

## SUPERSTITION.

**W**E translate the annexed from a French publication, as an example of the superstitious opinions which even in our times prevail to a considerable degree, in an otherwise enlightened country. The subject, it will be seen, is a record of supernatural forewarnings of the murder of the Duke de Berri.

In ancient as well as modern times, on the approach of one of those events which change the destiny of nations, people have imagined the accustomed harmony of the universe to be broken, and that forebodings of a gloomy or a cheering nature, announced what they had either to hope or to fear.

These forebodings, real or imaginary, serve at least to shew the importance which people attach to certain events: thus for instance, the various miracles which took place at Rome previous to the assassination of Cæsar, enable us to judge of the horror which the death of that great man excited among the Romans; and the phantom which appeared to Brutus, on the eve of the battle in which he lost his life, proves how the attention of Rome was fixed on that event, which buried the republic in the tomb of Brutus. Finally when we call to mind the forebodings which tormented Henry IV. on the very morning of his assassination, it is natural to conclude that France, when she beheld the death of the conqueror of the League could not but fear that the League would again take up arms.

The Duc de Berri, the august victim of the ferocity of Louvel, has drawn as many tears as the victim of Ravail-lac; and the signs which announced the death of the late Prince, are now the theme of conversation in France.

The *forebodings*, *dreams*, and *visions*, which preceded the death of the Duc de Berri, have lately been collected and published in a pamphlet, from which we extract the following.

On the 13th February, Madame M . . . . was walking in the Faubourg, St. Honoré at the time when the Duc de Berri's carriage passed on its way to the Opera.—Some unaccountable fancy or horrible presentiment led her to observe to the Chevalier Dal . . . ., who accompanied her, "I did not know that funerals were suffered to take place at this late hour." "Funerals!" exclaimed M. Dal . . . . "Yes," added the lady, "a hearse has just now passed us." M. Dal . . . . looked round, and then turning to his companion, said, "You are mistaken; it was the Duc de Berri's carriage."—"Indeed!" said Madame