

Grand French Confederacy.

PARIS.

THURSDAY, 14th JULY, 1790.

SUCH a magnificent association of Freemen, emancipated from the shackles of despotism within so short a space of time is hitherto unparalleled in the annals of history. It is a phenomenon on which surrounding empires look with admiration. It is a subject that deserves the most minute attention—and with no small degree of satisfaction, we feel ourselves happy in being the first that announced with authenticity, the conclusion of the day, without any of those horrid consequences which were apprehended by many, and wished for by some.

Excepting the bursting of a cannon, and the fall of a tree, by which one man lost his life, we have not heard of any other accident. The idea of freedom was general, and as the ultimate end was happiness, common sense and proper prudence directed every man to keep the peace, and rejoice in the event.

On the 11th inst. the following PROCLAMATION was issued.

“THE KING having been informed of the measures taken, as well by the Mayor of Paris, as by the Committee of the Municipality and Federative Assembly of the said city, to regulate the preparation for the ceremony which is to take place on the 14th, and willing to prevent all difficulties which might give rise to any troubles or interruptions, has thought proper to manifest by the present Proclamation, the order which seemeth best to be observed, as well for the placing the Members of the Confederation, as for their march to the place of the ceremony. So that no obstacle may arise to trouble the order of the day, or to derogate from its majesty.

“The general rendezvous of the different corps, which might compose the confederation, is appointed to be at the Boulevards du Temple, at six in the morning.

“They are to march and enter the Champs de Mars in the order pointed out in the table annexed to this Proclamation, which has been approved of by his Majesty.

“No troops but those on guard are to be armed with guns. No carriages can be suffered to follow those of his Majesty, the Royal Family, and their train. If any Deputy of the Confederation, or any person invited there, should be in a state to be unable to go on foot to the Champs de Mars, they shall receive from the Mayor of Paris a ticket, permitting them the use of a carriage, and a Chevalier d'Ordonnance to escort them to the military school.

“M. de la Fayette, Commander General of the Parisian National Guard, already charged by a decree of the National Assembly, and sanctioned by his Majesty, with the care of the public tranquillity, shall fulfill under the King's orders, the functions of Major General of the Confederation—and in that quality the orders he shall give shall be observed as the orders of his Majesty himself.

“The King has, in like manner, nominated M. Gouyon, Major General of the Parisian Guard, Lieutenant General of the Confederation for the day of ceremony.

“When all persons are placed, the blessing the flags and colors shall be proceeded to, and the celebration of mass.

“The King empowers the said M. de la Fayette to pronounce the Confederation Oath, in the name of all the Deputies of the National Guards, and those of the troops and Marines, according to the forms decreed by the National Assembly, and accepted by his Majesty; and all the Deputies of the Confederation shall hold up their hands.

“Then the President of the National Assembly shall pronounce the Civic Oath for the Members of the National Assembly; and the King shall in like manner pronounce the Oath, the form of which was decreed by the National Assembly, and accepted by his Majesty.

“The *Te Deum* shall be then sung, and conclude the ceremony; after which the procession shall return from the Champs de Mars, in the same order it came.

Done at Paris, the 11th of July, 1790.

(Signed)

L O U I S.

(And lower down)

Par Le Roi, GUIGNARD.

According to the notice which had been issued by the Marquis de la Fayette, the whole body of National Confederation met on the Boulevards, between the gates of St. Martin and St. Antoine, at six o'clock in the morning, in order to form a procession from thence to the Champs de Mars.

At nine o'clock the procession being formed, it marched along the Boulevards, down the Rue St. Denis, and through the streets Feronnerie, St. Honore, Royale, the Place of Louis Quinze, the Cour de la Reine, and the Quai, as far as the bridge of boats, and being there met by other bodies, the whole procession then entered the field in the following order.

[—608—]

PROCESSION.

A troop of Horse, with a standard, and six trumpets.

One division of the music, consisting of several hundred instruments.

A company of grenadiers.

The Electors of the city of Paris.

A company of volunteers.

The Assembly of the Representatives of the Commons.

The Military Committee.

A company of Chasseurs.

A band of drums.

The Presidents of the districts.

The Deputies of the Commons appointed to take for them the Federal Oath.

The Sixty Administrators of the Municipality, with the City Guards.

Second division of Music.

A battalion of children carrying a standard, with the words—

“The Hopes of the Nation.”

A detachment of the Colours of the National Guard of Paris.

A battalion of Veterans.

The Deputies of the forty-two chief Departments of the Nation, in alphabetical order.

The *Oriflamme*; or *Grand Standard of France*, borne by the

Marshals of France.

General Officers.

Officers of the Staff.

Subaltern Officers.

Commissioners of War.

Invalids.

Lieutenants of the Marshals of France.

Deputies of Infantry.

Deputies of Cavalry.

Deputies of Hussars, Dragoons, and Chasseurs.

General Officers and Deputies of the Marine, according to rank.

The Deputies of the forty-one last Departments in alphabetical order.

A company of volunteer Chasseurs.

A company of Cavalry, with a standard and two trumpets.

Each different department was preceded by a banner carried by the oldest officer of each department, on which were written these words; on one side “The National Confederation of Paris on the 14th July, 1790,” and on the other side “The Constitution.”

Being arrived on the Place de Louis XV. the Standard bearers moved to the right and left, in order to receive the National Assembly between two lines. It was then eleven o'clock.

The whole procession was not closed until mid-day, when there was a grand salute of 100 cannon.

The Field of Mars represented an immense circle, round which were placed very large amphitheatres, containing about 400,000 spectators.

