

pay, and well known in the history of that city, which makes honourable mention of his ancestors in the remotest times. Having finished his studies at the university of Paris with extraordinary success, he was appointed, in his three-and-twentieth year, Advocate or Solicitor-General of the Superior Council of Artois; and before he had attained the age of twenty-five, was promoted to the office of *Procureur-General* or Attorney-General of the Parliament of Flanders, which he exercised with distinguished abilities for six years. He was then called as *Rapporteur* to the King's Council, to report to his Majesty the most momentous affairs of administration; of which arduous and laborious task he acquitted himself in a manner that evinced his profound knowledge of the government, constitution, history, and jurisprudence of France, and established his reputation as a writer of no less perspicuity and judgment, than elegance and energy of diction.

In 1776, he was named Intendant of the Province of the *Trois-Évêchés*, and for fourteen years fulfilled the duties of that important office with universal approbation and applause, and greatly to the satisfaction of the inhabitants, by whom he was much beloved, and who expressed the utmost regret at his departure when he quitted that province in 1780, being appointed Intendant-General of Flanders and Artois. The same amiable affability of manners, and mild and equitable conduct in the administration of public affairs, which had procured him their esteem, conciliated no less the affections of his countrymen in Flanders, to whose commercial interests he shewed particular attention, in promoting the fisheries and every useful establishment both during the three years of his residence at Dunkirk; and after being appointed, in the year 1783, Comptroller-General of the Finances and Minister of State. In this high and important office he continued till 1787, and during the period of his administration raised and maintained the public credit by a punctuality till then unknown in the payments of the Royal Treasury, although on his accession he found it drained to the lowest ebb; and soon had the mortification to perceive that the annual income had long been inadequate to the annual expenditure. To trace the cause of this deficiency, its origin and progress, was the secret work of many an hour, supposed by the public to be devoted to pleasure or repose, as he conceived it of the utmost importance to conceal the deficiency till he had explored its source, and provided an adequate remedy for it, such

as would restore the proper equipoise between the annual income and expenditure; and provide a surplus for emergencies without increasing the burthen of the people beyond their ability to support. For this purpose he prevailed on the King to revive the ancient usage of national assemblies, by calling together the *Notables* of the kingdom; and after laying before them a true state of the finances, he boldly proposed, as a chief remedy for the deficiency, that the pecuniary privilege and exemptions of the nobility, clergy, and magistracy, should be suppressed. Well aware that a measure which appeared to militate so much against the immediate interests of the three most powerful ranks of the community must meet with opposition, but confiding perhaps too much in the generosity of that Assembly, and the justice of the cause, he determined at all events to risk the sacrifice of his own situation, rather than longer to conceal or palliate the evil. So fair an opportunity to overthrow a Minister was not neglected by his enemies; murmurs were excited, and every artifice of calumny and detraction put in practice with so much success, that finding himself supplanted in the favour of his Royal Master by the Archbishop of Thoulouse, and persecuted by every means that the most powerful hatred could invent, or the most inveterate malice perpetrate, M. de Calonne found it necessary to take refuge in England, where his first care was to justify himself from the cruel and unfounded aspersions of his enemies, who are themselves compelled to admit that his *Requête au Roi* and *Réponse à l'Errat de Mr. Neckar*, are master-pieces of eloquence, and written with as much moderation as elegance and perspicuity.

AN ACCOUNT of a VISIT to the ALPS.

BY M. DE SAUSSURE.

PHILOSOPHERS and Naturalists who purpose visiting the summit of a high mountain, generally take their measures so as to arrive at it about the middle of the day; they then make their observations in haste, that they may quit it before the approach of night. Hence, all the observations that have been made on places of considerable height, have been made nearly about the same time of the day, and have been confined to a very short space of time; consequently we have none from which we can form a just idea of the state of the air during the other parts of the day, or during the night.