

from the moment that avarice and injustice became our guides, we worked our own destruction, and our enemies profit by our faults. You are flattered and deceived, I will endeavor to tear the veil from before your eyes. The Belgians have been made to suffer vexations of every kind: the sacred rights of liberty have been violated as they relate to them; their religious opinions have been insulted; the furniture of their churches has been taken without necessity, but with indecency. Their character and intentions have been misrepresented; the re-union of Hainault has been effected by main violence, by the sword and fire arms; that of Brussels by a knot of men who could exist but in the midst of trouble, and by a few blood thirsty individuals assembled to intimidate the citizens. Look over the history of the low countries, you will find that the people are good, open hearted, courageous, and worthy of freedom. The Duke of Alva, the most cruel of the satellites of Philip II. had 18,000 executed by the hand of the hangman. The Belgians took vengeance by a war of thirty years, and their attachment to the religion of their fathers, only could have bro't them again under the Spanish yoke.

Your finances were exhausted when we entered Belgia; your coin had disappeared. Cambon, who may be an honest citizen, but who is far beneath the confidence you reposed in him in financial matters, saw no remedy but in the possession of the riches of that fertile country.—He proposed to you the fatal decree of the 15th December; you unanimously accepted it, and yet every one of those among you, with whom I have conversed on the subject, told me he did not approve of it, and that the decree is unjust. One of my memorials was against that decree; it was not read in the assembly. The same Cambon endeavored to render my remonstrances hateful and criminal, by saying from the tribune that I was placing a veto upon the decree of the Assembly: You confirmed this decree by that of December 30th; you directed your commissioners to see it executed; by your orders the executive sent at least 30 commissioners; the choice of them was bad, excepting a very few honest men, who are perhaps considered as of doubtful principles, because they endeavor to mitigate the odium attached to their functions. The majority are madmen or tyrants, or men without reflection, whom a brutal zeal always has led beyond their duty. The agents of tyranny have been scattered over the whole face of Belgia; the military commandants in obedience to the decree, have been obliged to employ, upon their requisition, the forces entrusted to them.—These extortioners finally exasperated the spirit of the Belgians. Thence forward, fear, perhaps hatred, have replaced that cordial fraternity which accompanied our first steps in Belgia; and at the moment of our change of fortune our agents exercised their functions with the most excessive injustice and violence.

You have been mistaken as to the re-union to France of several portions of Belgia. You thought that union voluntary, because you were deceived by lies. From that moment you thought it in your power to take the superfluous plate from the churches, to defray the expence of the war. You then looked upon the Belgians as Frenchmen; but even if they had been, you yet should have waited the voluntary giving up of this plate; your taking it by open violence became sacrilegious: This is exactly what has happened. The priests and monks have taken advantage of that imprudent act, and then preached us up as pillagers to be avoided, and every where the inhabitants armed against us. Our's is not a war of aristocracy, for our revolution favors the inhabitants of the country, and yet that very description of people arm against us, and the alarm is sounded in all quarters. It with them a war of religion; and with us a criminal war. We are at this moment sur-

rounded by enemies; you will see it by the reports which I send to the minister of war, you will see at the same time the first measures I have been obliged to take to save the French army, the national honor, and indeed the republic.

Representatives of the nation, I call on your probity and the recollection of the importance of your duties; I call on the sacred principles explained in the declaration of the rights of man, and I wait with impatience your decision. At this moment you hold in your hands the fate of the empire, and I am persuaded that truth and virtue will guide your decisions, and that you will not suffer your armies to be stained by crimes and then become the victims of those crimes."

Dumourier, informed that this letter had been referred to the committee of defence, requests the convention to come to no determination upon it, until he has again conferred with the commissioners to Belgia.

[The above letter appears in the *Moniteur Universelle*, a Paris paper of the 25th of March, which mentions in a note, "That the letter had not been read before the National Convention, but printed and published in the Belgic provinces."]

