

THE LAST DAY OF THE EMPIRE.

The News of the Defeat in Paris—Profound Excitement in the Chamber in the Morning—The Chamber in the Afternoon—The Emperor's Proclamation.

The catalogue of disasters which have become known since our last publication is almost incredible. We shall endeavor to give an account of them in the order of their becoming known. The Legislative Body met on Saturday, M. Schneider in the chair. Considerable agitation prevailed, and the news of the war was spoken of as altogether disastrous. The tribunes were crowded, and evidently some important incident was expected. At 3:30 General de Palikao, Minister of War, entered, and, after a short pause, addressed the Chamber in the following terms:—

Gentlemen—I have already said that I would in every circumstance always tell you the truth, however sad it might be for us. I now come to-day to fulfill my promise. My first news is that Marshal Bazaine, after a vigorous sortie and a combat of eight hours, being overwhelmed by numbers, was forced to fall back under Metz, so that his junction with MacMahon for the present prevented. On the other hand, the intelligence which we have received from Marshal MacMahon shows that at first he overthrew the Prussian army, but on the following day, after a combat of several hours duration, he was obliged to retire on Sedan and Metz; some of our soldiers were even forced on the Belgian territory. As to the rumor of MacMahon being wounded I cannot say anything, in the absence of official documents, and the assertion may prove untrue. Homage is unanimously paid to the heroism of the French soldiers. The situation is grave, and we have decided to call out the whole living forces of the nation. Already, in the prevision of adverse circumstances, our grand anxiety was to organize the men who had already served, but, unfortunately, they were not in sufficient numbers; we therefore rapidly prepared the Garde Mobile, who, to the number of 200,000 men, will co-operate in the defense of the capital. The other military forces are being actively got ready, and we will fight with firmness until the enemy be driven from the soil. (Loud marks of assent.)

The honorable Minister left the tribune in the midst of general agitation. When something like calm was restored M. Haentjens proposed that the House should resolve itself into a secret committee. (Loud opposition on the Left.) General de Palikao saw no reason for any such course. M. Jules Favre declared that every member present must desire to aid in taking all possible steps for the defense of the country, and the first point of importance was to make the situation exactly known. Nothing could be more heroic than Marshal Bazaine's conduct, but he could not act properly because he was trammelled. (No, no.) Was it not true that the Ministers at present received the orders of the Emperor. General de Palikao replied, "No." M. Jules Favre then observed that in that case the Government ceased de facto to exist. (Dissent.) He would now propose to place all authority in the hands of General Trochu. General de Palikao protested against such a proceeding, and as no one seconded the motion the incident terminated. M. Argence presented a bill to call into active service all citizens, married or not, from twenty to thirty-five years of age; and, in addition, all former officers, sub-officers, and privates to the age of sixty. Urgency was declared, and a report was ordered without delay. The proceedings then terminated at about 6 o'clock.

At 10 o'clock a proclamation was issued to the people. It has already been published.

THE EFFECT PRODUCED by this proclamation is more easily to be imagined than described. Up to 3 o'clock in the morning small groups might be seen collected in the more deserted streets engaged in serious conversation, whilst on the boulevards and in the environs of the Legislative Body the influence of anxious inquirers was immense. As a midnight sitting of the Deputies had been previously arranged, vast crowds assembled near the Place de la Concorde to learn the result of their deliberation. Some disorders followed in the general desire to know the result of the sitting, and several arrests were made. The sitting was guarded by strong detachments of the line, National Guards, Garde de Paris, and the Municipal Guards. The Legislative Body on Saturday evening was convoked by M. Schneider, the President, to assemble at midnight. The sitting did not, however, commence until a little after 1 o'clock in the morning. The public tribunes were crowded, as no cards of entrance had been required. On the seats appropriated to the Ministers were to be seen Count de Palikao, Admiral Rigault de Genouilly, MM. Chevreau, Busson-Billault, Clement Dreyfus, and Brasse.

The President rose in the midst of the deepest silence and said:—Gentlemen, adverse intelligence was announced to me in the course of the evening, and I had consequently a duty to perform towards the Chamber and towards the nation—namely, to at once convolve the Assembly, in which course I have conformed to the wishes of a great number of Deputies belonging to all shades of opinion. The only responsibility that I would not have accepted is that resulting from any delay in calling you together.

