

Several members called upon him to speak plainly, and M. Lecointre Pyraveau said, "Robertspierre, do not tell us what you did in the constituent assembly, but say plainly, whether you have aspired to a dictatorship, or a triumvirate!"

In another part of his speech, three members, M. M. Cambon, Babey, and Lalle, repeated the same demand. M. Robertspierre continued his equivocal defence to a great length.

Marat was also accused of writings tending to excite the people to assassination. It was with difficulty that he was permitted to speak; and when he observed, "that he had many personal enemies in the convention," the whole body rose up amidst shouts of disapprobation, and declared their hatred to him. Being at length permitted to proceed, he spoke of his attachment to cause of liberty; his constant and open enmity to a corrupt court; his long imprisonment; and, above all, his predictions relative to La Fayette, whose treason he had anticipated, and whose guilty success he had been lucky enough to prevent.

M. Boileau, who succeeded him in the tribune, pulled out one of the affiches, or advertisements, circulated by him, in which he told the people, "that if in the eight first fellows of the convention, the basis of the whole constitution was not laid and adjusted, a new insurrection, and a subsequent dictatorship would be absolutely necessary."

There is no manner of doubt but the assembly would have launched a decree of accusation against him, if he had not declared his repentance in regard to this proceeding, and produced a journal posterior to the date of the above, in which he evinced more moderation, and recommended far different principles to the people.

In the course of his defence Marat said, "If you enquire concerning my heart, I can answer with truth that it is pure, but as to my thoughts, they are my own; no power under Heaven has a right to demand an account of them. I declare, that if the decree is carried against me, I shall here blow my brains out."—The sight of the weapon, and of the expressive gestures of M. Marat, agitated the convention considerably, and a long debate followed, until the call for the order of the day.

Marshal Luckner sent a letter to the convention, justifying himself from the aspersions thrown out against him in the sitting of the 27th ult. to the charge made against him of having left the incendiary Jarry unpunished, he replied, that the court martial of the army of the north was not organized; that there was neither a commissary of stores, nor a commissary of accounts; and that he had requested the minister at war, but in vain, to appoint such officers.

"When I set out for the Belgian Netherlands," added he, "I was assured that I should be joined by 30 or 40,000 men; but I remained there 14 days without seeing one of them. I however continued at Courtray, from which I wrote to the minister, entreating him to send me a reinforcement, that I might either maintain my post, or March against Ghent, which I could not do without more troops, because the enemy, who were on my flank at Tournay, would infallibly have cut off my retreat."

He concluded by observing, that his papers were among his baggage, which would arrive next week, and that he would then lay before the commissioners the different letters he had received from the ministers.

**DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS.**

The following is a copy of the memorial delivered in last night by the minister of foreign affairs, concerning the situation of the principal European Powers, as far as respects France.

*Russia.*—"It has been announced, that a Russian fleet is to pass the Dardanelles, and enter the Mediterranean; but this fleet is not as yet equipped."

"It has also been told us, that 20,000 Russians have left Poland, and are now on their march towards our frontiers; but 20,000 more are still wanting, in order to subjugate that country."

*Denmark.*—"Is too poor and too wise not to remain neutral."

*Sweden.*—"Has been enlightened by a great domestic example, which has evinced the dangers with which despots and usurpers are constantly surrounded; and its Regent possesses too many virtues, not to respect a people determined to obey the laws only, which are so many written virtues."

*Prussia and Austria.*—"At Berlin, the greatest fermentation reigns among the people of a king who wishes to attack our rights. They adore that liberty which he blasphemes and combats, but cannot overturn."

*The Powers of Brandenburg.*—"Austria, which can never be united but by means of criminal passions, are nearly divided by those very passions; and the King of Prussia is actually desirous of making peace with France."

*Spain.*—"Is about to declare war against us; she wants money, notwithstanding her mines; and men, notwithstanding her possessions in the two worlds."

*Great Britain.*—"In England the king detests us, but the people esteem us; and although the constitution permits the king to declare war, he dare not do it without the consent of his subjects."

*Switzerland.*—"These brave mountaineers are irritated against it; but they will never be such paricides as to turn their arms against a people who wish to be the brothers of all the nations upon earth."

