

doubts whether there is as much ardour on the side of Antonietta, as on his own.

The consort of Lewis XVI. has a fair complexion, with large blue eyes, and is, indeed, a beautiful woman. She is, however, too sensible of this pre-eminence of face. She has a sister, one of the unmarried archduchesses, who was not equally delighted with a fair countenance, as will appear from the following anecdote:— Being attacked with the small-pox, that professed enemy to beauty, she called for a looking-glass, and, with unaffected pleasure, took leave of those features she had often heard praised, and which she believed would be greatly changed before she should see them again.

Antonietta has frequently been accused of having endeavoured to extend that

power which was annexed to the throne of France; and that the methods which she suggested to make arbitrary power more arbitrary, has occasioned the mortal blow which despotism has received in our neighbouring kingdom. Whether this is precisely the case, we will not pretend to say; possessing too much of the spirit of gallantry to pass so harsh a sentence upon any lady, without the fullest evidence of her guilt.

These cursory memoirs are not what we intended to have given to the public: more copious and more circumstantial particulars have been committed to our care; but prudence will not permit us to lay them before our readers at this time, for the reasons assigned in our preceding number.

CHARACTER OF LORD THURLOW.

[From the same.]

In times less favourable to genius and to freedom, the steel-clad Baron, and mitred Bishop, administered justice to their trembling vassals; nobility and the priesthood were then the only criterions of merit, while high birth, and the ecclesiastical consure, seemed to have assumed a prescriptive right over the noble science of jurisprudence.

In this more liberal and enlightened age, in which hereditary pretensions are forced to give way to personal worth, and the fortuitous advantages arising from fortune and descent maintain but a feeble competition with the natural endowments of a superior mind; the honours and emoluments of the law are destined to reward merit and abilities.

While a multitude of professional men have, in the course of the present century, ennobled themselves and their posterity, let it be recorded to their credit, that within that period, two of the noblest characters of which this kingdom can boast, have risen from the desks of attorneys to the Chancery Bench; while, if we believe common report, a third may be literally said to have jumped from the Loom to the Woolstack.

Edward Thurlow, the son of a manufacturer of the city of Norwich, like his great predecessors, Somers and Hardwicke, bursting from obscurity by the strength of his own genius, like them too, overcame the obstacles of birth and fortune, and suddenly rose to the first honours of his profession.

The finger of the House of Bedford pointed the road to preferment; and at a time when his cotemporaries were struggling with mediocrity, and a stuff gown; the silken robes of a King's Counsel; and the patronage of that illustrious family, inspired him with unbounded ambition. The powers of his mind, expanding with his hopes, the high offices of Solicitor (1770) and Attorney General (1771); which bound the views of some men, appeared to him; but as legal apprenticeships, imposed by custom, before he could attain to that dignity, which was to give him precedence to every lay subject in the kingdom, not of the Blood Royal.

The people beheld with pleasure, a man suddenly emerging from among themselves, and enjoying the highest offices of the state; his triumph seemed to be their own.

It flattered their passions to see plebeian merit coping aristocratical pride; an untitled, but acknowledged worth, conferring by its participation, lustre on degenerate nobility.

When they found too, that he supported his newly-acquired honours with a dignity which they imagined had only appertained to hereditary grandeur, and beheld him in his contest with the head of the House of Grafton, stating his own merits in competition with ducal honours, and weighing the fair claims of genius and learning, in opposition to a mercetricious, though Royal descent; every good citizen partook