

sentiments of the great body of the people, they might produce this unhappy effect. How, then, does it happen, that the partizans of the proposed address in favour of the Ministers, do not recoil before this terrible responsibility.

What must be thought of the attempt to erect not only palpable errors, but a forgetfulness of the most solemn obligations and,—setting aside the intention which is of course innocent,—I may say, the substantive fact of a violation of the most sacred of duties, into a sort of principle which is to serve as a basis for the liberties of the people.

Those who are called to the exercise of authority, even when they seek to convert it into arbitrary power, and thereby gradually deepen the abyss in which such power is always in the end engulfed, may yet for a time maintain their sway even among the ruins of the edifice of political society. They have, on their side, the advantage of an organization formed with careful foresight, of the concentration of the physical force which they command, and of the habit of obedience on the part of the people, who are naturally the friends of order, through which alone they are enabled to exercise their talents, for their private interest or for their mutual benefit. But, on the other hand, a people can neither acquire or maintain a title to those rights which are the heritage of freedom, save by justice alone. A disregard for the rules which she prescribes, entails on them the total loss of their importance and moral force; they forge their own chains, and habitual immorality prepares them to be slaves.