

neighbouring Provinces which became in a manner strangers to one another. To these might perhaps be added some other defects, either lineally descended from primeval institutions suitable to more remote times, or crept in imperceptibly under cover of momentary circumstances. But we deny that a revolution was in the least necessary to cure these defects, and we dare on the contrary to affirm, that the simple will of the Sovereign assisted by able and competent ministers, would have met with infinitely less difficulties in the accomplishment of that desirable work, than were experienced by Cardinal Richelieu in subduing the restless ambition and curtailing the usurped power of the *grandeess* of his time. It appears that Louis did not find himself equal to the task. Nay he promulgated his inability by yielding to the suggestion of an appeal to his subjects. It was a real confession that a crown was too heavy a burthen for him and his first call of the notables amounted, if not to a real abdication, at least to a momentary delegation of those powers and prerogatives which he had constitutionally and lawfully inherited. We say more; that delegation was a real suspension of that allegiance sworn to the King: for what is that oath of allegiance, if not a compact between the Sovereign and the liege man, whereby the former promises protection in return for that obedience and submission sworn to by the latter? So long therefore that the subject enjoys the full benefit of that protection, a deviation from his allegiance is a true act of treason, and as such deserves the utmost severity of the law. But it may be asked, where could be found amongst polished nations a jury of free men, that would return a verdict of wilful murder against the bond's man, who could prove, that there was no other possibility to save his own life threatened with immediate destruction, without just cause, by an intoxicated master, but by his death.

Had the virtuous Louis recurred at once to the calling in of the General States, a measure known in the French constitution altho' fallen in desuetude, it would have been hailed with that enthusiasm so natural to Frenchmen at that epoch. The King would have yet preserved that preponderance capable of directing as well the mode of convocation as the objects of their deliberations when met.