

Bastille? They were still at that place where they had taken their existence; in the brains of those who had invented that horrible engine of despotism.

But will it be asked, how is it that the shafts of the bitterest and most atrocious calumnies were directed against a Princess so accomplished as you represent her? Here it is. The seeds of sedition, the utopian dreams of philanthropy, and the idea of republican liberty disseminated by the American heroes began already to create a certain fermentation in the public mind. Ambition had already laid down plans, the success of which depended, if not entirely on the destruction of the Monarchy, at least on its debasement. It was therefore necessary to eradicate out of the hearts of Frenchmen that natural devotion to their Sovereigns which was one of their noblest characteristics. But at the same time the French are no less fond of those showy qualifications whereby their enthusiasm is so easily excited. None of those showy qualifications were found in or around Louis XV in the latter part of his reign: his conduct was rather calculated to lead to very opposite feelings; and had it not been for the appearance of Maria Antoinette at his Court, whose powerful attractions rekindled at once the almost extinguished flame of loyalty, it is possible that at the death of that King the revolutionary convulsion, on different principles it is true, might have taken place. So long therefore as this Princess preserved so powerful an ascendancy over the mind of the French, so long would it have been useless to think of shaking their loyalty. As to the King himself, they knew that he might be easily led to any concession required of him as soon as his Queen should cease to have over him that influence which she possessed on so many accounts. The retired and studious kind of life led by Monsiear, the King's brother, was not calculated to make him popular enough to fear much from his resistance. The Comte d'Artois, the King's other brother, on the contrary was possessed of those qualities congenial to the French mind, and in him therefore the conspirators found a redoubtable enemy. It was therefore their grand object to remove the obstacles to their success, which they had to fear from