

slender fortune of my father could not have afforded to give to a numerous family of children?

Can I help recalling to my mind, that in my youth, decorated with an uniform, and an honourable jewel hanging at my button hole, I drew upon me the gaze and smiles of the fair sex; that there were no weddings without the honor of my company; how proudly the bride walked to the church arm in arm with the young cavalier; how he enjoyed the hearty and respectful welcome of the numerous assembly partaking with him of a plentiful convivial board; how sweet were the innocent kisses, half given and half stolen impressed on the rosy lips of the young virgins, but atoned for by the charitable ones lightly applied on the parched skin of the mothers and grandmothers? Shall I pass over in silence the modest blush, animating the countenance of the girl on whom the choice fell of being led on the floor to exhibit gayety, grace and agility, in the mazy dance as the partner of a young spark, with an epaulette on his shoulder: well understood that his choice did not fall on the ugliest of all, and, therefore, excited certain degree of jealousy in the breasts of many? And all this was in my quality of *Locum tenens* or representative of the Seigneur. And when arrived at more mature years, did I not find all the doors, even those of palaces, open to me, altho' not emerging out of an elegant equipage, altho' not surrounded, or even attended by idle followers in rich trappings. My name was a sufficient introduction, my decoration a master key. Such are the recollections of the first half of my life; such were the prospects held out to me from my cradle, on account of my inherited nobility.

The French revolution has, at once blasted those prospects. Literary and scientific pedants have been led to support the new principles, by adopting the idea suggested to them, that Nobility by birth, had hitherto robbed talents and erudition from that pre-eminence in society to which they laid claim, and that the time was come for them to be reinstated in their legitimate rights. Too much absorbed in their favorite pursuits to bestow a great deal of their time on the study of the ways of the world, they deigned