

T H E

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CURSORY MEMOIRS OF THE KING AND QUEEN OF FRANCE.

[From the Political Magazine.]

HIS present Most Christian Majesty, Lewis XVI. was born in 1754, and succeeded his grandfather Lewis XV. in 1774; having been married to Maria Antonietta in 1770.

With respect to the political talents and principles of the *Grand Monarche*, little can be said; it being perfectly understood that his talents are rather beneath mediocrity; and his politics have been wholly under the influence of others. We need only observe of them, that they have reduced the Gallic kingdom from a very respectable situation, to anarchy and confusion; from the most unlimited despotism, to abject servility.

Still, however, Lewis is neither to be blamed nor pitied. Measures of his own dictating have not thus hurled him from the arbitrary pinnacle; and, happily for him, he is destitute of that keenness of sensibility which might otherwise tend to embitter life, and render even a diadem, under so humiliating a tenure, little better than a crown of thorns.

He is a prince without ambition, without arrogance, and without vanity: then what has he sacrificed at the shrine of liberty! Destitute of those ungovernable passions, he has still the full enjoyment of every earthly blessing. He has a handsome consort, whom he affectionately loves; and, though his treasury may not be in the most excellent plight, it cannot be supposed but he will at all times have a sufficient number of *Louis d'Ors* to gratify his moderate wishes.

It is a maxim in the British laws, that

a King can do no wrong. This observation may, with the utmost propriety, be applied to the French King, whose disposition is so mild and beneficent that he cannot *do wrong*, without offering the greatest violence to his nature. He has, indeed, been accused, of loving his bottle or rather his bowl, (punch being His Majesty's favourite liquor) and that frequent inebriation is the consequence. He is also charged with eating to excess; and all his gratifications are said to be of the sensual kind. His diversions are those of the chase; but, since the late transactions, he has found it inconvenient to traverse vast forests, and therefore amuses himself with shooting sparrows; a sort of game that there is no danger of there being a scarcity of, their prolific qualities rendering such a circumstance almost impossible. When the weather will not admit of this kind of out door sport, he frequently has recourse to his lathe; a branch of business in which he has greatly distinguished himself. He is arrived to such perfection in the art of turning, that only one Monarch in Europe can excel him. When he is determined to be industrious, he can, in the course of one day, produce a button of a most singular excellence.

With this accommodating temper, and simplicity of amusements, Lewis cannot be much affected at such a trifle as a revolution. There is but one circumstance that gives him the least uneasiness: he is remarkably uxorious, but he fears the royal passion is not reciprocal. He wishes to have *love for love*, but he has his doubts