

**REFLECTIONS UPON THE
LATE REVOLUTIONS IN
EUROPE**

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Reflections upon the Late Revolutions in Europe by Marquis De Salvo

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MARQUIS DE SALVO

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REFLECTIONS

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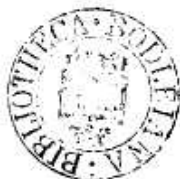
J. H. 1825

REFLECTIONS

UPON

THE LATE REVOLUTIONS

In Europe.



BY THE

MARQUIS DE SALVO, &c. &c.

*E tu soggiunes dei tuoi di venturi
Osi tanto sperar quanto non lice.*

F.

Le monde est inepte à se guérir. Il est si impatient de ce qui le presse qu'il ne vise qu'à s'en débarrasser sans regarder à quel prix. Nous voyons, par mille exemples, qu'il se guérit ordinairement à ses dépens. La décharge du mal présent n'est pas guérison, s'il n'y a, en général, amendement de condition.

MONTAIGNE, Lib. iii. Chap. ix.

London :

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PORTLAND PLACE.

1824.

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TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

REFLECTIONS

UPON THE LATE

REVOLUTIONS IN EUROPE.

CHAPTER I.

Sect. I.

OF REVOLUTIONS IN GENERAL.

WITH the numerous great and instructive lessons of experience before our eyes, we should reflect upon them each moment, if we would form a correct opinion of political events: it is them alone that we are to consult, if we wish to speak with frankness to those men who, having reckoned only upon the promised results of the principles they had set forth, are surprised to find their plans frustrated, without being able to comprehend how the event has contradicted their calculations. Those who

wish to speak of past events, must assume faithful observation and discriminating judgment for their rule.

If we reflect attentively upon the writings of the present day, we shall soon be convinced, that although possessed of eloquence, of talent, and of zeal, the distinguished writers who think they devote themselves to the true interests of nations, and that they are their defenders and their advocates, fail very often in their voluntary enterprise, by confiding in speculations which they found upon abstract theories and systems: thus they are led to speak, as if by proclamation, of the rights of nations, of the inviolability and the extent of those rights, but they seldom point out how they shall be guaranteed or consolidated. Most of the speeches of those men of the present age, who are remarkable for their attainments or their eminent talents, bear some resemblance to prophecies enunciated during moments of fervour. Their tone of prophecy,

animated by the vigor of enthusiasm, would produce a noble effect, if such facts did not result therefrom as destroy the charm of the most beautiful arguments, and the expectation of the most ingenious combinations.

It is to political liberty, and to that idol alone, that men are impatient to render the most signal homage. But in boasting of its triumphs, no one takes the trouble to examine how far it can be defended and upheld by those nations for whom it is invoked, and in what degree it may prove beneficial to them. We shall have it in our power to devote ourselves with as much zeal, and with far greater discernment, to the cause of humanity, and to become useful to our own country and to other nations, if in consulting the progress of events, we can enable ourselves to discriminate the true sources of the late Revolutions that have failed so much in answering the expectations of our political prophets, if we are willing to appreciate the conduct of the men who, becoming the temporary depo-