

than will ever be formed by the human genius.

We confess, says our Orator, that M. MONTESQUIEU, in explaining the causes of that variety observable in the manners of different people, in their laws, in their form of government, and even in their religion, has attributed too much to climate, degree of heat, air, and aliment; and that some of his reasonings, on which these explanations are founded, have not the force he supposed. True it is, that these physical principles may be admitted to a certain degree; and it is also as true, that in having sometimes extended their influence a little too far, M. MONTESQUIEU does, by no means, deserve the censure which envy would have insinuated. Yet these philosophical and literary critics gave him little uneasiness. Reason was his sufficient advocate. But there was another kind of critics, against whom the voice of reason was less to be depended on. These gave him great uneasiness; for he was a man who ought not to have been suspected. He was threatened with no less than to see his book condemned, or himself obliged to make certain retracta-