This was ordered to be printed, and transmitted to the 83 departments.

On the motion of M. Cambon, who stated that they should have no French Princes in a Republic, and that the nation paid an annuity

of three millions, as the appanage of the gentlemen.

"The National Convention no longer acknowledging French Princes, suppresses their salaries of appanage."

M. Leonard Bourbon observed, that the Legislative Assembly had fixed the salary of the ci-devant King at five hundred thousand livres, he observed that no prisoner had ever such a salary; and therefore proposed that it be suppressed, and the Municipality of Paris charged to supply the wants of the prisoners.

After a few observations from M. Tallier, it was referred to the Committee of Finance, and the Convention rose at five o'clock.

**PARIS, Sept. 29.**

"The two leading factions seem aiming at which shall be the first to betray each other, by delivering up the King and Royal Family to the Duke of Brunswick, should they be able to escape being massacred in this conflict of super-eminent wickedness and treachery."

"The Chiefs of the Jacobin faction in Paris are perfectly well assured among themselves, that their armies cannot face the Duke of Brunswick. They therefore mean to put the best face on a bad cause, in order to preserve a little popularity with the people at large, and retire with an army, such as it is, composed of the hordes of banditti who are very numerous, to Bourdeaux, from whence it will be an easy matter for the chiefs to embark for some part of America. Most of the leading men of the faction have plenty of money, for they have been pillaging the public coffers for the last two years, particularly Dumourier. Condorcet's wife is already gone off with the most valuable of her husband's effects, and he always carries his own passport about about him, that he may be able to escape on the first moment of danger. Bourdeaux is evidently their place of refuge. Whether in the event of the king's not being delivered up, he is to be forced to go with them, seems a matter undetermined. But probably he will be taken with them."

"I have reason to expect, that General Montequivon, who commands the French forces in the South, has made an irruption into Savoy for no other purpose than to capitulate with the enemy."

"The city of Lyons is particularly favorable to the aristocratic party, and the Sardinian troops will be welcomed whenever they come there with great joy by the inhabitants at large, if we except about 500 of the banditti, who compose the Jacobin Club of that city. The Sardinian troops would have been there already, had 10,000 of the Austrians from Milan joined them sooner."

"Although the King of Spain has not seemed much disposed to interfere, yet he probably will now, the same as the Swiss have done. The latter would have declared war long since, had not many of their regiments been divided in several parts of France, which made them apprehensive of their troops falling victims to such a proceeding."

"The troubles in the Department of Finistere are not yet terminated. Fourteen parishes have revolted, refusing to pay the taxes, under the pretext that without a King there can be no nation, and consequently neither government nor authority capable of exacting contributions from the people. The volunteers, provided with artillery, have marched to crush this rebellion, but it is thought this expedition will not terminate so successfully as the former one. The unfortunate peasants have been condemned to pay 25,000 livres to defray the expenses of the patriots, incurred at the time of the first insurrection."

"It is generally known, that there is some very bad news in town from our armies, but what it is, I have not been able to learn. Every thing that turns out unfortunate is so cautiously concealed, that we know very little of what goes forward till two or three days after the news arrives, and then it is presented in so mangled a state, that it is difficult to discover the truth."

"P. S. We have just learnt the news of Chalons and Rheims being taken by the combined armies. This news must have been known by some for many days past, but all the Gazettes are silent on the subject."

It appears that the Canton of Berne is disposed to give up the pass of Portentruit to the Emperor, and to act hostilely against France. A letter from Bienna to M. Carra, which noticed this inclination, was referred to the executive power.

Luckner is at Paris. He came to concert the plan of a campaign with the temporary Executive Power. He demands an audience of the National Convention, who appointed him an hour to-morrow. He is to give his observations in writing in the German language.

The execution of the Thieves who stole the Crown Jewels, is respited.

The Marine Minister has prepared a most satisfactory account of the French Navy, for the purpose of laying it before the National Convention. From this statement it will appear that they have one hundred and two vessels of various rates, ships, frigates, packets, and flutes at sea, or prepared to sail immediately; and fifty-three ships of the line, forty-eight frigates, and a proportionate number of smaller vessels, in ordinary, or repairing; with a sufficient quantity of naval stores, to put their marine on such a footing at the shortest warning, that the minister observes it may defy all the naval powers of Europe.

