

The *cahiers* or written statement of the grievances which bore heavily upon the people would have assisted his benevolence towards his people. In them he would have found the wishes of the whole nation truly and freely expressed, and in many instances the means of accomplishing them; and there is no doubt that the success would have been as complete as his intentions, to ameliorate the condition of his subjects, were sincere. Far different must have been (and a dire experience has proved it to be so) the miserable call or convocation of which has been very properly nicknamed the *Not-able*. It was the most absurd, impolitic and untimely measure which could have been resorted to. It was, as said before, a positive confession of inability on the part of the King. It was a positive proof of the total and absolute incapacity in his ministers and advisers. It was the most effective means of increasing the activity and accelerating the progress of the ferment already existing, and hastening the irregularity and confusion of movements inherent to that State. In fine, it was throwing the sceptre in the hands of factions, and it may be truly said with a French poet, that from that moment

“ Les loix étoient sans force et les droits confondus ;

“ Ou plutôt en effet Bourbon ne regnait plus.”

and the revolution had begun.

To be continued.

ON SMUGGLING.

Smuggling is looked upon by many as a petty offence; and so much so that many respectable people not only encourage smugglers by buying goods well knowing them to be imported in an illicit manner, but even do not scruple to defraud the revenue and to transgress against the laws of their Country. But if we consider this offence under its true light it will be easy to discover that few crimes are of a blacker dye than this. It is not only a real robbery on the public, but also a real robbery on the individual members of the community. For it is clear, that if the product of a tax laid on goods imported falls short of that which it was calculated at, that some additional tax must be contrived to fill up the deficiency in the necessary subsidies which must be paid perhaps out of a portion of individual necessities. We shall not insist on the injury occasioned to the fair trader by that offence, being too evident to require any further discussion. We shall therefore at once expose it under its most prominent and dark colours.

If smuggling were carried on only by stealth and in a private manner, the offence would remain in the felonious limits above