

mand; for which, since the suspension of the former government, they have got nothing. This has reduced many wealthy families from opulence to extreme indigence; but as the calamity is nearly universal, they bear with and endeavour to comfort each other. Rome trembles for her safety: Avignon is ravished from her: The foundations of her power are shaken; and she looks around her, on every side, with the most suspicious watchfulness. Nor are the other states in a situation greatly different. All open exertions, therefore, of despotic power, are suspended, and will probably never be again exercised.

*The American States,*

UNDER the influence of Mr. Washington, who exhibits a character, that in the eyes of a *refined* Italian politician, would have appeared chimerical, are making large strides to correct the evils that originate from their local situation and political circumstances. While the *people* are young, and while virtuous principles in their governors, and virtuous habits can be found among the people, their energies may be sufficient to over-rule the influences of those political evils to which they are naturally exposed; but should this continue till industry begets wealth, and wealth luxury, and luxury corruption of manners, and corruption of manners depravity of heart, what is to preserve the people from that corruption that must be expected to arise in every government? They do not seem, as yet, to have turned their eyes to this side of the picture; otherwise provision would have been made to guard against it. The nation whose safety depends on the virtue of its ruling powers alone, is in a very precarious state indeed. In this situation the American states are too much circumstanced: Washington would perhaps have been the greatest character that has appeared in this or any other nation, had he had the fortitude to guard against this evil. But it is so much more agreeable for an upright mind simply to do right himself, and diffuse immediate happiness around him, rather than to suspend that happiness by guarding against future contingencies of a disagreeable sort that is perhaps too great a sacrifice to expect any man to be able to make.