Count de Palikao, Minister of War—Gentlemen—I have the painful mission to announce to you what my words of this morning might have foreshadowed, but what I still hoped was only doubtful news; but unfortunately, however, it is now official. The army, after heroic efforts, was driven into Sedan and surrounded by such a superior force that resistance was impossible. The troops capitulated, and the Emperor was made prisoner. Such is the sad intelligence I have to give you. In the face of such grave events, the Ministers cannot possibly enter at the present moment on a discussion relative to the serious consequences which must ensue. We, therefore, demand the postponement of the debate until to-morrow. You will easily understand that we have not been able to confer together, as I had to leave my bed on the announcement of a meeting of the Chamber to-night.

The President—The Chamber has heard the Minister of War's proposition. The gravity of an exceptional crisis in which all duties of every kind accumulate, and the important duties which the Chamber has to perform, added to the immense responsibility of its situation, evidently require well-weighed deliberations. In this state of affairs it behooves honorable Deputies, in their wisdom, to consider whether or not they ought not to postpone the debate until to-morrow.

so that several of our colleagues were not aware of the night sitting.

Numerous Voices—To-morrow! to-morrow! Jules Favre's proposition. M. Jules Favre—I ask to submit a proposition. If you think that, in the present grave and painful situation, sufficiently indicated by the honorable Minister's communication, it would be wise to postpone the discussion until noon, I have no objection; but as the debate will be engaged on the resolution to be taken in the absence of all the powers, we ask permission to present a proposition which I shall have the honor of reading without for the moment adding any observation. We ask the Chamber to be pleased to take into consideration the following motion:—

Article 1. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte and his family are declared to be deprived of the powers conferred on them by the constitution. Article 2. The Corps Legislatif shall nominate a government commission composed of five (5) men who shall be invested with full powers to carry on the government, and whose express mission shall be to resist the invasion to the very last, and to drive the enemy from the territory. Article 3. General Trochu is maintained in his office of Governor-General of the City of Paris.

Signed: Jules Favre, Creux, Barthelemy-Saint-Hilaire, Descaux, Garnier-Pagès, Larrieu, Lagrange, Steuckacker, Magnin, Dorelle, Grégoire, Emmanuel Arago, Jules Simon, Eugene Pelletan, Wilson, Ernest Picard, Gambetta, Count de Keratry, Guyot-Montpierre, Leclercq, Gosses, Rampont, Girait, Marion, Leopold Javel, Jules Ferry, Paul Bathmont.

I do not add a word. I submit this proposition, gentlemen, to your wise meditation, and to-morrow, or rather to-day (Sunday), at noon, we shall have the honor of declaring the imperative reasons which, we think, must convince every good patriot to adopt it. (Various movements.) M. Pinard (du Nord)—We may take provisional measures, but we cannot pronounce the deposition of the dynasty. The President—The Chamber, I repeat, has now to decide whether, under present circumstances, it will deliberate immediately, or if, after the declaration made by the Minister of War, it may adjourn until noon to-morrow.

The Marquis de Pire—Not to-morrow, but to-day (Sunday) at noon, for it is now midnight past. The President—Yes, to-day at noon. As there is nothing else on the order of the day, I declare the sitting at an end. The Deputies then withdrew at 1:02.

ANOTHER SITTING of the Legislative Body also took place yesterday. Twelve o'clock had been appointed for commencing, but nothing had been done at 1:00; troops were stationed in front of the building. The National Guard had been refused the right side, which it considered its due. Violent marks of discontent were the consequences on the part of one battalion, which threatened to withdraw, and even began to do so. But cries arose on all sides of "The National Guard forever!" The battalion then returned and took up the station it desired on the Place de la Concorde. The Garde de Paris, which was drawn up in front of the railings of the Palais Bourbon, was called off, so that the civic guard was left master of the place. The crowd of the general public all around was immense, but with the exception of frequent cries of "Vive la Republique!" no political manifestation was made. The sitting opened at 1:20 o'clock, M. Schneider presiding. The Left appeared highly excited. When a few minutes of the preceding sitting had been read.

M. Glais-Bizoin requested his name to be added to M. Jules Favre's motion. MM. de Jouvencel and Raspail made the same request, and added in almost similar words that they considered the dethronement of the Emperor to be now the only resource remaining to France.

