

cast their eyes on the character of MONTESQUIEU. When they find so many virtues united in a man, whose understanding was both sublime and just; when they find a man of his penetration to have been a strictly moral man, they will then, perhaps, be convinced, that vice is the natural effect of an imperfect understanding.

M. MONTESQUIEU was born in the year 1689, in the Chateau de la Brede, within three leagues of Bourdeaux, of an ancient and noble family. He applied himself, almost from his infancy, to the study of civil law: The first product of his early genius was, a work, in which he undertook to prove, that the idolatry of most part of the pagans did not deserve eternal punishment. But this book his prudence thought fit to suppress. In 1714 he was made counsellor of the parliament of Bourdeaux; and in 1716 president à mortier. In this year he was also created member of the new founded academy of the same city. In 1725 he opened the parliament with a speech, the depth and eloquence of which were convincing proofs of his great abilities as an orator. The year following