

great moderation manifested in turning it to account, that this amount of good was produced. Never, on the other hand, was there an event less friendly to the progress of civilization and to the true rights of man than the first French Revolution. Its atrocities, through the violent re-action to which they led, served to prop up every existing abuse, by rendering whatever professed to be the cause of reform suspected and unpopular. It was Robespierre and his colleagues, more than any set of men the world ever saw, that imparted to the cause of a blind, indiscriminating Conservatism, not merely the character of sound policy, but also of justice. They arrayed the moral sense of mankind against their measures in the mass ; and hence many an antagonist abuse was suffered to exist, which would otherwise have been singled out and swept away. The general war, too, in which the Revolution terminated, and which was so peculiarly marked by the rise of one of the greatest military despots the world ever saw, militated against the progress of the species, and nowhere more powerfully than in Britain. The general effect of the first French Revolution was as disastrous as that of the second was favourable. But what is to be the character and tendency of the third ? We have our serious misgivings and fears. It is no doubt well for our country that, since the revolutionists have been successful, Louis Philippe should have been so decidedly in the wrong. Had he fallen five years ago by an assassin, and had Paris, in the distraction consequent on the event, been overmastered by the mob, the case would have been different : the sympathies of the British people would have been with the king and his family ; Toryism would have profited in consequence, and Tory councils would have acquired a dangerous ascendancy. But there will be, in the existing state of the case, little British sympathy on the side of Louis Philippe. The policy of the later years of his reign has belied the promise of its opening, and