

ease of manners, and that fascinating levity which could not be acquired by the former, being derogatory to the gravity required by the dress and the important functions of the former. The price of these was sorely mortified, and they thought that the moment was favourable to mount to the highest places. They had already laid claims to a right, if not of resistance, at least of controul over the measures of government, as being a kind of permanent committee, representing the general States of the Kingdom. They hoped that their influence would in the present juncture insure the success of this pretension, as thereby obviating the necessity of a general convocation attended with the greatest difficulties and dangers. They were farther encouraged in that hope by the numerous sets of men, in a manner their dependants and on-hangers. They relied on the assistance of the divers classes of lawyers, or members of petty jurisdiction spread over the whole face of the country, of all the tribes of students in law, of clerks, of bailiffs and of all the low class any ways connected with the administration of justice, the whole amounting to many thousands. This formidable body would effectually have carried every thing before them had they remained united, but the same cause that excited the jealousy of the *Noblesse de robe* against the *Noblesse de cour*, namely, mortified pride, acted as forcibly on the inferior magistracy and on the whole body of lawyers who were excluded from the higher places, so that, far from joining the members of the Supreme Courts, they were the very first to take part with their adversaries, in the prospect tendered to them of succeeding to their seats on the upper benches of Judicature. They were farther foiled in their expectations by their splitting into parties amongst themselves. Some adhering to the throne, some supporting Mr. Necker and some having enlisted under the banners of *Egalité*.

The same means of bribery had been employed to disunite the Clergy. The higher class of that order enjoyed immense riches, whilst the country priests remained without any prospect of advancement. To the latter, great promises were made that all distinction should be abolished, and that in future, both Bishopricks and fat livings should be within their reach. Those poor people, perfectly ignorant of the ways of the world, snatched at the bait, and repentance and persecution were the bitter fruits of their deserting their leaders.

*To be continued.*