

Egalité soon got a powerful accession of associates in his wicked designs. The sect of *Illuminate* had hitherto remained concealed in the dark abodes formerly occupied by those sanguinary and secret tribunals whose judgments and sentences made the very sovereigns tremble on their thrones. No less sanguinary than those to whom they had succeeded, the improved state of society throughout Europe did no longer permit those regular armed associations which for so long a time were the terror and scourge of the greatest part of Germany as the executioners of those secret dispensers of retributive justice, and thus the decrees of the *Illuminati* were not yet either promulgated or put in execution. Hitherto therefore they had limited their operations to lay down their plans and to prepare the ways of success. Their design was neither more nor less than a total renovation of man and of social institutions on the most utopian principles. It appears that they had a regular kind of Hierarchy, not of rank, but of initiation in their mysteries. In their order they admitted only men who could be useful to the attainment of their end either by superior talents, by riches, by power, or by any other means of influence. It appears likewise that very few were admitted to their secret Committees, which were composed of the most crafty and insinuating manners. These had under them a kind of emissaries, who were every where dispersed to propagate their doctrines and to look out for proselytes. They were so much the more dangerous that far from showing any kind of superiority they had always the appearance of seeking information from him with whom they conversed. Thus they soon entered into his principles and got acquainted with the probable utility he might be for the order. Was he thought a useful acquisition they contracted an intimacy with him and having so far succeeded in ranging him under the banners of the order, he was presented and introduced. In this manner they had spread far and wide and affiliations were extremely numerous especially in Germany and in Italy, where they had the way of connecting themselves with some Free-Mason's Lodges against the positive institution of this Fraternity which prohibit any interference either with religion or politics.