

the meeting of the General States of the Kingdom as the only means of rescuing France from its embarrassments. The idea of reviving an institution not resorted to for more than two centuries past, was received with avidity by the French, and seeming to be universally popular, was not resisted. From that moment politics became the only topic of conversation, and the freedom of the press having been, perhaps too far and too prematurely allowed the public was immediately inundated with political pamphlets, wherein the most extravagant notions were boldly advanced, and thus disseminated.

From that moment may be reckoned the beginning of disorder and anarchy. That infamous character, whom I will not call by the name he bore then, out of respect for the Royal blood that flowed in his veins, but whom I will designate by the name adopted by himself, *Egalité*, whose vices and crimes are innumerable, and having left behind not a single virtuous feature to rescue his name from eternal scorn, after having glutted himself of those pleasures derived from sensual appetites and the means of gratifying them being exhausted, took in his fancy to become a popular character. Ambition crept in his vitiated bosom. His soul cancered with hatred for the contempt deservedly shewn him by his Royal relatives, he conceived the idea of either ascending the throne or at least to obtain the Royal power under any other title than that of King. His immense riches enabled him to purchase able advisers, and under their guidance, to form a strong party. From that moment nothing was talked of but the charitable and benevolent disposition of a man who looked upon his fellow creatures as mere tools for attaining his vicious or criminal ends. Amongst these tools the most conspicuous were the notorious Comte de Mirabeau and the profligate author of the *liaisons dangereuses* of the name of Duclos, acting Secretary of *Egalité*. The former a member of the noble cast had acquired a reputation by the disorders of his youth which had compelled the Sovereign to make use of the so galling *lettres de cachet* at the solicitation of his own father, and by the emphatic as well as exaggerated description of what he calls the prosecutions whereof he was the vic-