

DISCOURSES ON DAVILA.

No. XXII.

*Intervonit deinde, his cogitationibus, avitum malum, regni cupido, atque inde factum certamen coortum.*

THE Queen-mother and the Guises, delayed no longer the opening of the States. They began by the profession of faith, drawn up by the Sorbonne, conformably to the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. The Cardinal de Tournon, President of the order of the Clergy, read it with a loud voice, and each of the deputies approved and adhered to it, upon oath: a precaution which they judged necessary to assure themselves of the catholicity of those who were to have a deliberative voice, in the general assembly. After this solemn act, the Chancellor proposed, in the presence of the King, the matters which were to be taken into consideration. At the instance of the Provinces, the three orders separated, to examine the respective demands, and make report of their resolutions. But all this was merely theatrical: it was nothing but farcical scenery. The Guises knew, as well as the Constable de Montmorency, that the ministry could govern the kingdom, and nation at its will, as a Court or Supreme Executive always will, where it is checked only by a single representative assembly, especially if that assembly have no authority but to advise. Nay, if it have Legislative authority, the majority in that assembly can only govern, by imposing its own men on the Executive, in other words, by forcing the King to take their creatures into the ministry. So that the ministry and the majority in the National Assembly must always act in concert, and be agreed; and they generally are so, to the intolerable oppression of the minority, as in this case. Reformation of government, and liberty of conscience, and redress of grievances in religion, were subjects which the court had too much cunning to bring before the Assembly. That would have been, as the Constable expressed it, to have prepared a formidable opposition to themselves. Had the point been then settled, that the States were a Legislative assembly; and had the question of religion been brought fairly into deliberation and discussion before them, it is very probable that liberty of conscience to the Hugonots, might have been the result, even in that age.—But these, as Davila says, were the smallest objects they had in view: all minds expected with much more solicitude, the issue of the detention of the Prince of Condé. Their doubts were soon resolved by a declaration of council signed by the King, the Chancellor and all the grantees, except the Guises, who, as suspected of partiality, affected not to appear in this affair. A commission was established for the trial of the Prince, with authority to render a definitive sentence. De Thou, president, and Faye and Viole, counsellors of the Parliament of Paris, were the Judges—Bourdin, Attorney-General, Tillot, Secretary: All the interrogations and acts were done in the presence of the Chancellor L'Hopital. They heard the depositions of the prisoners of Amboise, Lyons and others. They made preparations to interrogate the Prince. He refused to answer, alleging that in quality of Prince of the blood, he acknowledged no other tribunal, than the Parliament of Paris. He demanded an assembly of all the chambers of Parliament; that the King should be present in person, and that the twelve Peers should have a voice, as well as the great officers of the crown, according to the ancient usage. That he could not excuse himself, for not remonstrating against a proceeding so unheard of, and irregular, and from appealing to the King. This appeal was carried to council, and appeared authorized by reason, by the ordinary formalities, and by the customs of the kingdom. But the spirit of rivalry, which is the spirit of party, demanded a sudden vengeance: a party at present triumphant, but doubtful whether it were at bottom the most powerful, were impelled by fear, as well as hatred, to with a prompt decision. The appeal was declared null. But the Prince, having renewed it, and persisting in his protestations, the council, at the motion of the Attorney-General, pronounced that they ought to consider the Prince as convicted, since he refused to answer to commissioners named by the King. In this manner they obliged him to submit to interrogatories, and pursued the trial, without loss of time, to final judgment.

The Princes of Bourbon, at the summit of misfortune, were very near expiating with their blood, the heinous crime of daring to stand in competition with the Guises, to patronize liberty of conscience, and to shelter from persecution the distressed Hugonots: as Manlius was precipitated from the Tarpeian Rock, for being the friend of the oppressed debtors, and the rival of Camillus and the Quintian family. Both were accused, it is true, with crimes against the state. The splendor of the birth of the two Bourbons, and their personal merit, interested all France. Even their enemies pitied their destiny. The Guises alone, naturally enterprising, pursued constantly their designs, without regard to the merit or quality of those Princes, whether they judged such an act of severity absolutely necessary, to the safety and tranquillity of the kingdom, or whether, as their enemies supposed, they had nothing in view but the destruction of their rivals, and the establishment of their own grandeur. They declared openly, that it was necessary by two strokes, at the same time, to strike off the heads of Heresy and Rebellion. Such is the spirit of jealousy: and such is the spirit of party. The Queen-mother, although she consented secretly, and wished that the resolution taken at Amboise, of destroying the Princes, should be executed, desired nevertheless, that all the odium of it should fall upon the Guises, as she had always had the address, to accomplish. She proposed to manage the two parties, for fear of those unforeseen events, which the inconsistency of fortune might produce; and affected much grief and melancholy in her behaviour, and reserve in her discourse. She had even frequent conferences with the two Chatillons, the Admiral and Cardinal, in which she appeared disposed to seek some expedient, to extricate from danger the Princes of the blood. She amused in the same manner, the Dutchess of Montpensier, a Princess full of the best intentions, an enemy of all dissimulation, and who judged of the characters of others by the rectitude of her own. Her inclination to Calvinism, and her intimate connections with the King of Navarre, had enabled her to commence and continue between that Prince and the Queen, a secret correspondence. These intrigues, although directly opposite to the conduct which the court held in public, were palliated with so much artifice, that the most clear-sighted, could not unravel their genuine design, even when they reflected on the depths of the secrets of mankind, and the diversity of interests and passions which serve as motives to their actions.

