

ed among the number of their virtues. I have received marks of it too affecting to be ever forgotten; the King would not bring forward the following, were it not to represent to his faithful subjects the disposition of the factious. The people kept in pay for the triumph of M. Necker, affected not to pronounce the name of King; they, at this period, persecuted the Archbishop of Paris; a courier of the King was stopped, searched, and the letters which he carried broke open; at this time the Assembly seemed to insult the King; it was determined to carry to Paris the words of peace; during his journey, they stopped, in order to suppress any cry of *Vive le Roi*. They even made a motion to carry him off, and to put the Queen in a convent; this motion was applauded. On the nights of the 4th and 5th, when it was proposed to the Assembly to go and hold their sitting in the presence of the King, the answer was, That it was not consistent with their dignity to go thither. From that moment the scenes of horror were renewed. Upon the arrival of the King at Paris, an innocent person was massacred almost under his eyes, in the garden of the Thuilleries; while all who abused religion and the throne received the honour of triumph. At the Federation of the 14th July, the National Assembly declared, that the king was the head; but in order to show that they could name another, his family was placed separately from him; it was then, however, that he spent the most agreeable moments of his residence at Paris.

“When, from religious motives, Mesdames wished to go to Rome, notwithstanding the declaration of rights, their departure was opposed; they were carried to Bellevue, and then to Arney-le-Duc, to wait the orders of the Assembly for their departure; the authority of the King was disregarded. In the tumult which factiously disposed persons excited at Vincennes, those who assembled around the King from regard to his safety were maltreated; so far was their intolerance carried, that their arms were broken in the presence of the King under whose protection they were. When, to get rid of an indisposition, he was preparing to go to St. Cloud; in order to stop him, they availed themselves of the respect which they knew he entertained for them, and the religion of his father; the club of Cordeliers brought a charge against him as refractory to the law—in vain M. de la Fayette endeavoured to protect him: they violently seized the faithful servants who surrounded him, and he again resumed his prison. In fine, he was obliged to order the removal of his chapel, to approve the letter of the Minister for foreign powers, and to go to mass at the new curacy of Saint Germain l'Auxerrois. With such motives, and in the impossibility which the King feels to prevent evil, it is natural that he should endeavor to ensure his safety.

“Frenchmen, and you who are called inhabitants of the good City of Paris, withdraw your confidence from the suggestions of the factious, return to your King, he will always be your friend; when your holy religion shall be respected, when government shall be secured on a firm footing, and liberty established upon an unshaken basis. (Signed) “LOUIS.”

Paris, 20th June, 1791.

FRANCE.

Proceedings of the National Assembly.

At nine on Tuesday morning the National Assembly met, and the sittings were opened by a communication from the President, of the King's flight.

A motion was made and carried unanimously to the following purport:

“The National Assembly, constituting the representatives of the nation, decrees, 1st, That the decrees already passed or to be passed, and which cannot be sanctioned by the royal prerogative on account of the King's absence, shall still preserve the name, and have the force of laws throughout the Kingdom, and the seals of office already approved of shall be affixed to them.”

“2dly, The Chief Minister of Justice shall be authorized to affix the seals of state to all the acts of the legislative power, and to sign his name to them.”

“The National Assembly orders that the minister for the home department shall instantly dispatch couriers to all the departments of the kingdom, with an order to all the public officers, national guards, and the troops of the empire, to stop every person who shall attempt to quit the kingdom; as well as to prevent every species of goods, arms, stores, or money, horses or carriages, from passing: And that should the couriers overtake the king, or any individuals of the royal family, or those who may have assisted in their escape, the said public officers, national guards, and others, shall be bound to take the necessary measures to prevent it, to detain those persons who have attempted it, and to give immediate notice of it to the legislative body.

“The National Assembly declares to all the citizens of Paris, and to all the inhabitants of the empire, that the same firmness and energy which have enabled them to contend with so

many difficulties, shall be observed in their deliberation on the present occasion of the escape of the King and royal family; it recommends to the citizens the necessity of preserving the most strict good order to preserve the public peace; that the National Assembly has taken the most active measures to find out those persons who have rendered themselves guilty, by assisting in the escape of the king, and that it will uninterruptedly employ itself in providing such means that public affairs shall not suffer by the event; that it is the duty of all citizens to repose their confidence in them, in whatever regards the salvation of the empire, and that whoever shall excite disturbances, put citizens in fear of their lives, or threaten their property, shall be deemed guilty:

“Orders, That all citizens shall hold themselves ready to act for the preservation of public tranquility and the defence of their country:

“Orders, That the administration of every department, and the municipal officers of the kingdom, shall promulgate the present decree, and watch over the public security.

“The minister of war shall be directed to dispatch M. de Rochambeau immediately with the necessary orders to put the frontiers of the kingdom in a state of defence, and to arrest all those persons who shall be suspected of having assisted in rescuing the king.

“6th, the National Assembly decrees, that all the seals of office, as well as others made use of by the different committees of the National Assembly, shall be got together and placed under the direction of four commissioners appointed by the National Assembly, of whom one always shall be in attendance to expedite its decrees. That notice shall be written without delay to all the directors of departments in the provinces charging them to be extremely vigilant in not suffering any fictitious decree to be spread through the country.

“The National Assembly decrees, That the public ministers shall retire to an adjoining room, to give the necessary orders that the present decrees be put in execution.

“Decrees, That the ministers shall be authorized to hold a communication, with the Assembly as often as they shall judge necessary.”

Thursday Morning, June 23.

The President resumed the chair, and the Assembly formed itself into a deliberative body.

One of the secretaries read a letter, stating that three citizens of Paris offered to the Assembly a voluntary contribution for the payment of the National Guards who should be employed in the defence of the frontiers.

