

*almost every day : and it is certainly for the good of Mankind that those be as widely disseminated as possible, in order that all may reap the benefit of them. The political World is also at the same time, pregnant with great events. And whether, on account of these, Mankind shall hereafter have occasion to deem the present age auspicious or the contrary,—these events themselves are in either view, highly interesting to the world in general, and will probably afford an important Lesson to Mankind for many ages to come. The warmth with which many at present enter into the subject of Politics we mean entirely to avoid ; and we would recommend to our correspondents to do the same. Whether we may boast of the name of Aristocrates or Democrates, or however much we may feel interested in the cause of either, it is yet perhaps but very uncertain, which shall be approved of in the judgment of posterity, a thousand years hence ; or whether either will finally be judged of that vast consequence which we are apt to imagine. But to observe the origine, progress, different modifications, and effects of those different principles, may however prove a source of very useful information ; and may enable us in time either to confirm or correct our judgement by experience.*

*The World is indeed old enough, as one would imagine, to have had sufficient experience on the subject of Government. But neither the experience of individuals, of Communities, nor of Worlds, as would appear, is in just proportion to their Age. It requires understanding and observation as well as Age, to enable Men to gain any great degree of useful experimental knowledge ; and in one or other of those qualifications, a great part of Mankind have generally been very deficient. Hence Ages have passed away without improvement and without experience. Five thousand years have elapsed since human Society first was formed ;—Men have seen, at one time or other, almost every form of Government tried, which it seems possible to devise, and yet they appear as far or even farther from being agreed upon the subject, than when it first began.*

*Formerly the most prevalent Idea of the art of Government, was as simple in its nature, as it was frequently severe in its effects. An Alexander or a Cæsar gave laws to the world at the point of the sword, and, without consulting their inclination, said to them, “this shall be your constitution; “I tell you it is the best “ At present the Philosophers have taken up the subject on the side of the many.” It is brought forward to be discussed before the Tribunal of the Public. The sword of the mouth is opposed to the sword of steel, and the world waits the result of the Contest.*

THE EDITORS.