

" motion, has taken the liberty to give this
 " composition to the public, only from a
 " strong persuasion, that this momentous
 " argument will be useful, in a critical con-
 " juncture, to that country which he loves
 " with an ardour that can be exceeded
 " only by the nobler flame which burns in
 " the bosom of the philanthropic author,
 " for the freedom and happiness of all the
 " countries upon earth.

This plausibility of setting off a dishonour-
 able action, may pass for patriotism and
 sound principles, with those who do not en-
 ter into its demerits, and whose interest is
 not injured, nor their happiness affected
 thereby. But it is more than probable, not-
 withstanding the declarations it contains,
 that the copy was obtained for the sake of
 profiting by the sale of a new and popular
 work, and that the professions are but a garb
 to the fraud.

It may with propriety be remarked, that
 in all countries where literature is protected,
 and it never can flourish where it is not, the
 works of an author are his legal property;
 and to treat letters in any other light than
 this, is to banish them from the country, or
 strangle them in the birth.—The embezzle-
 ment from the Abbe Raynal, was, it is true,
 committed by one country upon another,