Already the commissioners had rendered their judgment against the Prince of Condé. They had condemned him, as convicted of high treason and rebellion, to be beheaded, before the palace of the King, at the hour of the assembly of the States General. They delayed the execution, only to draw into the same snare the Constable, who, in spite of the repeated instances of the court, still delayed his journey to the States. They wished to involve in the same proscription the King of Navarre, but they had not proofs against him, sufficient to satisfy their own creatures, when one morning the King, in dressing himself, fell all at once into a swoon, so deep and violent, that his officers believed him to be dead. He recovered his senses, it is true: but his malady was judged to be mortal, and his life was despaired of. This fatal mischance terrified the Guises. They pressed the Queen-mother, to execute the sentence against the Prince of Condé, while the breath remained in the body of the King, and to take the same resolution against the King of Navarre, to prevent all the revolutions which they might have to fear, in case of the King's death. They represented to her, with warmth, that this was the sole means of preserving the crown to her other infant children, and of dissipating the storm which menaced France: that, although the Constable was not arrested, and in the present delicate cir-

cumstances, it would not be prudent to seize him, yet that when they should have no longer to fear, neither the credit, nor the pretensions of the Princes of the blood, the Constable would be less formidable, as he would neither have the nobility in his interests nor the Hugonots of his party: that to deliberate in the moment of execution, and suspend it in this critical situation of the King, would be to lose the fruit of so many projects conducted to their end, with so much artifice and patience: that even the death of the King ought not to be an obstacle, because that brothers succeeding him of right, the same reasons and the same interests still subsisted, both for them and their mother. The Queen who had known how to preserve herself neuter, at least in appearance, and who had not motives so urgent to precipitate measures, considered that under a minority, Kings might change their aspect, and that the excessive grandeur of the Guises remaining without opposition, might become to her as formidable as the ambition of the Princes of the blood. Thus sometimes by supposing the distemper of the King to be less dangerous, sometimes by spreading favorable reports of a speedy cure, she gained time, delayed the execution of the Prince and reserved the liberty of acting according to circumstances, conformably to those views, in which she was confirmed by the councils of the Chancellor de L'Hopital. As soon as she had known that the King's life was in danger, she requested the son of the Duke de Montpensier, to conduct her secretly one night into the apartment of the King of Navarre, and in a long conversation which she had with him, she endeavored, with her ordinary dissimulation, to persuade him, that she was very far from approving all that had passed, and wished to act in concert with him, to oppose the ambition of the Guises. The Prince depended little on the sincerity of these protestations: they had however an effect in the sequel.—On the fifth of December the King died.

Charles the ninth, second son of the Queen, succeeded to Francis the second his brother.—He was but eleven years of age, and must have a tutor, and the Kingdom a regent.

NEWYORK.

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME.

BE IT KNOWN, That Robert Yates, John Lansing, jun. Gulian Verplanck, Simeon De Witt, Egbert Benson, and Melancton Smith, Commissioners appointed by an act of the Legislature of the State of New-York, entitled "An Act appointing commissioners with power to declare the consent of the Legislature of this State, that a certain territory within the jurisdiction thereof should be formed into a new State," passed the sixth day of March last, DO hereby by virtue of the powers to them granted for the purpose, declare the consent of the Legislature of the State of New-York, that the community now actually exercising independent jurisdiction, as the STATE OF VERMONT, be admitted into the United States of America, and that immediately from such admission all claim of jurisdiction of the State of New-York within the State of Vermont shall cease, and thenceforth the perpetual boundary line between the State of New-York and the State of Vermont shall be as follows, viz. Beginning at the northwest corner of the State of Massachusetts, thence westward along the south boundary of the township of Pownall to the southwest corner thereof, thence northerly along the western boundaries of the township of Powiass, Bennington, Shaftsbury, Arlington, Sandgate, Rupert, Pawlett, Wells, and Poultney, as the said townships are now held or possessed to the river commonly called Poultney river, thence down the same through the middle of the deepest channel thereof to East Bay, thence through the middle of the deepest channel of East Bay and the waters thereof to where the same communicate with Lake Champlain; thence through the middle of the deepest channel of Lake Champlain to the eastward of the islands called the Four Brothers, and the westward of the islands called Grand Isle and Long Isle, or the Two Heroes, and to the westward of the Isle La Motte to the forty-fifth degree of north latitude. And the said Commissioners do hereby declare the will of the Legislature of the State of New-York, that if the Legislature of the State of Vermont shall on or before the first day of January, in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, declare, that the State of Vermont shall, on or before the first day of June, in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, pay to the State of New-York the sum of thirty thousand dollars, that immediately from such declaration by the Legislature of the State of Vermont, all rights and titles to lands within the State of Vermont, under grants from the government of the late colony of New-York or from the State of New-York, except as herein after excepted, shall cease; or, if the Legislature of the State of Vermont shall not elect to make such declaration, then that, except in cases where the grants from New-York were intended as confirmations of grants from New-Hampshire, all rights and titles under grants from the government of the late colony of New-York, or from the State of New-York to lands within the State of Vermont which may have been granted by the governor of the late colony of New-Hampshire shall cease, and the boundaries according to which such grants from the government of the late colony of New-Hampshire have been held or possessed shall be deemed to be the true boundaries; and the said commissioners do hereby further declare the will of the Legislature of the State of New-York, that all rights and titles to lands within the State of Vermont under grants from the government of the late colony of New-York, or from the State of New-York and not granted by the government of the late colony of New-Hampshire, shall be suspended until the expiration of three years after the governor of the State of Vermont for the

