

1 vol.

M. de Lolme was ~~[i.w. or words]~~

^a[^] Genevan republican; he brought

to this singular work ~~[i.w.]~~

~~[i.w.]~~ republican liberali=

=ty. It is ^a[^] book which tho' put

together by a foreigner, should be

read by every Englishman. It is

altogether English if we except

its language.

The Author places our constitution

(that temple of liberty as he

name sit) in a strong light—which

lets fall no shadow. He makes

us enter therein, & gaze on the

lights columns, & [~~? match~~] the [~~? fan's~~]¹

proportions. As an architect

kindled by the contemplation of

a fine specimen of architecture,

[i.w. >]directing the attention of the

uninitiated to perfections hi-

¹ Incomplete pen strokes make these words difficult to identify.

-therto unseen by them – So
doth he direct our admira=
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-tion, in the midst of his
political enthusiasm, to
things well known but too
little valued.

The equilibrium of the king's Exe-
-cutive, Lords & Commons legis-
-lative is accurately defined.

The chapters on the granting of
subsidies, ~~[i.w]~~ ^[^]that^[^] best
surety of freedom to the people,
is extremely well reasoned.

De Lolme proves that political
bodies capable of granting
subsidies should not be mul-
-tiplied as in France – or as
it was proposed ^{^to do[^]} ~~to do~~[^] by² this go-
-vernment ^{^to do[^]} with regard to
our American Colonies. The
power of granting subsidies
should be converged in one
body. Otherwise bodies, so

² EBB seems to have changed her mind by inserting “to do” and then crossing them out.

empowered, would be [i.w.]
jealous ^rather[^] of each other than of
the power of the crown;
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while [i.w.] [^]ambitious[^] kings certain of pro=
-curing subsidies, by one means
or other, might [? prosecute] plans
the most anti-national.

The reasoning of this book is
excellent. It is, according to
Junius, "deep ingenious & solid."

The style is less brilliant than
clear & vigorous; but when
[i.w. because overwritten] figurative it is always
in good keeping.

De Lolme's fault is that he
can find no fault. He looks
our consti[tu]tional glory
with the eyes of Love which
have been called blind – He
can see no blemish – nothing to
put him in mind of humanity.

Moreover he refines too much.

What is the effect of chances
he attributes to a happy in-

-genuity; as some political

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commentators find more sense in
one page than its Author was
conscious of in twenty.

It is with tenderness that I think
of these defects; it is with reverence
that I speak of them. Who would
not forgive another for loving
him à la folie?³ And if De
Lolme loved à la folie our
English Constitution, it is an
English fault, - to be pardoned
by Englishmen.

One time or other I will pay
this book a greater compliment
than I can do in [^] these lines, - by buying it.

Every Briton should have it
in his library, that by re-
peated perusal he may
keep alive a noble conscious-
ness of national importance.

Let him teach it to his child-
ren, & value it to his soul.

³ To love someone to madness.
