But the more he ſerved *Saul* and his Country, and the more the People loved him, ſo much the more a great deal *Saul* hated him; which, by the way, is enough to ſhew, that a Man's Merit may ſometimes make him obnoxious to, and hated of his Prince; which, I fear, has been the hard Fortune of many a Brave Captain, ſince *David*. But this only by the way.

When *Saul* then perceived, that by the Will of God, and the Favour and Deſire of all the People, *David* was to be his Succeſſor, *he became his Enemy continually*. He endeavour'd by a thouſand Contrivances to put by his Succeſſion to his Kingdoms; and when he found nothing elſe cou'd do it, he uſed many Artifices, and made frequent Attempts to take away his Life. He did not indeed withdraw all his Forces wholly from him; but he ſent him with his 1000 Men only againſt the whole Army of the *Philiſtines*, in hopes to have got rid of him that way: Failing in which, he attempts to murder him privately in his own Houſe; and this, though he had ſworn to his Son *Jonathan* that *David* ſhould not be ſlain. After which, he purſued him from one Strong-hold, from one hiding Place, from one Part of his Dominions to another, till at laſt he forced him to ſeek Shelter among the *Philiſtines*, under *Achiſh* King of *Gath*. So much did *Saul* lie in wait for the Life of *David*; ſo many Attempts did he make to diſappoint him of his Succeſſion to the Throne of *Iſrael*, which he was anointed to by God's expreſs Command; and which Appointment of Heaven, the People willingly confirmed by one Conſent, even in *Saul*'s Life.

But, notwithſtanding this cruel Enmity and Perſecution of *Saul*, *David* did him all the Juſtice cou'd be deſired, far more than cou'd be expected, in putting the *Amalekite* to Death that had ſlain him, tho' at his own Requeſt; and treated Him and his Memory with all imaginable Reſpect, in making his Acknowledgments to the Men of *Jabeſh-Gilead*, and bleſſing them, be-

cauſe