time being shall have been notified that a commissioner to be appointed by the State of New-York after the first day of January in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, and to reside and hold a public office at the city of Albany, shall have entered upon the execution of his office: And if within one year after such notification there shall be delivered to such commissioner, either the original or a certified abstract containing the date, the names of the grantees, and the boundaries of a grant from New-York, and if thereupon, at any time before the expiration of the said term of three years above mentioned, there shall be paid to such commissioner at the rate of ten cents per acre for the whole or any parcel of the lands contained in such grant from New-York, all right and title under such grant shall, in respect to the lands for which payment shall be made, cease, and a receipt under the hand and seal of such commissioner specifying the lands for which payment shall be made shall be evidence of the payment. And in default of delivering the original or such certified abstract of the grant to the commissioner within the said term of one year for that purpose above limited, all right and title under the grant in respect of which there shall be such default of delivery shall cease, but where the original or certified abstract of the grant shall be duly delivered to the commissioner, the right and title under the grant in respect to the lands for which payment shall not be made, shall remain, and suits for the recovery of such lands may be prosecuted in the ordinary course of law, provided the suit be commenced within ten years after the state of Vermont shall have been admitted into the union of the United States, otherwise the right and title under the grant from New-York, shall in such case also cease. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said commissioners have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals the seventh day of October in the fifteenth year of the Independence of the United States of America, one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

ROBERT YATES (L. S.)  
JOHN LANSING, jun. (L. S.)  
GULIAN VERPLANCK (L. S.)  
SIMEON DE WITT (L. S.)  
EGBERT BENSON (L. S.)  
MELANCTON SMITH (L. S.)

Witnesses.

RICHARD VARICK,  
ALEXANDER HAMILTON,  
SAMUEL JONES,  
ROBERT BENSON.

REMARKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

IN the use of the word *merchant*, the people of this State differ from their sister States and from the English nation. In its primitive sense, this word signified any trader whatever; that is, any person who procured a living by buying and selling. But etymology can not be generally relied on, as leading to the true present signification of words, which depends wholly on national use. The word *merchant*, in modern practice, is applied only to *wholesale traders*, and should not be confounded with *retailers* or *shopkeepers*. It would not be very material how we use words in Connecticut, if no other people spoke the same language; but this State is but a little part of that great community, which uses the same language; and no person will pretend that we have a right to impose new meanings upon words. At any rate it subjects us to an inconvenience; for when we use the word *merchant* in our local sense, people abroad do not understand us, or if they do, they suppose us deficient in education.

The words *Shop* and *Store* are also confounded in our common practice, *Store* being used to signify every kind of building where goods are lodged for sale or security. Hence we are under a necessity of introducing the distinction of *wholesale store* and *retail store*. This trouble might be spared, by using the words according to their true sense, viz. *shop* for the apartment or building where goods are *retailed*; and *store* or *warehouse* for a building where goods are deposited in bulk. (American Mercury.)

LONDON, August 9.

THE national colour in Ireland is green. The national cockade begins already to give the green sickness to government and its emissaries.

On Saturday night last died of a fever, in Newgate, the Rev. Philip Withers, who was sentenced to one year's imprisonment for a libel on Mrs. Fitzherbert. He had many works of genius in contemplation that would have done honor to literature—and among the rest was that much wanted publication, a Revision of Johnson's Dictionary.

AUGUST 14—19.

In the Swedish account of the two actions on the 4th and 9th ult. the defeat and the victory as stated in the Gazettes of Stockholm, we are informed, that the Russians, in their first victory, had two ships of 100 guns each blown up, and five ships of the line disabled. This, if it be true, is a considerable drawback on their triumph. In the