Count de Keratry claimed for the National Guard the exclusive right of protecting the place of the Legislative Body, and asked if the Minister of War had given orders contrary to those of General Trochu. General de Palikao declared that there was a distinction between his powers and those of General Trochu. The troops, not engaged in the defense of Paris were at the disposal of the Minister of War, and not of the governor of the capital. M. Jules Favre—And the National Guard? General de Palikao—The maintenance of order in Paris is confided to General Trochu and to the commander of the place. I have only provided troops to secure liberty for your deliberations. What do you complain of? Is it that I put too easy a game into your hands? (Violent murmurs.) The army surely is a national force as well as the National Guard. (Noise.) M. Picard—Our questions alone should command here.

and the palace. Apparently no one thought of going farther, when all of a sudden some individuals grouped around a man bearing a flag made a rush at the door leading to the tribune and forced it open. Immediately after the Salle de la Paix was invaded, as well as the lobby and the gardens. A pane of glass having been by accident broken, M. Creux put his head through the orifice and addressed the crowd, exhorting them to be calm. M. Ferry climbed upon the pedestal of the Laocoon and harangued the invaders. "I do not," he said, "in terminating, "ask you to evacuate your present position, but to respect the hall of our sittings, for otherwise we cannot deliberate freely and without pressure. Loud cries of "Yes, yes!" followed, and the crowd remained tolerably quiet. The tribunes of the Chamber having also been filled by the persons who had forced their way in, M. Gambetta went into the hall, then empty below, and recommended calm, assuring them that the republic would be voted in a few minutes.

WILLIAM THIS SCENE was going on several deputies entered. Great tumult succeeded, and M. Creux ascended the tribune, but his voice could not be heard from the noise. M. Gambetta also endeavored to make himself heard, but without success. The President, who had just taken his seat, observed that the resolutions of the House ought to be taken with calm and dignity. At this moment the Senators' tribune was invaded. The President again spoke, and observed that the deputies were at that moment deliberating, and would come to decisions in conformity with the wishes of the nation.

M. Gambetta (addressing the public in the tribune)—Citizens, it is in your power to present a great spectacle—that of a people uniting order and liberty! (Yes, yes.) Well, then, I implore you, let a group in each compartment undertake to insure order; then wait in silence. The Left has pledged itself to the Chamber to cause the freedom of its deliberations to be respected. (Applause.) The President (also addressing the tribune)—You have just heard the patriotic exhortations of M. Gambetta, to which I join my own. At this moment, believe me, the Chamber is called on to deliberate on a situation of extreme gravity in a spirit of absolute detachment to the country. (Applause on some benches, murmurs on others.)

DEPOSING AN EMPEROR. M. Glais-Bizoin—Citizens, the deposition is about to be pronounced by the Chamber; wait till the committee is ready to propose it. M. Girait (du Oor.)—Citizens, I also make an appeal to your patriotism, also that the country and the chamber may be united against the enemy, now approaching. (The proceedings were interrupted for some moments in the midst of general agitation.) M. Gambetta—Citizens, one word more, it is necessary that all the deputies in the bureau or elsewhere should be present in order to have the dethronement voted. Wait for them in an attitude of moderation and dignity; they will soon be here. (Applause.) Preserve the solemn silence suitable to the inhabitants of this great city, now so excited. You will presently hear pronounced the result of the deliberations of the Chamber, which will, doubtless, be affirmative in the sense you desire. (Approbation; noise outside.) At 3 o'clock the hall was suddenly invaded at the door opposite the tribune of the speakers. Several deputies endeavored to oppose the irruption of the mob, but in vain; and the Chambers being inundated by them, cries of "Vive la Republique!" were heard.

The President—At deliberation being impossible under these circumstances, I declare the sitting at an end. The President then put on his hat and left the chair. M. Gambetta and M. Glais-Bizoin endeavored to procure a hearing, but in vain. Some men of the crowd took the President's chair and rang the bell. Several others of his acquaintance ascended the tribune, and one was thrown from it. A crowd had by this time filled the semi-circular space below, and the deputies fled to the tribune of National Guards behind a clear. The crowds on the quays then began to leave with cries of "Vive la Republique!" and the proceedings of the Chambers were brought to a close.

WHEN THE SITTING OF THE CHAMBER had terminated, the stream of human beings went along the Rue de Rivoli and the Rue de la Paix, from the bridge, whilst another proceeded in a contrary way, both with cries of "Vive la Republique!" "Vive la France!" and occasionally cheering each other. The National Guards marched along with their muskets reversed in sign of good will, and the 23d of the line, which happened to proceed along the Boulevard and the Rue de Valenciennes, were in heavy marching order, advanced through two dense lines of people, who cheered them loudly as they passed. Many of those soldiers also had the cross in air. The afternoon and evening passed with similar marks of pacific intentions, and no disturbance took place anywhere.

LEGAL NOTICES. IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Estate of SARAH BIRD, deceased. The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the accounts of EDWARD SHIPPEN and THOMAS K. WALKER, Trustees for JOSEPH BIRD and family, under the 11th and 12th clauses of the will of SARAH BIRD, deceased, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountants, was held on TUESDAY, September 27, 1870, at 10 o'clock P. M., at his office, No. 65 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. WILLIAM L. MARSHALL, Auditor.

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