

tune and of reputation as to character over Mirabeau, the former added that daring spirit which might have rendered him a dangerous rival to the latter in regard to popularity, had they been both placed in the same circumstances. Mirabeau, as already observed, was almost insulated, and therefore had no restraining motive of actions; on the contrary his sole dependence was on himself alone and *neck or nothing* was his motto. It was not the same with d'Epresmenil. He occupied a distinguished rank in society, he enjoyed a competent fortune to maintain his dignity, he belonged to a powerful body whose spirit he had imbibed and whose support he had a right to expect, so long as he should not descend from his station to put himself on a level with the mob. These considerations added to individual pride were powerful restraints on the means of gratifying an ambition no ways inferior to any, and whilst Mirabeau depended on his own talents, Egalité on his riches, and Necker on the support of the learned and literary characters and on his persuasion that nothing could be done without him, d'Epresmenil relied on the increase of the influence of the body whereof he was a member for his personal advancement, and he expected that increase of influence from the measures he called for and which secured to him for a while a high degree of popularity. In this however he was sadly mistaken, for the Parliament's influence was the first that yielded to the popular one, and he was one of the first who after having fruitlessly exerted his lungs and his talents to keep it up in the motley hall, called the National Assembly, withdrew from it and sought in England a shelter against the dangers which his primeval conspicuousness had drawn upon him. Being once in company with him at the lodgings of the Marquis d'Hermigny I heard him say to the very Counsellor Clerk of the Parliament of Paris who had been the first to join in the call for the meeting of the General States; "had Louis the XVI caused then your head that of Egalité and mine to be cut off, as he ought to have done and as we highly deserved, he would have preserved his own and the Crown upon it." Such were the first conspirators, not against monarchy however; far from it, its conservation was essential for the attainment of their end; but their object was to new model