**LONDON, October 2.**

The Prince de Poix, is just escaped and arrived in England. He was among the armed force in the Thuilleries on the 10th of August: he was taken in a Marechal's uniform, and being left in the room of the committee of Surveillance, escaped by borrowing a coat and waistcoat of the commissioners, and has ever since been secreted by a friend, in Paris;

but escaped in disguise, as he says, having bought a passport for one hundred thousand livres.

The following is the present state of the plan for relieving the unfortunate French Priests.

The chief subscription amounted, on Thursday, to four thousand pounds.

About four hundred and twenty persons have at present applied for relief. The Palace at Winchester, which, in the last war, held 1,100 French and Dutch prisoners, is now preparing for their reception, and a thousand may probably be accommodated there, in such a manner as to shew that our charity is not insultingly given. But the notion that the place is a sort of prison has, we understand, prevented great numbers from applying for admission to it.

A contractor furnishes beds, during a certain term, for 2000l.: each person adopted by the charity, is to have two guineas a month for the purchase of food; and the greater part will receive besides, twenty shillings, the first month, as an allowance for clothes.

The great saloon in the Palace will be entirely filled with beds.

In the mean time, subscriptions are proceeding in several of the principal towns in England; and, as this is purely a question of humanity, all political considerations are happily excluded from it.

Should M. Dumourier have acted, as is reported he has done, from principles of loyalty to his Sovereign, the worst that his enemies can say of him, is that he was a good kernel in a bad shell.

M. de Calonne reached Dover on Sunday, and went to pay his respects to Mr. Pitt at Walmer Castle. But he was not arrived in London yesterday afternoon, though hourly expected.

M. Dumas, a member of the late national assembly in France, is arrived in London. He is among those who voted for M. de la Fayette, and of course it was not safe for him to reside any longer in Paris.

It appears by letters from Fribourg, in Germany, that the Viscount Mirabeau, who arrived at Offenbourg on the 15th ult. at first refused every kind of remedy, dreading that he should be poisoned. At length he resigned himself into the hands of his physicians, and became better. In a violent dispute with one of his officers, he fell into an apoplexy, of which he died, much regretted by the military under his command.

The crowds of foreigners who land, and travel to the metropolis on all sides of the stages, render it very difficult to get a passage from the sea coast in any sort of carriage. All, all, all, from the broad wheel waggon to the flying dilly, are occupied.

Of the astonishing increase of business in the bank of England, the best idea may be formed from considering the increase of its servants. Between 40 and 50 years ago there were scarcely more than that number of Clerks in employ there; this is still in the recollection of a few of the oldest servants of the bank; at present the number employed amounts to more than 400.

It has been asserted that some merchants have advanced sums to a considerable amount to the King of France, (150 millions) nothing can be more false. Had this been fact, their houses would have been plundered, and their lives forfeited to the summary vengeance of the many-headed monster, the mob. They have denied the charge, and it has not been supported.

The Canton of Berne, in Switzerland, has ordered a public mourning for fifteen days, on account of the defeat and slaughter of the Swiss Guards at Paris on the 10th of August. During this time all the public spectacles are to be shut up.

**Tumult at Toulon.**

The following is a letter from Toulon, dated September 12.

"A plan of a counter Revolution discovered itself here fifteen days since. Unfortunate persons confined in prison, forced, with sabres in their hands, the gaolers; and those malefactors, who were in number 1500 persons, spread themselves in bands over the city, and gave rise to well founded fears. The council general of the community assembled immediately, ordered the gates of the town to be shut, the generale to beat, and seized the galley prisoners, who, upon interrogation, answered, that arms, and the means of ensuring their liberty, had been promised them."

"The authors of this movement were also arrested and imprisoned. They were interrogated, and declared guilty of conspiracy; yesterday they were hanged. M. Flotte, commandant of marine, and M. Rochmaure, captain of a vessel, met with the same fate.—There are still in the prisons many officers, accused of having refused to take arms on the day of the tumult."

