

ter her from danger by persuading her to leave France ; which she did. I shall now leave for a while the Queen and her friends in that state of peace and happiness, which plots and machinations could not yet disturb, and resume the narrative of events, such as recorded in my memory, for want of a surer guide.

I have hitherto related if not the primary causes of the French revolution, at least of those which have prepared and facilitated the explosion of that most extraordinary and unexpected political phenomenon. Many before me have ransacked their brains to attribute it to the then existing vicious state of things, while such a state of things then existing, was not a whit more vicious than it had been centuries before, or was then in every other country. It is true we have already confessed, there existed abuses ! But where shall we look to find none ? It is true that the profligacy of some of the great men of the Country was conspicuous !. But the same is seen every where ; and if the excesses of individuals in inferior classes are not so flagrant, it is because those who are guilty of them are not placed upon a stage, sufficiently raised to draw the public attention upon their performances. It may be true that some of the Clergy did deviate from the strict rules of morality, which it is their duty to inculcate by their precepts and by their example ! But this charge can only fall on very few individuals of that body, for it is well known and acknowledged, that in general the regularity of life and the zeal for their clerical duties, rendered that numerous class the object of highly deserved respect. I can appeal, in support of that assertion, to the name which those who have sought and found a safe asylum in England, have left behind them on leaving it.

We will carry our concessions still farther, and confess that the repartition of the direct taxes was far from being equitable ; that there were privileges and prerogatives exclusively enjoyed by certain classes to which these claims might formerly have been just, but which in the present state of things had lost their foundation ; that the different local systems of administration, then existing in the grand divisions of the Kingdom, were attended with the greatest inconveniences as obstructing the free intercourse between