AN INTERVIEW BETWEEN NAPOLEON III. AND OLLIOLIER BARROT.

(Translated from the Paris Figaro.)

In the year 1849 the Prince President sent his adjutant, Edgar Ney, to the then Prime Minister of the French Republic, Odilon Barrot. Ney was the bearer of a letter and of a casket. The latter contained the grand cordon of the Order of the Legion of Honor. The Prime Minister opened the casket and gave it back. The letter contained the following:

"Political differences of opinion induce me to part with your colleagues. I believe that you are so closely connected with them that I am afraid you will follow them. It is, therefore, with the utmost regret that I take leave of you."

And then—

This "and then" was the broken egg from which flowed the "Personal Power" which prevailed for twenty years.

Odilon Barrot was bed-ridden. We do not believe that he rose, a genuine reconvalescent, from his sick bed. The Emperor Napoleon the Third had invited M. Emile Ollivier to form a rudimentary Ministry. In so doing, the Emperor had returned to the year 1849. Emile Ollivier, whom the performance of his task greatly embarrassed, informed his sovereign of the obstacles he encountered in his path.

And thus it happened that—which is entirely unknown up to the present day—the Emperor wrote to the young Pitt of the situation:

"I have some reason to hope that considerations of patriotism would induce M. Odilon Barrot to return to the management of public affairs. So I wish you would visit him in my name. If he should decline only to accept the portfolio of Justice, I should regard it as a great deed, and as a genuine service rendered to France."

Emile Ollivier, after receiving this Imperial letter, wrote a note to M. Odilon Barrot, the veteran statesman, Minister and orator, and commissioned his friend and adviser, M. Maurice Richard, to carry it to him. He added in it that M. Odilon Barrot should grant him an interview, in order to consult with him on public questions of the highest importance.

M. Odilon Barrot accepted the interview requested by M. Emile Ollivier. It was, in fact, a preliminary to a ministerial engagement, but in order to have an opportunity to express his views concerning the great and vital interests of his native country.

The interview between the two political celebrities took place. On that occasion M. Ollivier offered the portfolio of Justice to M. Odilon Barrot.

Would M. Odilon Barrot have accepted that portfolio if it had been offered to him in another form? For our part, we believe that he, the old parliamentary Minister and Constitutionalist, would have done so if the Emperor himself had tendered it to him.

In short, they agreed in reference to one point, that is to say, on the necessity of the Government returning to the old parliamentary regime. Ollivier, who had received full powers from his sovereign, the Emperor, was reluctant on account of an excited position that would have allowed M. Odilon Barrot to meddle with the consultations of the rising statesmen in regard to the new policy of the Government.

And then M. Odilon Barrot declined again, basing his refusal—what a difference this old of 1849 is!—on his advanced age.

The Emperor, however, insisted on it that M. Odilon Barrot should be, was over to the New Era; he regretted the failure of the efforts that had been made to that effect up to the present, and expressed the desire to have an interview with him, after they had met met for so many years in the Chamber. M. Emile Ollivier wrote another note to M. Odilon Barrot, of which M. Maurice was again the bearer, and, in consequence, the old Prime Minister of 1849 consented to go to the Tuileries. The interview, it was arranged, was to take place on Wednesday last. Now the new Ministers are still so inexperienced in the performance of their duties that they forgot that there was a Cabinet meeting on that day. In consequence of that the interview between M. Odilon Barrot and Napoleon the Third was postponed to Friday, the 7th of January, at two in the afternoon.

On the day appointed, M. Emile Ollivier called for M. Odilon Barrot at his residence and took him to the palace of the Tuileries. The Emperor Napoleon received the man who had been the Minister of Justice in the year 1849 of the Republic, and whom he had not seen for twenty years.

M. Emile Ollivier ushered his illustrious predecessor into the Imperial Cabinet and was present at the whole interview. The Emperor, dressed in his frock coat, which was buttoned up to the throat, smilingly went to meet his ex-Minister, and held out both hands to him.

