

On my return to France (*prairial an 6*), it appeared to me, that I should render a service to my countrymen, by composing a work, the want of which I had felt my-

their reprimands, both in America and in France. I have notwithstanding continued to maintain it, in times when it required any degree of courage to avow it.

The World would be astonished were it known, that the animosity of Mr. John A\*\*, at the very time when the great Washington bestowed on me public testimonies of esteem and confidence, had no other motive than the *rancour of an author*, on account of my opinions concerning his book in Defence of the Constitution of the United States.. As a man of letters, and as a foreigner, frequently interrogated in a country of perfect freedom, I had had occasion to give my opinion, at a time when their author did not yet occupy the first post in the state. Unfortunately I had adhered to the opinion of one of the best English reviewers, who, treating the book as a compilation without method, and void of accuracy either in facts or in ideas, added, that he should even believe it to be destitute of an object, if he did not suspect a secret one, relating to the country for which it was an apology, and which Time alone would unveil. Now as I interpreted my author, I advanced, that this object was, to court popular favour, and the suffrages of the electors, by a national flattery. When the prophecy was verified by the event, the prophet was not forgotten.