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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST, 4, 1790.

[WHOLE No. 137.]

DISCOURSES ON DAVILA.—No. XVI. (CONCLUDED.)

*Opposant, sans relâche, avec trop de prudence
Les Guises aux Condés, et la France à la France.
Toujours prêt à s'unir avec ses ennemis
Et changeant d'intérêt, de rivaux, et d'amis.*

LOUIS, Prince of Conde, brother to the King of Navarre, full of ambition and inquietude, and not restrained by similar interests, saw with grief the mediocrity of his fortune, answer so ill to the splendor of his birth. Without offices, governments, or employments to support him, he could not bear, but with a discontent which he took no pains to conceal, the excessive grandeur of the Guises, who monopolized for themselves the first dignities and fairest employments of the kingdom. To his personal mortification he joined the disgrace of the Constable, whose niece he had espoused. He was so strictly connected with him, and with the Marshal of Montmorency his son, that he saw in the humiliation of their house, the completion of his own misfortunes. The Admiral of Chatillon, and D'Andelot, his brother, irritated him still more by their advice. The first was an ambitious, but an able politician, who took a secret advantage of all occasions, to profit of troubles to raise himself to high power. The other, fiery, passionate, continually occupied in intrigues and plots, ceased not, by his discourse and example to nourish in the heart of Louis, the hatred already too deeply inkinded. This Prince, transported with rage, and almost reduced to despair, saw no resource for him, but by causing a revolution in the State.

Such was the situation of affairs—such the jealousies and animosities of the Grandees, ready, on the slightest occasion, to break out, in an open rupture, when, in the month of July 1559, happened the unexpected death of Henry II. killed by accident in a tournament by Gabriel Count of Montmorency, one of the Captains of his guard. Francis II. his eldest son, with a weak understanding, and a delicate constitution, succeeded him. Those evils, which even under his father had been expected, hastened to make themselves felt, under his feeble reign. Secret enmities were easily changed into declared hatreds—and recourse was soon had to arms. The youth and imbecility of the King rendered him incapable of governing. It was necessary that he should have—not a guardian, because he had passed the age of fourteen years, the term fixed for the majority of the Kings of France; but Ministers, prudent and laborious, who should govern under his authority, until time should have fortified his understanding, and invigorated his Constitution. The ancient usage of the kingdom, called the Princes of the blood to this place—and indicated the King of Navarre, and the Prince de Conde, who united to the proximity of blood, an established reputation. The Duke of Guise and the Cardinal of Lorraine, uncles of the King, by his marriage with the Queen of Scots, pretended that this honor belonged to them, in consideration of their long labors and services to the crown, but especially because they had in fact enjoyed it, during the life of the late King. Catherine of Medicis, mother of the King, expected to govern alone: She depended on the filial tenderness of her son—several examples authorized her pretensions—but she founded her strongest hopes on the divisions of the Grandees—and the terror of each faction, least the other should carry the point, facilitated her design.

The Guises were sensible that they wanted the advantage of being of the blood, to which the laws and customs of the nation had usually confined the government of the kingdom. They foresaw moreover, the empire which the councils of a mother would have over the mind of her son, still young and without experience. They resolved therefore, by joining and acting in concert with her, to divide a power which they despaired of obtaining entire. The Queen, a Princess of refined genius and masculine courage, knew that the Princes of the blood, suffered with impatience the authority and grandeur of Queens. She thought also, that as a stranger and an Italian she had occasion to fortify herself, with the support of some faction. She consented therefore cheerfully to combine with the Guises, whom she saw disposed to accept of part of that authority, which the Bourbons would have pretended to appropriate to themselves without partition. There was but one obstacle to the intimacy of this Union, and that was the unlucky connection of the Guises

with the Dutcheffs of Valentinois, who had possessed the heart of the late King, to the time of his death. The occasion was pressing, and the importance of the business would not admit of delay. On one hand the Queen, to whom dissimulation was not difficult, agreed to appear, to forget the past, with the same moderation which she had shewn, in bearing with her rival during the life of her husband: On the other, the Guises occupied wholly with their present interest, easily betrayed their friend, by consenting that the Dutcheffs should be disgraced and dismissed from the Court—They only required that she should not be totally stripped of those immense riches, which must one day revert to the Duke of Aumale, their brother.

The King of Navarre, was then absent, and very discontented with the King and the Court, who, in the treaty concluded with Spain, had given no attention to his interests, nor to the restitution of his States. The new coalition at Court had, with great address, disembarassed themselves of the Constable, by deputing him to do the honors of the obsequies of Henry the second. The personage who has that commission, must not absent himself from the place where the body is deposited, during the three and thirty days that the funeral pomp continues. Artifice and accident, having thus removed the two great obstacles, it was not difficult to obtain, of Francis the second, seduced by the caresses and the charms of his Scottish Queen, an arrangement by which he placed the reins of government, in the hands of his nearest relations. Every thing which concerned the war, was committed to the Duke of Guise. The Cardinal had the departments of Justice and Finance—and the Queen mother the superintendance of all parts of the government. To establish their measures, which had so well succeeded, and that the complaints and intrigues of the disaffected might not shake the resolution of the King, and disarrange their plan, there was no doubt but the first stroke of each policy, would fall upon the Constable, whose prudence and credit were dreaded by the Guises, and against whom the Queen had for some time entertained a secret aversion. The Guises feared him, on account of the jealousy, which for a long time had openly divided their houses—because, notwithstanding the fall of his favour at court, the reputation of his wisdom, preserved him a great influence throughout the whole kingdom. In their secret interviews with the King, they artfully drew the conversation to this subject, and exaggerated to him the reputation which the Constable enjoyed.