MARCH 23.

Letters were read from the administration of the lower Loire. By these letters of the 19th it appears that the rebels are masters of the whole country round Nantes, which city is in a manner besieged; the communications are interrupted—they call for immediate assistance—they announce that the chief of the rebels, the number of whom they state at about 40,000, is one de la Perriere, that he has sent various proposals to the city of Nantes; for he has declared not to acknowledge the authority of the department and of the district: he has much threatened, if he is not assisted in supporting a kind of constitution which he presented, in which he calls for the dismissal of the constitutional clergy and a diminution of taxes. The administrators promise and swear to remain firm at their post. They have resolved, as the only answer to the rebels, that court martials shall attend each body of troops that should march against them to judge those taken and immediately cause the sentence to be executed.

MARCH 24.

Tallier informed that the department of Dordogne had sent 1200 men against them. Honorable mention of the zeal of this department and the city of Bourdeaux was decreed.

Ferrand stated, that the frontier of Spain was in a formidable state of defence; but that it was otherwise with ours. The executive council was directed to give an account of the situation of that important frontier.

Makiner communicated a letter he received from Nantes, by which it appears, that the communication between that city and Antwerp is restored. The administrative bodies have disposed of detachments at different distances; they directed the gullies and ditches made in the roads by the rebels to be filled up. Upwards of 1200 rebels have already suffered death, about the same number are in prison, and will not delay experiencing the same fate. This information gave the greatest satisfaction.

Two letters were received from the minister at war. In the first he announces, that he is communicating to the committee of general defence the dispatches which he received yesterday and this night from gen. Dumourier, as well as the plans concerted between the executive council and the generals—they cannot be rendered public for the general good—it will suffice to say, that Dumourier is making a retrograde movement to get nearer to the frontiers; this measure has appeared to him necessary to reorganise the army which is in disorder.

By the second letter it appears that Custine has had a considerable advantage over the Prussians. He beat them in an attack they made

on one of his posts; the French troops displayed astonishing intrepidity—every where they took from the enemy forage and provisions.

LONDON, March 24.

Medals are now distributing in Paris, having on one side the effigy of Louis XVI. and on the other, the words, *Il est mort martyr*.

The effects of the King's declaration published by Louis Stanislaus Xavier, have begun to manifest themselves in France precisely in the manner that might have been expected. No sooner was the absurd instrument made public, but addresses were presented from various quarters, demanding the trial and punishment of the unfortunate Antoniette. These miserable deluded refugees fall into the purposes of Egalite, as fully as if they were his professed and hired instruments.

April 3. The communication with Ostend being once more open, intelligence will be more frequently received from the immediate seat of war.

The mails from Holland and Flanders arrived yesterday. The Leyden Gazette mentions, that the intercourse being re-opened, they have obtained French papers to the 18th, the day on which they ceased to be forwarded to London. The Brussels Gazette is totally barren of intelligence.

The late failures in the city which by some persons have been attributed, very falsely, to be the effects of the war, are found to arise, on close inspection, from connections with the country banks—a growing mischief, which has long called for the interference of the legislature to check its progress.

Friday evening intelligence came to Lloyd's, of eight English merchantmen trading to the Levant having been taken by French privateers, in the Mediterranean, and six of them carried into Marseilles. They are insured at 80,000.

La Halle, where Dumourier was encamped, according to the last account, is a strong post a few miles to the south of Brussels. It was the same place that Duke Albert made a stand in the last campaign, to cover the retreat of the Court of Brussels.

APRIL 6.

