

made it so sure among those who were qualified to vote in it, as being neither of his Kindred nor Alliance, that they believed he would carry it from the other Competitor, whom they favoured; so they set up a third Competitor, whose Kindred were the Persons that were made sure to him, whose Advancement they opposed; and by this means they were all shut out from voting: so that the Election went according to the Design of the *Bannerets*. The chief Man now in *Bern*, who was the reigning *Advoyer* when I was there, is Mr. *d' Erlack*, Nephew to that Mr. *d' Erlack* who was Governour of *Brisack*, and had a *Brevet* to be a Marshal of *France*. This is one of the noblest Families in *Bern*, that acted a great part in shaking of the *Austrian* Tyranny; and they have been ever since very much distinguished there from all the rest of their Nobility. The present Head of it is a very extraordinary Man; he has a great Authority in his *Canton*, not only as he is *Advoyer*, but by the particular esteem which is payed him; for he is thought the wisest and worthiest Man of the State, tho' it is somewhat strange how he should bear such a sway in such a Government, for he neither feasts nor drinks with the rest. He is a Man of great Sobriety and Gravity, very reserved, and behaves himself liker a Minister of State in a Monarchy, than a Magistrate in a Popular Government: for one sees in him none of those Arts that seem necessary in such a Government. He has a great Estate, and no Children, so he has no Projects for his Family, and does what he can to correct the Abuses of the State, tho' the disease is inveterate, and seems past Cure.

He had a Misfortune in a War that was thirty years ago, in the Year 1636, between the *Popish* and the *Protestant* Cantons, the Occasion of which will engage me in a short Digression. The Peace of *Switzerland* is chiefly preserved by a Law agreed on among all the Cantons, that every Canton may make what Regula-