

astonishment, at the inadequacy of their foresight and the insufficiency of their predictions. The seizure of the duchies of Parma and Piacenza occupied no more time than was necessary to compose a proclamation; the subjugation of Switzerland was the work of a week; and the reduction of Holland, already threatened and surrounded, will not, in all probability, occupy a much greater space of time. This ambition has many of the characteristics of the Roman ambition; it has the *eyes* of the eagle, the *wings* of the eagle; and the *claws* of the eagle; in short the gallic cock seems to have robbed the imperial bird of its distinguishing properties; and the period is not far distant when he will make a desperate attempt to tear his body piecemeal, and to pass himself off as his substitute. But the Romans, not unfrequently, conquered to confer prosperity and comfort; whereas the invariable object of the French is to destroy both; they subjugate to plunder, and *annex* to oppress. They are the very scourge and the curse of the human race. All intercourse with them is infectious, all connection fatal. Their breath is poison and their grasp is death. These remarks may, possibly, appear to Mr. Barrister Brinkine, not to be written in "the spirit and temper of peace;" but they are marked by qualities more honourable to the Historian, the Moralist, and the Briton, by the spirit and temper of *TRUTH*;—That spirit which no Consular threats shall ever subdue;—That temper which no Consular promises shall ever destroy. Look at the continent of Europe, and see whether it be *possible* to exaggerate the nature, the object, or the effects of French ambition!

In annexing the duchies of Parma and Piacenza to the French Republic one and indivisible, the Corsican Consul employed, as the herald of his will, and the representative of his power, a

man who was formerly the editor of a French newspaper, but who now acts in the capacity of one of his viceroys. This man was instructed to apprise the widow of the late Duke, that the property of her husband was transferred to other hands, and to inform his subjects, that their allegiance was transferred along with it. So that these good people have been literally disposed of, as the hinds were centuries ago under the old feudal system, like so many trees attached to the soil. The Duke of Norfolk and Mr. Fox may perhaps inform us, what became of the boasted *rights* and *sovereignty* of these worthy subjects, who have thus been compelled to become *free* and *equal citizens* of France, in spite of themselves;—And, possibly, the *pious* TALEYRAND, and the *more pious* SIEYES, may oblige us with similar information, in respect of their *WILL*, which, at an early period of the revolution, formed so material a part of their public orations. For this easy transfer of states, without the privity or consent either of the inhabitants, or of any other of the members of the *great Western Family*, except the contracting parties themselves, Europe is certainly indebted to Buonaparte the *Consul*, who has improved alike on the practices of Buonaparte the *General*, and on those of his predecessors. We differ, indeed, essentially from those who maintain that there is something *ambiguous* in the conduct of this *great man*; never surely was prince or peasant more *open*, more *decisive*, or more *consistent*, in his *principles*, his *professions*, and his *practices*!

As to the *Swiss* their subjugation is complete; and, in their present condition may such of the European nations as presume to oppose the French, without adequate means of resistance, read their own fate. Time was indeed, when this gallant people would have perished to a man sooner than suffer an ambitious and profligate ene-