Yesterday afternoon capt. Hawes, of the second Nancy cutter, belonging to Deal, arrived in St. Margueret's bay, with dispatches from Ostend for admiral M'Bride. The cutter left Ostend at 11 o'clock on Thursday night, and brings most important intelligence. We understand that Dumourier is arrived at Lille with his forces, and that he had scarce made his appearance, before M. Bournouville and five commissioners from the convention, had come down with orders to bring him up a prisoner to Paris. Dumourier did not follow the example of Ja Fayette; he resisted the order of the convention, and having felt the pulse of his army, arrested the commissioners, and sent them to the prince of Cobourg, as hostages for the safety of the Queen and royal family. He then proclaimed the young Louis king, at the head of the army, and sent a dispatch to Paris, intimating his determination to proceed immediately thither, & support the claim of the Dauphin to the throne of his ancestors, as from the conduct of the convention, he saw that France could only be saved by a general resistance to their horrid tyranny. Such is the report that has come to our ears of this important dispatch; and which we give literally as we have received it. It is added, that in consequence of the news of Dumourier's defeat, and of the violent measures taken by the convention, the tumult in Paris has risen to the most extravagant height. The parties had actually come to blows, the barriers were shut, the white flag, with a mourning crape over it, was flying in the streets, and numbers of people had mounted the white cockade.

Besides the above particulars, intelligence has been received, that the merchants and principal inhabitants of Dunkirk, are ready to deliver up that place to the royal

party, and have sent a boat to admiral M'Bride, requesting him to send over two frigates to take possession of the town.

By an express which we received this morning from the Hague, we are enabled to give the certain accounts of a counter-revolution being on the eve of taking place at Paris.

The circumstances that have led to this are of a most extraordinary nature. The stoppage of all communication with France has kept in the dark completely with respect to the proceedings of the Convention. It now appears that the most important transactions have taken place.

After Dumourier had been forced to retreat within the French frontier, he wrote a letter to the convention, stating, "That he found it impossible to make head against the Allied Powers, and that he tho't the only means of saving France from being over-run by those powers, would be to have a King."

In consequence of this letter, a Decree of Accusation was passed against Dumourier, in the sitting of the 30th of March, who had been denounced in the Municipality of Paris as a traitor; and Bournouville, the Minister at War, Camus, and five others were deputed to the army, to put the Decree into execution, by arresting Dumourier and sending him a prisoner to Paris. Dumourier himself says, he firmly believes it was their intention to have had him massacred on the road.

They reached the army, and informed the General of their mission. He saw the time was come to strike a decisive blow. He assembled his troops; informed them of the Decree of the Convention, and hinted his own wishes and designs. They exclaimed, that they would stand by him. He immediately began to act. He arrested Bournouville and the other Commissioners, and sent them with a letter to General Clairfayt, stating that he was about to march to Paris next morning, the 2d inst. at the head of his army, for the purpose of restoring the French Monarchy.

General Clairfayt forwarded the prisoners committed to his charge by Dumourier, to the Prince of Saxe Cobourg, and immediately wrote with his own hand, an account of these extraordinary transactions to Count Metternich, the Imperial Minister at Brussels, who forwarded this account to the Hague. The express that brought this news left the Hague on the 4th, a few hours after General Clairfayt's account arrived there, and reached London this morning at seven o'clock.

The same accounts have been received from Brussels and Ostend.

Extract of a letter from Mecklin, March 24.

"This day the French retired in good order about eleven o'clock in the morning, after having destroyed or blown up the bridges in the neighbourhood of the city. The people immediately proceeded to the square, where they destroyed the monument erected by the Jacobin club to the memory of le Pelletier, and transporting the fragments of it to the foot of the tree of liberty, set the whole on fire.

"The people then repaired to the club-room, from which they carried away the tribune and benches, to add them to the fire. The whole was conducted without any tumult.

"At two o'clock the magistrates and the grand council, proceeded to the town-house, on invitation presented to them by the provisional representatives of the people, who had managed affairs during the residence of the French. These representatives then resigned their functions in the presence of the magistrates, who testified their gratitude and satisfaction for the zeal they had shown during their administration, in preserving order and tranquillity, and protecting the rights and property of the citizens.

"At five o'clock the Imperial troops took possession of the town amid the ringing of the bells and the acclamations of the people."