

inhabitants of the country, and not any particular class of them : though I am aware that the word has been used in a different sense ; to give a certain class of people a degree of artificial importance of which they would have never thought, had it not been instilled into them by persons, of whose designs, those called the people, were not aware.

By the spirit of the people at large, I mean that sense of independence, and correctness of thinking, of which that nation I am speaking of, has been allowed to possess a very large portion. This is the Spirit which is hated and envied by every Despot ; though it will be cherished by the Monarch of a free people, as the brightest jewel in his crown.—This spirit is the source of every noble and manly feeling ; it is generous, brave, and undaunted. No highness of rank, no greatness of wealth, will secure the vicious and unprincipled from its censure and punishment ; while, at the same time, the man devoid of rank and wealth cannot be oppressed with impunity.

When such is the value and importance of this spirit, let us consider by what means it is excited, cherished, and preserved.

In the first place, it is excited by that education which the youth of that nation very generally receive. It is thus, that the sparks of Independence and personal dignity are excited ; and the foundation