"Oh, good day, my dear M. Barrot," he said, "how glad I am to meet you again!"

"I am very much obliged to you," replied his visitor.

"You have not changed; let me tell you that you look exceedingly well," continued the Emperor Napoleon.

"Sire, you, too, look very well, and yet you have not seen one another since the year 1850."

"Yes, yes; and twenty years have passed since that time!"

"Twenty years! Still that space of time cannot be called very long."

And thus the theme of conversation had been found.

The Emperor took Odilon Barrot by the hand, conducted him to the green-baize writing-table, motioned him to take a seat, sat his right hand side, and beckoned to his new Minister of Justice to sit down on the right of M. Odilon Barrot.

The illustrious men conversed without any restraint whatever. The Emperor had given place to the interesting conversationalist, and, to judge from his conduct, to the intimate and sincere friend. Napoleon III. regarded M. Odilon Barrot the offer that he should accept one of the highest dignities of the Empire, and he assured his ex-Minister that he had unreservedly entered upon the path of constitutional parliamentarism.

"Yes; the path of 1849—," replied Odilon Barrot.

"Why, I could not help myself at that time, had enemies."

"Sire! The Chief of a State never has enemies; he has only opponents. He delivers his enemies into the hands of Justice, or what is still better, to public opinion. It is precisely because Charles X. treated his opponents as adversaries that he—"

"Yes, yes," said the Emperor; "but that friends, too."

"Ah, it was they, perhaps, that did the greatest injury to the Empire," replied Odilon Barrot. "A general of War, speaking of his army, said a skirmish had taken place before the assembly of Zaatcha was ordered, and the Prince Pierre had.

KILLED AN ARAB

with his own hand, which was to be expected from a man who bore the name of "Bonaparte." Cousins sent him to the Constituent Assembly. He always voted with the extreme left—he voted against the chambers, for the right to labor, for the progression (because of the rich in proportion to their incomes), for the abolition of the salt tax, for amnesty for the insurgents of June, and for the republican constitution. He was, nevertheless, a warm supporter of Prince Louis Napoleon, and he indeed was in the Assembly Pierre le Rouge and Pierre.

SLAPS A LEGISLATOR'S FACE.

"One day an old man, M. Gastier, who was habitual interrupted speaker, exasperated by hearing—"He (Louis Napoleon) is a fool." Prince Pierre immediately turned around and slapped M. Gastier. A scene of great confusion followed. Prince Pierre was tried for this assault, and fined 200 francs. The newspaper *L'Assemblée Nationale* published an article on the Prince's conduct before Zaatcha, and he sent a challenge to the editor, M. Adrien de La Valette, who at once accepted the challenge, although he was not the author of the article.

TWO DUELS.

"The duel took place at St. Germain. Pistols were selected. The adversaries were placed thirty paces apart, each to have the right to advance five paces. Two shots were exchanged without result; thereupon M. de La Valette's second intervened and declared that while he felt it to be his duty to assume the responsibility of an article although not its author, he regretted the courage and honor of the Prince had been doubted; both seconds declared honor satisfied. His next duel was with M. Rene de Rorigo, then editor of a satirical paper, called *Le Corsaire*. Prince Pierre took offense and challenged M. Rene de Rovigo. They fought with straight sabres in the Bois de Boulogne. M. de Rovigo's first lunge scratched the Prince's left breast, and the latter's parry disarmed the former. The adversaries were again armed, and, during the second duel, Prince Pierre was again wounded; this time his hand was scratched. The principals now insisted upon substituting pistols for swords; but the seconds said honor was satisfied, and refused to allow the combat to proceed. You will notice that Prince Pierre is never master of himself unless in the presence of an unarmed adversary; he then directs his weapon with unerring accuracy. He bowed his head to the cowardice of the same spirit of which Napoleon, as Prince Napoleon (likewise a flaming red Republican) and received the ribbon of prince and highness and a considerable pension without a single protest against the destruction of the Republic. He lived sometimes in Corsica and sometimes at Auteuil. He rarely went to the Tuileries; for, while receiving honors and money from the Emperor, he pretended to be wounded by the confiscation of the public liberties.

