

he wrote to the Directory, "is always desirous to obtain some amelioration or other, and it thinks it can find this by changing incessantly." However, in spite of this danger, Hoche adopted universal suffrage as the basis of election, but on the condition that it should be regulated and not become an abuse in the hands either of the aristocracy or of the democracy, from whom, he said, truly laborious, patriotic, honest France will be obliged long to defend herself. Hoche had devised for this end a system, good perhaps in theory but very difficult to put in practice; he wished that the press should be free, but that the proper names should be put beyond all discussion, and that there should be, with regard to the candidates in the elections, absolute absence of interference on the part of the Government and of the press; he wished, in fine, that they should only be designated by general consideration and public notoriety. "To act otherwise," he said to Chérin, "would be to facilitate the plots of the aristocracy and of the plebeians. These are two minorities which must be disarmed and hindered from creating too much disturbance. It is serving liberty to limit it with those who demand it only for the sake of oppression." To demand the liberty of the press in the face of universal suffrage, and at the same time to forbid to the press all intermeddling in the elections, is an anomaly which astonishes one in a man of such upright common sense, and which is only explained by the want of all practical experience.

## NOTE G.

*Extract from a letter written by Hoche to his Wife on the 9th June, 1795, on the Education of Girls.*

In general, education in France is good for nothing, especially that given to women. We make of our girls giddy coquettes, or women like Agnes, whose timidity disgusts. The English understand these things better; their wives are retiring, learned; they speak to the point and know no timidity; they allow to girls the liberty of going out, of speaking to men; their mothers make them feel horror for vice, the fear of betrayal, and besides, they do not treat them as slaves. Thus, note well, my dear, that the very girl who near her parents is timid, and who never speaks without blushing, is scarcely married that she knows no more restraint. Why did her parents treat her as a slave, etc., etc.?