

nation, as the most conspicuous. If it be a difficult thing, to trace the effects of our passions in an Individual, how much more so must it not be, to mark out those of a whole People! Human sense, to what extended degree soever it may be possessed, will, without experience, be found unequal to the task. There is required a perfect acquaintance with facts; that laboriously-acquired knowledge, which is so rarely united to a sublime genius! M. MONTESQUIEU's reflections upon this subject, are evidently the result of a continued and complete study of history. It is from an exact series of events that he draws consequences the most just. These *Reflections*, etc. so full of profound reasoning, may be considered as an abridgement of the Roman history, capable of supplying what is wanting in Tacitus himself.

These works, says Mr. Maupertuis, naturally led our author to a third, and much more important one; namely, his *Traité de L'Esprit des Lois*. Amongst the many different forms of government which exist, there are three principal ones, distinguished from the rest; *Democracy*, where the power