

which is not the case in England, where a member of Parliament within the course of a week can easily reach home and after having done his business be back without being missed in his place. So that you would be obliged to chuse your Representatives in that class only of private country gentlemen and the interests of trade, commerce, arts and manufactures would be left entirely at the mercy of men in no ways connected with or conversant in them, and thereby these so important branches would be entirely sacrificed to the landed interest. As to the other obstacle, namely, the national character of the French, their talkativeness, their volatility, the facility of raising their enthusiasm are too well known and ascertained to allow the supposition of their adopting in deliberating assemblies that necessary steadiness and regularity without which nothing useful can be expected from their deliberations." Much more was said on that subject, and a sad experience has proved the propriety of these objections. But let us return to that confusion of ideas created by every thing I saw, heard, or read.

That some alteration for the better was necessary was admitted by all. The grand question was "how?" Every one suggested his schemes, and all had for motto *le bien public*: for the great word *liberty* and still less that of *equality* were not yet openly pronounced. However there was then a remarkable feature in all the pamphlets, or public discussions on the grand object of reform namely, that when the Chiefs of the numerous parties in which the public opinion was divided, were the object of the most unbounded praises of their followers, no voice was raised in favor of the virtuous Louis XVI. On the contrary he was already spoken of as a man of inferior qualifications. Even slander itself could not go a step farther. Indeed few human beings have carried the strict observance of religious and moral duties farther than this Prince; and he is an instance that virtue carried to an excess is productive, especially in a Sovereign, of consequences at least as baneful to mankind as depravity. In a less exalted situation Louis would have been brought forth as a pattern of attainable human perfection. To the soundest judgment he added extensive acquired knowledge. His personal courage was sufficiently