

I. OF THE PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE EDUCATION OF A RURAL PEOPLE.

THESE may be considered as affecting a rural people, either in their political attachments, in their religious sentiments, or their individual happiness.

WITH regard to the attachment which the inhabitants of any country may form for the government under which they live, I would lay it down as a fixed principle, that no attachment of this kind can be depended on, while the people themselves remain in ignorance. While this ignorance continues, they are capable neither of appreciating the merits of their government, nor of foreseeing the fatal consequences of attempting a change.

WHEN a government possesses only a moderate share of excellence, still it is better for the people to submit, than to risk the consequences of a revolution. This is a position of which the experience of all ages proves the truth. History renders it undeniable to all who are fitted to receive historical information. And all those in every country who possess only a moderate portion of knowledge, are convinced of its truth. They are firmly attached to good order, and regard revolutions with horror. But how are the totally ignorant to learn this important lesson? How are they to come to the knowledge of it, who have no means of instruction; who have no records of the past, besides uncertain tradition, and the family tales which they learned almost as soon as they acquired the use of speech? To them the history of nations is sealed up, the experience of other times is lost. The admoni-