

It is well known, that the administration of justice, is in this manner carried on in France; for people pay a high price, for a law office, and are contented to do the duty, which is very laborious, without receiving, by way of salary, any thing like the interest of their money. Their motive is, that the situation gives them rank and pre-eminence amongst their fellow-subjects; and the vulgar opinion, that the Judges in that country, are corrupt, will be found, upon inquiry, to have very little foundation. The duty of almost every other office in the Provinces, is discharged at as cheap a rate to the public: nay, the officers of the army, actually serve for less pay, than is necessary for their support, and, in spite of the frugality for which they are distinguished, generally ruin their own private fortunes, in the service of the State.

The waste of the public treasure, arises, in that country, from an immense standing army; and the idle and profuse extravagance of a Court, which, from the nature of the constitution, is under no control with respect to its expence.

It will probably be said, that in despotic Governments, the possession of office, carries with it a degree of protection, and a power too, of oppression, which in a free country are out of the question. But I am informed, that in the Republic of Holland, the salaries of very high and important offices, are exceedingly trifling; and in our country, we see, with how much eagerness, the office of Lord-Lieutenant of a county, is solicited, though attended with expence, instead of emolument.