make a Seal Governor General of Bengal.

Although D—s runs away with the reputation of being the soundest Counsellor on the present occasion, there are others who sometimes, convey their knowledge of men and matters to P—t through various channels. But this is done by stealth.
The

The jealous eye of the Dragon, forever watches the tender plant, he has reared to maturity. The Dragon is not liked, nay he is hated, by the figures, in the background of the piece: But a common interest has occasioned a pause of hostilities; and the fear of proscription from the other side, may make the armistice terminate in a treaty of friendship. Although D assures his dependents, that he and his friends, will inevitably force their way back, into the fortress in a very short time, he is anxiously eager to keep his present hold. His vanity and ambition are even stronger passions, than his avarice, on this occasion. He is afraid that India ceasing once to be rode will not be easily mounted again, by so clumsy a horseman: and his being out of place would break those political cobwebs he has endeavoured, to spread over almost all the Scotch Elections; for his hope and intention are to place relations and personal friends, in some Counties and several boroughs, to create a Body guard for himself; with which he can treat with any enemy and ultimately, when the worst comes to the worst, obtain terms for himself.

The character of the Man is well known. Although he certainly has but the frigida dextera, in the political field, he is bold in advice, to induce others to go to the front of the line. The manner, in which, he rouses his friend, at present, is curious. He brings before him the example of his father. "You have been the Minister of the Crown; because then it was necessary: Be, now, the Minister of the people and spurn with indignation, the step from which you mounted. You stood up against the H. of G. before: they, now, stand up, for you: Keep what you have, as a conquest - hold of nothing, but your own popularity. This is your time, to render the Sovereign, whoever he may be, subservient to yourself and your friends. This will be the way to strengthen

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"Strengthen and fix you, beyond the power of whim or
 "accident: and you will be followed and supported, in
 "proportion as the idea of your stability is established, in
 "the minds of men.

It is the fate of the most powerful and wisest nations, to be misled and deceived, by insignificant men, whose selfish machinations could only have effect, from their not being seen. Obscure and even incapable persons, having the ear of the Sovereign or the confidence of a Minister, have, more than once, moved and agitated this State. Two thousand guineas have been known to turn out a well-established Ministry: and a man who by a coarse species of artifice, has rather enslaved than gained one man of popularity, bids fair to make a dangerous change, in the Constitution of this Country.

It would be a very humiliating circumstance indeed, should a fabrick reared, at such an expence of toil and time, suffer detriment from so mean a cause!

Captique dolis —

*Quos neque Tydides, nec Larissæus Achilles,
 Non anni domuere decem, non mille Carinæ.*

The scenes, that may follow, are connected with the force already described: and they must be attended with more danger, than the interludes played, between the acts of former changes. One step of violation leads to more: for one piece of injustice requires another, to protect, its authors. Injury will, thus, succeed injury, unless obviated by coolness, precaution, firmness and address. To be quiet and silently to receive what may be offered, will be the best manner of preventing further breaches and of repairing those already made.

The people, though they may ultimately judge aright, are slow in comprehension: to attempt to stop or stem the torrent would increase its rage. A calm ebb will soon succeed this rapid flow; and men, as awaking from some foolish

