

son, who was then all-powerful ; but the election of 1801, making amends for that of 1797, gave me sufficient reparation*.

* I shall point out to the Americans however the absurdity of the principal grievance, by which I was rendered a *suspected person*: (for at that period the language and system were truly those of *terrorism*). I was supposed to be the secret agent of a government, whose axe had not ceased to fall on those like me. A *conspiracy* was fabricated, which I (a single Frenchman) had plotted in Kentucky, to deliver up Louisiana to the directory (which had but just risen into existence); and this when numerous and respectable testimonies in that very Kentucky, as well as in Virginia and Pennsylvania, could attest it to be my opinion, declared on occasion of the conduct of the minister G****, that the invasion of Louisiana would be false policy: that it would involve us in a quarrel with the Americans, and strengthen their inclination toward the English: that Louisiana suited France in no point of view: that colonizing it would be too expensive and precarious; and to maintain possession of it too difficult, for want of a navy, and of stability in our government, which was distant, changeable, embarrassed, &c.: and that in short, from the nature of things, it only suited, and must ultimately belong to the neighbouring power, which possessed every means of occupying, defending, and retaining it. This opinion, contrary to that of most of our ministers, exposed me to their disapprobation, nay almost