Monf. Mangin, the surgeon, who was the means of apprehending the Royal Family, was the person dispatched to the National Assembly, who was deliberating at the moment, when a confused cry was heard in the hall—“He is taken!”

“He is taken!”

A packet was delivered to the President, when the Secretary was ordered to read to the Assembly, a letter from the officers of the Municipality of Varennes, dated the 21st of June. It was conceived in these terms:

To the President of the National Assembly.

“SIR,

“In the state of alarm which we are now in, when every moment is of consequence, we authorize M. Mangin, Surgeon at Varennes, to wait upon you instantly, to inform you, that the King is now in our hands! We beg of you to inform us what conduct we are to pursue.”

A letter was then read from the officers of the Municipality of Saint Menehould, which gave an account of various orders issued by M. Bouille, commander of the troops, to send to him a number of troops of the line, as well in the Municipality of Menehould, as elsewhere.

The President announced that Mangin, from Varennes, desired to be admitted to give an account of the manner in which the King was stopped. He was admitted, and gave the following account:

“Yesterday, June 22, about one in the morning, a carriage entered Varennes, which was not suspected to contain the King and the Royal Family. It was escorted by a detachment of Lauzun's hussars, and attended by several persons who acted as couriers.

“The Post-Master of St. Menehould, who entertained suspicions respecting the carriage, and had followed it from Clermont, where the couriers declared that they were going to Verdun, perceived that it took the road to Varennes. He then got before it, and cried out in the town to stop a carriage that was passing.

“Two young men, Paul le Blanc and Joseph Ponsin, stopped the carriage. The postillions whipped their horses, and the young men threatened to fire into the carriage if they attempted to proceed. The persons in the carriage ordered them to stop. In the mean time several other persons assembled, and gave the alarm. The travellers alighted without resistance. The National Guard surrounded the detachment of hussars, who also submitted. The Attorney-Gen-

ral of the community conducted the travellers to his house, where they asked for refreshment.

“Their quality was still unknown, when I entered and recognized the King, the Queen, the Dauphin, Madame Royale, and Madame Elizabeth. I went out, and gave notice to my fellow-citizens, that it was the King and Royal Family. They professed the greatest zeal to oppose their departure, and drove away some officers of hussars and dragoons, who attempted to favor it. The good countenance of the National Guards, and the firmness of the Municipal Officers, rendered all their attempts fruitless.

“I instantly mounted a horse, as did twelve of my fellow-citizens. We rode from village to village for assistance, and in less than an hour we collected above four thousand National Guards, besides the hussars and dragoons, who joined us, and conducted themselves like good patriots.

“When I saw that we could answer for the detention of the King and the Royal Family, I hastened to the capital, to quiet the minds of all good citizens, and especially the representatives of the nation. I set out at four in the morning, and reached the barriers of Paris at seven in the evening. The people of the capital, whom I informed as I passed, prevented me from appearing sooner before this august Assembly, by their eagerness to be assured of the facts, which I have now communicated.”

The account was received with loud applause, and ordered to be printed.

The Assembly having heard the different dispatches, immediately issued orders—

1st. That the most inviolable regard should be paid to the safety of the King's person, in conducting him to the capital.

2d. That information should immediately be conveyed to the whole kingdom, that the King was taken.

3d. That M. Bouille should be deprived of all command, and immediately arrested.

Thursday Afternoon.

The President read the following letter from the three commissioners to meet the King:

“La Ferte sous Jouarre—Nine o'clock in the morning.

“The King left Chalons last night, escorted by an army of national guards, assembled from the neighbouring departments, as soon as the news of his being stopped was made known. We have given orders every where for the safety and tranquillity of the return of the King. We have been effectually seconded by the dispositions of the citizens. The sentiments of the people are every where the same as at Paris; their deportment is magnanimous, yet tranquil. We have every where experienced testimonies of respect and confidence in the National Assembly.”

Letters from different departments were then read, all breathing an entire devotion to the decrees of the National Assembly.

A numerous deputation of the National Guard was admitted, when M. la Fayette, the speaker of the deputation, addressed the President in the following speech:

“You see before you citizens, who have never measured their zeal but by the exigencies of their country. They ask for the permission of swearing, in your presence, that they will not employ those arms which they took up in the cause of liberty, except in the defence of the constitution and of freedom. The late occurrences, as far as they have affected the people of the capital, have been what all movements and procedures should be which do not attack the rights of citizens. If it be true that the bold and impetuous serenity of which they have displayed so affecting an example, augments the fury of our enemies, hasten to inform us of those places in which they can be discovered; and may the first soldiers who armed themselves in the defence of liberty, become, likewise, the first soldiers who marched forwards to give battle to the champions of despotism!”

The President made the following reply:

“From you it was natural to expect the most intrepid and virtuous efforts for the preservation of the public freedom. All France is too sensible of the obligations which you have already bestowed, not to suppose it certain, that, in the sequel, you will confer more. It is with joy, it is with confidence, that the representatives of the nation receive your oaths. Should our enemies forget that the people of France are free, they will be taught by you that the power of freemen is as inexhaustible as their valour.

The Parisian National Guard, to which were united the Swiss Guards, and a great number of citizens, armed and unarmed, entered with uplifted hands. They marched across the hall, and stepping before the President, unanimously exclaimed—“We swear, we will live free or die!”

These having retired, were succeeded by another patriotic phalanx, which also made the hall resound with their oaths and acclamations of joy, mixed with the sound of military instruments.

Two hours and a half were consumed in taking the oaths by similar bodies, that followed these with the same acclamations.

(To be continued.)