

A SKETCH, (a) &c.

POLITICAL events have, like the phenomena of nature, their successive changes and their progression. The art of observing the one and the other, of watching their developments, of calculating their issue, constituted the science of the natural philosopher and of the statesman. The latter is never so profound as when he joins to the calculation of the different changes the power of directing, of subduing and of making inevitable inconveniencies bend to his views, or of neutralizing them by wise precautions. All those who were enabled by their situation to pay some attention to our relations with America, have foreseen the crisis of which we are now witnesses: In fact, the course of events has necessarily brought it on, and nothing has delayed its approach, but the indifference and the apathy, into which the affairs of Europe had plunged our government, with regard to that nation.

Much has been written and much said on this subject. The only result I have been able to draw from all that has been done in this respect is, that the public took some interest in it; and it is partly this consideration that has determined me to offer some ideas on that subject. I have, perhaps, some right to do this. The nature of the functions I discharged near the American government; my personal situation, which places me beyond the reach of all suspicion, either of ambitious views, or of partiality for the executive; the silence which I have hitherto preserved, a silence which best suited my situation and the times; the indirect allusions of which my administration has been the object, all engage me

(a) It is to be remarked, that this pamphlet appeared in Paris before the 4th of September; which gives a stronger character of impartiality to the animadversions which it contains upon Pastoret, Segur and Co. who, it has been endeavoured to persuade the citizens of the United States were our friends; but who, in fact, were only the partisans of our administration.

Note of the Translator.