TRANSLATED
FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

PARIS. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE COLONIES, Presented to the National Assembly, in the name of the Committee appointed for that purpose, the 23d March, 1790.

By Mr. BARNAVE, Deputy from Dauphiny.

CONCLUDED.
ARTICLE TWELFTH.

12th IF at the time when the parochial Assembly is formed, there should exist in the colony, a colonial Assembly antecedently elected, and if this Assembly has not declared that it judges it advantageous to the colony to replace it by a new one, the parochial Assembly shall begin by examining the question themselves: It shall weigh all the reasons which can decide or authorize the existing colonial Assembly, to fulfil the functions pointed out by the decree of the National Assembly, or to substitute in its place a new Assembly, elected agreeably to the present instruction.

13th The parochial Assembly shall be bound to make up its opinion within fifteen days, reckoning from that when the proclamation shall have been made, and to give immediate knowledge thereof to the governor of the colony, and to the colonial Assembly. Its opinion shall be reckoned for so many votes as it ought to send deputies to the colonial Assembly, in conformity with this instruction.

14th Whenever the term in which all the parishes should have explained themselves, has elapsed, the governor of the colony shall verify the number of the parishes which have given their opinion in favor of a new Assembly; he shall make the result thereof known by publication, with the names of all the parishes which have deliberated, the choice which each has made,

and the number of votes which it ought to have, in proportion to the number of its active citizens; he shall notify likewise this same result to all the parishes of the colony.

15th If the desire for forming a new Assembly has not been expressed by the majority of the votes of the several parishes, the colonial Assembly already elected, shall continue to exist, and shall be charged with all the functions indicated in the decree of the National Assembly, and consequently they shall not proceed in the parishes to new elections; if on the contrary, the desire for forming a new Assembly is expressed by the majority of the votes of the parishes, all the powers of the existing colonial Assembly shall cease, and they shall proceed without delay in all the parishes, to new elections, in the same manner as if no colonial Assembly had existed at the arrival of the decree; observing that the members, either of the colonial Assembly or of the existing provincial Assemblies, may be elected upon the same conditions as the other citizens, to the new Assembly.

16th The colonial Assembly formed or not formed in the manner abovementioned, shall organize itself and proceed as appears suitable to it, and shall fulfil the functions set forth in the decree of the National Assembly, of the 8th inst. observing to conform themselves in their labors on the constitution, to the maxims announced in the following articles.

17th In organizing the legislative power, they will recollect, that the laws designed for the regulation of the colonies, meditated and prepared in their bosom, shall not have an entire and definitive existence, before they have been decreed by the National Assembly, and sanctioned by the King; that if the laws purely internal, can, in cases of pressing necessity, be provisionally executed with the sanction of a governor, and reserving the definitive approbation of the King, and of the legislature of France, the laws that ~~we proposed, which affect external concerns,~~ and which can in no wise change or modify the connections between the colonies and the metropolis, can receive not even a provisional execution, before it has been consecrated by the national will; it being understood however, that the momentary exceptions, are not comprehended under the denomination of laws, which respect the importation of provisions, which may take place, in case of pressing necessity, and with the sanction of the governor.

18th In organizing the executive power, they shall observe that the King of the people of France, is, as well in the colony, as throughout the empire, the only chief and supreme head of this part of the public power. The tribunals, the administration, the military forces, shall acknowledge him for their chief; he shall be represented in the colony by a governor, whom he shall have appointed, and who, in cases of pressing necessity, shall exercise his authority provisionally; but always observing the express reservation of his definitive approbation.

DRAFT OF A DECREE,
Proposed by the Committee.

The National Assembly, after having heard read the instructions digested by the committee of the colonies, in execution of its decrees of the 8th inst. for the colonies of St. Domingo, to which are annexed the small Islands of la Tortue, la Gonave, and Ile a Vaches, for the colonies of Martinico, Guadaloupe, to which are annexed the small Island of Desirada, Maria-Salante, les Saints; the French part of the Island of St. Martins, Cayenne and Guiana, St. Lucia, Tobago, the Island of France and Bourbon, has declared its approbation and adoption of the said instructions in their fullest extent; consequently it decrees that they shall be transcribed on the process verbal of the session, and that its President shall wait upon the King, to pray him to give them his approbation.

It moreover decrees that the King shall be supplicated immediately to dispatch the said instructions, as well as the present decree and that of the 8th inst. respecting the colonies, to the governors established by his Majesty in each of the said colonies, who shall observe and execute the said instructions decrees, as far as concerns them, under penalty of being responsible for the consequences, and without the necessity of their being registered or published by any tribunals.

Moreover the National Assembly declares, that it does not mean to enact any thing for the pre-