

2.6.13

THE
EXAMPLE OF FRANCE,
A
WARNING TO BRITAIN.

THE writers who have published their sentiments on the events which have passed in France since the Revolution, have been so lavish of argument, so exuberant in theory, that they seem to have relied for success with their readers, not so much on force of facts, as on ingenuity in weaving curious webs of reasoning. We have had, upon one hand, panegyrics on Gallic freedom, with enthusiastic calls to pursue the same system in order to arrive at the same happiness : on the other hand, every circumstance of the Revolution, from the original wish for liberty, has been condemned and satirized with more wit than truth. To plain men these writers seem equally removed from that examination, which, attending solely to facts, and their immediate or more remote consequences, is not apt to trust to cunning of argument, but looks on every side for the more solid support of experiment.

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