The procession entered the field under a triumphal arch, opposite to the bridge of boats, on which were painted the different insignia of war. The following inscriptions were conspicuously engraved near the entrance.

[All these inscriptions were in French poetry, which we omit for the sake of brevity, only inserting the translations in prose.]

“The power of the King consists in the freedom of his people. Cherish the liberty you have now obtained, and by preserving its purity, make yourselves worthy its continuance.

“The rights of man have been enveloped by darkness for ages past—but humanity at last found out the recesses of misery, opened the door, and let in the light of justice. We are now no longer in dread of that subaltern tyranny, which has so long oppressed us under its many hundred forms—we are free.”

On the side of the bridge of boats, these other inscriptions were very conspicuously written:

“Under our present defender, the poor shall no longer tremble for the safety of his inheritance. The strength of the Great—the power of the wealthy shall not tear it from him.”

“Sacred to the great work of the Constitution—we now lay the finishing stone. Each circumstance is propitious to our happiness; every thing flatters our wishes. May the gentle breath of peace dissipate the storm of adversity, and may the mind glow with the ineffable delight of acknowledged Freedom.

“Our country now, and its laws are the sole authority that can call us to arms; and we will die in its defence, for we only live to preserve it.”

In the middle of the Field of Mars was erected the grand Altar of Liberty, where the civic oath was administered. The approach to it was up a lofty flight of steps, composed of four different stair cases. The steps were formed from the stones of the Bastille, and supported by large pillars.

On the altar was placed the Records of the Constitution, the Royal Sceptre, the Hand of Justice, with a spear, bearing the Cap of Liberty.

About the altar were painted several allegorical designs on the subject of the day. Four grand

paintings were hung—one on each front of it. The first, represented the Genius of France, pointing to the word *Constitution*, with a picture of Plenty, holding two cornucopias.

The second painting described some of the glorious descendants of France, blowing the trumpet of Fame, and bearing this inscription:

“Hold in your remembrance these three sacred words, which are the guarantee of your decrees;—The Nation, the Law, and the King. The Nation is yourselves—the Law is your own, for it is your will—and the King is the Guardian of the law.”

The third painting represented the National Deputies taking the civic oath, and the fourth described the arts and sciences, with the following verses underneath.

“Men are equal: It is their virtue, and not their birth which distinguishes them. The law ought to form the basis of every state—in its presence all men are equal.”

Myrrh and frankincense were burnt in large urns about the altar: The form of it was round, the ceiling painted of sky blue, and was ornamented with large chandeliers. At the end of it was placed the sword of justice.

At the bottom of the Field of Mars, opposite to the triumphal arch, was an amphitheatre allotted for his Majesty, the Royal Family, the Foreign Ministers, the National Assembly, the Municipality of Paris, and other persons of distinction.

While the Procession was advancing, the National Parisian Guard antecedent to its arrival, performed different evolutions, in order to divert the attention of the spectators, and to bear up their spirits against the heavy and incessant rains. Dances were likewise performed.

At half past twelve the late Marquis de la Fayette, who had been nominated Major General of the Confederation, entered the field under a general discharge of all the artillery, accompanied by the beating of drums and other martial music.

The company had no sooner taken their seats, than the King entered under a very large escort of the National Guard. On his entrance he was met by the Major General, and conducted to his Throne. The President of the National Assembly sat on his right hand. His Majesty was very magnificently dressed in a suit of gold and silver Tissue. The Queen, M. Provence, and the Dauphin were seated near him.

The Procession did not finally close till half past three o'clock.

The King being seated, there was another general discharge of artillery, and beating of the drums. The grand mass did not begin till towards four o'clock. The Bishop of Metz officiated as High Almoner, and was assisted by 60 other Priests, nominated by the 60 districts of Paris.

Previous to the commencement of this sacred ceremony, the Grand Standard of France—(*l'Oriflamme*) and the banners belonging to each district were carried to the altar, and their received a benediction. This was followed by another general discharge of artillery, and the sound of martial music.

The mass being over, the 60 banners belonging to the districts of Paris, were placed so as to form a line between the altar and the amphitheatre where the King was seated.

A long delay took place in the expectation that the King would advance to the altar and there take the Civic oath. But his Majesty remained on the throne. M. de la Fayette then gave the signal for the National Representatives to come forward and take the Oath. He was the first person who ascended the Altar, and on the sound of the trumpet, he took the Civic Oath, in the name of himself and all the National Guards. The Oath is longer than that formerly taken, and is as follows:

“WESWEAR to be faithful to the Nation—the Law, and the King—to maintain with all our power, the Constitution decreed by the Assembly, and accepted by the King—to protect the individual, and preserve his property according to law—to see that there be a free circulation of grain, throughout the kingdom—to enforce with all our power the collection of the public revenues—and to remain united to every Frenchman by the bands of brotherly love.”

The President of the National Assembly, in the name of the Municipal Bodies, afterwards pronounced the same form of Oath as above.

The King then took the Oath, prescribed for his acceptance, from the throne.

At the same moment, all the spectators, with uplifted hands repeated, *I SWEAR IT*—and immediately there was one general shout of—*Vive la Nation—la Loi—et le Roi!*

This acclamation being subsided—the signal that the ceremony was over, was made by the waving of one of the banners, and at half past five o'clock, the company began to retire.

The principal company were invited to a feast at the Castle of la Muette, whose tables were spread under the trees in those gardens. At night there was a general illumination.

[The preceding Account was received by the New-York, Capt. Watson, from London.]