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A Dissertation, Moral and Political on the Influence of Luxury and Refinement on Nations, with Reflections on the Manners of the Age at the Close of the 18th Century by Adam Sibbit

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ADAM SIBBIT

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Product of

BY ADAM SIBBIT, A.B.

RECTOR OF CLARENDON, IN THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA.

Il y a de mauvais examples qui font pires que les crimes; & plus d'etats on peri parce qu'on violé les meurs, que parce qu'on a violé les loir.

MONTESQUIDU, GRANDEUR ET . Decadence des Romaines.

NOR.

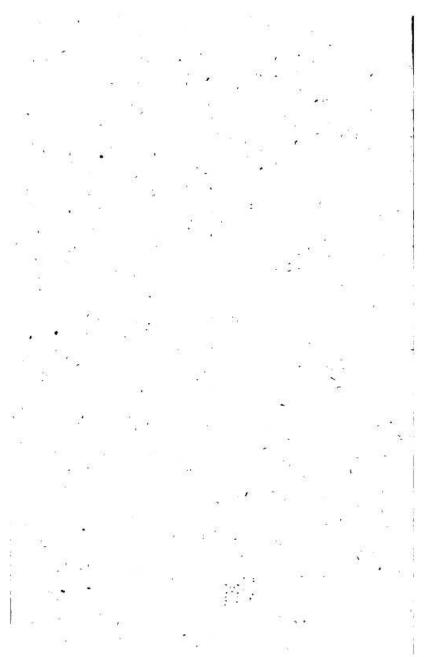
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Quid leges fine moribus Vanz proficient.

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1800.



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TO

THE RIGHT HON. JOHN LORD ELDON,

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LORD CHIZE JUSTICE OF HIS MAJZETY'S COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,

Ur. Ur. Ur.

BY HIS, LORDSHIP

OBBLIENT AND HUMBLE

THE AUTHOR.

DISSERTATION, Sc.

CHAPTER I.

WHEN we contemplate the extent and populoufnels of ancient nations, as they are defcribed to us by the moft celebrated hiftorians, and at the fame time reflect, that fo few monuments of their former greatnels are now femaining, we cannot refrain from being confiderably affected at the transfert and fleeting nature of the nobleft works and poffelsions of man. Every object by a which

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A DISSERTATION,

which we are furrounded, the events of the day, when duly confidered, are fufficient to admonish us of the uncertainty of human affairs, and of the frailty of our condition; but there is fomething fo uncommonly awful in the revolutions and vicifsitudes of great and powerful nations, that it comes home to every breaft, and ftrikes with. The hiftory of the peculiar force. mighty empires of antiquity is also extremely interesting to postcrity, as well by the vaft importance of the fubject. as the fuperior talents of the writerswho have recorded, with fo much dignity and elegance of composition, the grand feries of their achievements; we perufe their instructive and polished pages with peculiar delight, and we are endcared, by our classical fludies, from an early period of our life, to erery

MORAL AND POLITICAL.

every fcene which has been fo ftrongly and happily painted by the great mafters of eloquence and poetry. Yet, while the mind is informed, and the imagination is enriched and enlarged, by the noble view of fublime objects and great events, which ancient hiftory fo abundantly prefents to our attention, we are, at the fame time, filled with folicitude and regret, as often as we call to our remembrance, that fo many countries, which were once fo populous and fo magnificent, have long been divefted of all their fplendour and their beauty, and now only exhibit to the penfive moralift the gloomy picture of ruins and decay. We then contemplate with painful fenfations, and with reflections tinged with gloom, the cruel vicifsitudes of fortune, and the heavy devastations of all-confuming time. B 2 But