The following decree, proposed by M. Dumas, in the National Assembly, was adopted in the following words:

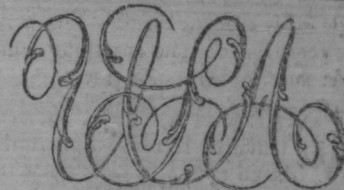
The National Assembly considering the necessity of providing as speedily as possible, for an exchange of prisoners of war, and for releasing such of our brethren in arms; who, in combating for their country, may have fallen into the hands of the enemy. Considering also, that the basis upon which the Executive power, or the generals of armies, may conclude treaties, conventions, or agreements, ought to be founded on the principles of liberty and equality, pass the following decree respecting the exchange of prisoners.

1. There shall be no pecuniary tariff for the exchange, according to the difference of rank, but in terms relative to the corresponding ranks in the armies of the enemy.

2. There shall be no tariff of exchange, so that no officer or subaltern can be exchanged against a greater number of individuals of an inferior rank.

3. The common basis of all exchange, which no modification can alter, shall be to exchange man for man, and rank for rank.

Extract of a letter from Lisle, dated Sept. 27.  
"We are absolutely surrounded by the enemy, and all the roads are intercepted. The cannonading was kept up all day yesterday from both parties; that of the besieged, as well as the besiegers. We had five men killed by one ball. We see the enemy from the ramparts carrying off their dead in waggons. We set fire yesterday to part of the suburbs; and enabled the enemy to approach nearer to the wall."



**CONGRESS.**

*HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.*

FRIDAY, November 23.

In committee of the whole.

A bill for regulating foreign coins under consideration, which enacts that the gold coins of Great-Britain and Portugal shall be a legal tender for payment of all debts, at the rate of one dollar for every twenty-seven grains of the actual weight thereof, and the gold coins of France and Spain at the rate of one dollar for every twenty-seven and two-fifths of a grain of the weight thereof.

Mr. Page said, he wished to be informed whether there really was the difference between the French and British coins stated in the bill—if so, how that difference had been ascertained:—That a few years since he had examined hydrostatically the different gold coins named in the bill, and a variety of coins of the German empire; and that although he readily discovered that the specific gravity of the latter was so little as to justify the low value at which they were generally rated—he remembered well, that there was by no means such difference between the specific gravity of the former as could justify the discrimination made in the bill. He added, that he doubted whether, if there really should appear to be that difference between the coins, it would be proper to introduce the distinction by a law of the general government, as it might be attended with some inconveniences, and might be construed into a partiality to British commerce—he therefore, to take the sense of the committee, moved to amend the clause, so as that the gold coins of Great-Britain, France, Spain, and Portugal should be payable at the same rates.

Mr. Tucker seconded Mr. Page, and supported his motion with similar arguments.

Mr. Fitzsimons said he should vote against the amendment, because, he believed that the distinction proposed in the bill was really that which did exist in the intrinsic value of the coins alluded to.

Several other members opposed the motion, because, said they, we have no doubt that the Senate, who originated the bill, had considered the subject fully, and had made the proper estimate (on full information) of the real value of the different coins.

Mr. Page replied, that since he had only heard the opinions and suppositions of gentlemen opposed to his opinion, and no satisfactory proof offered to support the bill against his amendment, he should persist in his motion; for, said he, although I will not be so dogmatical as to assert that I am right, and the Senate wrong—yet, in a matter of this nature, which admits of positive proof and demonstration, and which, as far as my own actual experiments have gone, establish my opinion, I cannot give it up, till I have been convinced by other arguments than such as I have heard. Had I been told that the different coins alluded to had been examined hydrostatically, or had been assayed by proper persons appointed for that purpose, I should have acquiesced. I might possibly however have supposed that they were of a different coinage or emission from those which I had examined. I think the clause under consideration is of such importance as to require full and satisfactory proof to the world, that it has not been adopted without a thorough investigation of the truth and propriety of the discrimination it establishes between the coins of the nations with which we have such a considerable commercial intercourse; with that proof, I should be satisfied, and would defy the invidious sus-