

was a problem replete with great difficulties. I may be permitted here to anticipate a little and relate a conversation on that subject which I had with a well known British character, namely Sir Robert Herries. That gentleman held a distinguished rank in the Mercantile world, both as a Merchant and a Banker. As such his letters of credit and of introduction were equally attended to, and honored in any town on the Continent, wherein British trade (and where it had not ?) found access. He had Branches in several Cities, and amongst the rest in Paris, where he often resorted, and where he at last resolved to reside, and on his application for letters of naturalization, he not only obtained them, but also, as having had the honor of Knighthood conferred on him by his Sovereign George III, he was admitted as one of the Nobility of France.

It was then as one of that class that, on being summoned to meet, in order to choose the Electors who were to name the Representatives of the Noble cast, in the then convened General States, I met Sir Robert at the section of *Petits Peres*, in the *Place des Victoires* in which we had both our residence. Some money transactions I had had with him in England, and having then received some civilities from him, naturally led me to enter into conversation with him on the subject of our meeting, and amongst other topics I expressed the wish of seeing the British Constitution introduced in France. British Merchants of that class are very well known not to be limited, in point of knowledge, within the pales of their counters, and on the contrary to be conversant in the highest branches of political economy, and such he showed himself by his reply. "As a British subject by birth," said he, "I can but be proud of the superexcellence of the Constitution of my native country and certainly, were it possible I wish that it could be introduced in every Country. But that possibility is inadmissible, especially into France. There are two insurmountable difficulties peculiar to this Country: the one arising from the very locality; the other arising from the National character of the French. As to the locality, the distances from the extremities of the Kingdom to the seat of our Parliament, which naturally would be Paris or Versailles, would certainly prevent men of business from courting or even accepting the honor of being your Representatives; that