

without the ~~poor~~ only legitimate object in view, civil & religious liberty, have been the subjects of frequent revolutions. Such, as have stood the test of time, have been repeatedly shaken to their centers. And such as were subverted, & arose anew, have again been brought to the verge of ruin. The little States of Italy seem to have been the footballs of fortune, always vacillating between democracy, aristocracy & monarchy. Venice, only, stood for a ps as a republick, but now lies buried in the general heap of Italian liberty. - Holland was possessed of the form, not of the spirit of a commonwealth. The popular voice was but seldom heard in her councils, & then, only, by a loud exertion of its physical force. Her naval strength, at one time, was adequate to a competition with the fleets of England. But the valour of her Van Tromp and De Ruyter, & the genius of her De Witts, were unable to raise her above the storms of tumult & sedition. - And where is Switzerland, the land of the patriotick Zell? She, too, has suffered the death of an independent nation. Once, she was the peaceful asylum of the oppressed of all Europe. Once, she was blessed as the quiet retreat of liberty & domestic felicity; but is now coerced to the tenure of a constitution dictated under circumstances repugnant to the first principles of national independence. Her soldiery, once the bulwark of a happy people, & the teachers of tactics to other nations, are now the degraded body guards of debotted kings. After maintaining her freedom more than five hundred years, she was barbarously crushed by the fell spirit of the French Revolution. - France, too, at that time, under pretence of reform, professed the intention of establishing a liberal

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