

the Grand Duke, who hated every man of merit*), of a decrepit old general as lieutenant of the kingdom, instead of Prince Czartoryski, to whose exertions the nation chiefly owed its present improved condition, afforded sufficient proof, to a few clear-sighted individuals, of Alexander's insincerity. The majority, however, were dazzled; the monarch himself seemed so delighted with *his* work, as he termed the constitution, that the first meeting of the Diet, in 1818, was passed in mutual congratulations. Alexander lauded the liberal institutions to the skies, renewed his promise to incorporate the sister countries, and promised to limit his autocratism in Russia by a constitution†. The representatives scarcely knew how sufficiently to express their grateful reverence; but such harmony did not last long; the deputies availed themselves of their prerogative to comment on the report of the state council, and pointed out, with all due respect, that no judicial authorities, according to the constitution, had yet been established; that taxes were not equally levied; that

* The Grand Duke used to say, "*Ceci sont des gens comme il faut, j'en conviens; mais ceux-là sont des gens—comme il m'en faut.*"

† The Emperor Francis of Austria, who had refused to give his Italian subjects a constitution, on reading the speech of Alexander, exclaimed with his usual naiveté: "*So falsch bin ich nicht.*"—"So false am not I.")