PRINCE PIERRE'S PERSONAL APPEARANCE.

His head is relatively small for his body. It seems formed of unusually strong bones. It is almost round, inclined to be bald, for the brown hair is sparse; it is smooth and well-shaped. There is a slight depression a little above each temple between the eyebrows, which gives the face rather a singular expression. His eyebrows are arched, but without shading the eye, which seems made of polished brown agate. It is small, bright, but not intellectual; the left eye has a very slight tendency to squint. The lower eyelid is swollen and furrowed by small veins—the eyelid of a man of unpreventable temper. His nose is fat rather than nervous. His mouth and lower jaw are hidden by a moustache and an immense beard. The diameters of his face at the cheekbones and at the chin are the same. His cheeks are heavy, fat, and pale. His ears seem glued to the head. He has an unusually short neck.

PRINCE PIERRE'S AUTEUIL HOUSE.

His house at Auteuil once belonged to Mme. Helvetius, and was the rendezvous of the brilliant society "of the Encyclopedists" of the eighteenth century. Dr. Franklin was a frequent guest there, and a tradition is current that he was more intimate with Mme. Helvetius than good morals would warrant. It is at this place Mme. Helvetius entertained Voltaire on his return from Egypt, and showed him over the grounds, saying: "If you have the happiness to be the master of possession of two acres, you would never seek to be master of the world." The house is a plain mansion, whose beauty is its size and numerous windows, which afford a plenty of light and air. The front is flanked by some twenty steps, which usher the visitor into the *Salle d'Armes*, or fencing-room, which is a sort of ante-chamber to the drawing-room. It is quite bare of furniture; at one end is a very remarkable collection of arms of every age and every nation of the world. The drawing-room is a large square room with wooden wainscoting and panels painted gray. The wooden wainscot covers all sides of the room except one side, which is adorned with mirrors divided into panels simulating doors. Opposite the chimney-piece is a large photograph of the Emperor, the only picture in the room. "That," said Prince Pierre to a visitor who expressed a surprise that he should have no other ornament in his drawing-room, "That is the head of our family—nobody should disturb it or hide it; this is the reason why I allow no other picture on my drawing-room walls." The clock and candelabra on the chimney are very valuable specimens of the art of the first Empire. On the chimney-piece there is a beautiful model, in gold, of Napoleon's tomb in the Invalides; on a console there is a bust of the Empress. The furniture is of the period. In the middle of the room is a table: opposite the fire-place, and leaning against the wall, is a sofa; arm-chairs are scattered about the room. There are three doors in the drawing-room: one opens into the fencing-room, another into the billiard-room, and a third (immediately opposite the latter) opening into Prince Pierre's bedchamber, which is at the same time his study and library. This bedchamber is as long as the fencing-room and drawing-room both together. At the furthest end are wardrobes filled with Prince Pierre's clothes and linen. In the middle is a large, wide, old-fashioned bed, with curtains; the walls are covered with by shelves filled with books; in a corner of the chamber is a wash-stand; the chimney-piece is made of three old-fashion stones, wide and deep—enough to contain a cord of wood at a time. Near the window overlooking the grounds is an immense table, as wide as the room itself, covered with books, maps, papers, plans, mathematical instruments, letters, etc. On the opposite side of the drawing-room is the billiard-room, which is reached by a door in the corner of the wall, so that a person leaving the drawing-room is almost obliged to go down the right side of the billiard-room, as the table is towards the latter's left-hand side. The Prince's rooms are on the second floor of the house. She has quitted the house and taken lodgings in Paris. She received one or more anonymous letters daily menacing her children with death.—*N. Y. World.*

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