

tation. Their political knowledge also, they derived from their orators, who were obliged to explain to them, in the clearest manner, all public measures, and all their relations with other Grecian States, and with foreign nations. It does not appear, that this diffusion of knowledge among the Athenians, was, in any respect, injurious to public peace and good order, or to the virtue and patriotism, to the sobriety, industry or bravery of the citizens. They were an ingenious and scientific, an enterprising and highly commercial nation. There never was a braver, or a more public-spirited people. Their bravery alone defended Greece against the vast power of the Persian empire; their patriotism and love of liberty, proved the best, and most formidable obstacles to the usurpation of the Macedonian Princes.—Yet, their means of information were far inferior to those, which such among the moderns as acquire the first elements of education, do, or may derive from the press. Their method of obtaining information was momentary, fluctuating and calculated to inflame the passions: among the moderns, it is permanent, and fitted to improve the reasoning faculty.

BUT, undoubtedly, the most proper examples must be sought for in modern times, and in countries that more nearly resemble our own. And, to remove every shadow of doubt on this subject, nothing shall here be taken upon trust or conjecture: on the contrary, my authority for every statement that is brought forward shall be distinctly noted.

ALL writers who have given us any account of Iceland, are agreed, that a certain degree of