

and constant Study, scrupulously to maintain the Treaties; to fulfil the Duties of Amity with Care, and upon every Occasion to give Proofs of her Sincerity and Friendship.

At the Time when the Revolution first broke out in France, Six Years ago, when most of the Powers in Europe confederated against that Country, the Sublime Porte, although a Witness to the improper Proceedings of those who held the Reins of Government by Usurpation, chose rather, in Observance of her ancient Amity with the French Nation, to remain Neutral: and though she had been several Times invited by the Allied Courts to join with them, and to break with France; although the Troubles of that Country had become more and more violent at that particular Period when an Army had reached near Paris; whilst soon after the Fortresses of Valenciennes, Condé, and Quefnoy, the Keys of France on the Northern Side, were taken by the Austrian Arms; Toulon, the only Arsenal of the French in the Mediterranean, had fallen in the Hands of the English, with the Ships of War which were in it; and by an increased Party of Royalists in their Provinces, the Situation of the Government had become more critical, and Perplexity and Distress prevailed on every Side; yet, the Sublime Porte, notwithstanding that it depended only upon herself to join with the other Powers, nevertheless, giving way to her known Principles of Justice, did no-ways consent to deviate from the Line of a Neutral Conduct.

On the contrary, considering that if under the Circumstances of a strong Famine, by which France, blocked up by Sea and Land, was afflicted, the Sublime Porte had also broken off her Connection, their distressed Situation would have been such as to throw the Inhabitants into total Desolation and Despair; she abstained from that Measure; and she hereby asks, whether it be not a Fact, that the Liberality which she has shewn to them, from Time to Time, has brought Complaints against her from other Powers?

The extensive Advantages which the French have reaped from the Sublime Porte's remaining Neutral, during the Course of the War, become clear and evident by a Moment's Glance at the Events of the War, and the Public Transactions during that Period. Whilst, therefore, in consideration of the uniform Acts of Condescension, thus observed towards them by the Sublime Porte, they, on their Side, ought also to have been steady in preserving Peace; yet, those among them, who found the Means of assuming to themselves the Reins of Government by Favour of the Revolution, began to devise various Pretences, and, under an illusive Idea of Liberty,—a Liberty so called in Word, but which in Reality knows no other Laws but the Subversion of every established Government, (after the Example of France,) the Abolishment of all Religions, the Destruction of every Country, the Plunder of Property, and the Dissolution of all Human Society,—to occupy themselves in nothing but in misleading and imposing upon the Ignorant amongst the People, pretending to reduce Mankind to the State of the Brute Creation; and this, to favour their own private Interests, and render the Government permanent in their own Hands.

Actuated by such Principles, they made it their Maxim to stir up and corrupt, indiscriminately, the

Subjects of every Power, whether distant or near; either in Peace or at War, and to excite them to revolt against their natural Sovereigns and Government.

Whilst, on one Hand, their Minister at Constantinople, pursuant to that System of Duplicity and Deceit which is their Custom every where, made Professions of Friendship for the Ottoman Empire, endeavouring to make the Sublime Porte the Dupe of their insidious Projects, and to forward their Object of exciting her against other friendly Powers; the Commanders and Generals of their Army in Italy, upon the other Hand, were engaged in the heinous Attempt of perverting the Subjects of His Majesty the Grand Signior, by sending Agents (Persons notorious for their intriguing Practices) into Anatolia, Morea, and the Islands of the Archipelago, and by spreading Manifestoes of the most insidious Tenor, among which the One addressed by Buonaparte to the People of Macrio, with several others distributed by the same, are sufficiently known to the Publick.

Upon the Sublime Porte's complaining to the Directory of this Conduct of their Commanders and Generals, their Answer was,—that all Proceedings on the Part of their Officers, contrary to Friendship, were not with the Consent of the Directory; that the same should be prevented, and their Officers warned against it; the Wish of the French Government being to strengthen more and more the ancient Friendship subsisting with the Sublime Porte.

In consequence of this Answer, delivered officially on their Part, it was expected, that the said Generals would have left off their seditious Pursuits. But, nevertheless, no Change appearing in their Conduct, and their Perseverance in such insidious Practices being greater than ever, it became obvious that the Answers of the Directory were only fictitious and deceitful; that the intriguing Attempts of their Agents could not but be dictated by the Instructions which were given them; and consequently, that any further Complaint would be of no avail whatever.

Notwithstanding these Transactions, however, the Sublime Porte, in the Hopes of the Directory altering its System of Conduct, and laying aside the senseless Pursuit of wishing to overturn the Universe; in Expectation of seeing Things in France, from the harassed Situation of that Country, at length take a different Turn, by the People refusing to bear any longer those intolerable Evils and Disasters which have been brought upon them from the personal Views of a few upstart Individuals since the Commencement of the Revolution; and with the View of preventing secret Enmity from producing an open Rupture; she did not alter her Course, but preferred keeping Silence.

In the Beginning of the War with the other Powers, the French Government had declared, that their Intention was not to acquire new Territory, but on the contrary, to restore every such Conquest as might have been made by their Arms during the Contest: Contrary to which, they not only have kept Possession of various extensive Provinces, snatched by them from the Belligerent Powers; but not content with this, profiting of the Changes which had prevailed among the Allied Courts through their Intrigues, have put off the Mask en-