

that he would deliver in a declaration conformably to the requisition which had been made to him by the National Assembly. We then took his declaration, to every page of which he had set his signature. We afterwards went to the apartments of the Queen, whom we found, with Madame Elizabeth, preparing to sit down to table; but the latter informing us that her Majesty could not then receive us, because she was going to the bath, we desired her to appoint another hour; and she fixed upon eleven this morning. Of course we retired; but returning at the time prescribed, we were introduced into the bed chamber, where the Queen was without any one attendant whatever. We then read to her the decree of the National Assembly, subjoining to it the same observation which we had made to the King. She dictated to us her declaration, and having afterwards heard it read over, put her signature to every page of it.

DECLARATION OF THE KING

‘I OBSERVE, Gentlemen, by your commission, that nothing like an interrogatory is meant; but I am desirous of complying with the wishes of the National Assembly, and I shall never decline publishing the motives of my conduct. The motives for my journey were the outrages and the threats offered to my family and to myself on the 18th of last April! Subsequent to that period, I and my family have been frequently insulted and menaced in several writings; and the authors of those have remained unpunished. I conceived that the safety of my family, and of my own person, forbade me to continue any longer in Paris. I wished to leave it; and it was for the purpose of departing with less interruption, that I preferred the night time. My intentions were never to quit the king-

dom. I had not concerted any measure whatsoever either with foreign powers, or with the French emigrants beyond the kingdom. The circumstance of apartments having been prepared for my reception at Montmedy, may be adduced as a proof that I had no design to pass the frontiers. I chose this place because, as it was fortified, my family might have remained there in security; and because, being thus near the frontiers, I should have been more at hand to resist every attempt to invade France. Here, in the case of an invasion, I could have presented myself in the post of danger. In short, I chose Montmedy even in the moment when I might have chosen any other retreat. One of my principal motives was to re-establish the vigour of the government, and to render myself secure. Had I felt an inclination to depart from the kingdom, I should not, upon the very same day, have sent my declaration to the National Assembly, but I should have waited for the moment of my having passed beyond the frontiers. I always adhered to the desire of returning to Paris. It is in this sense that the last expressions in my Memorial should be understood:—“Frenchmen, and above all—citizens of Paris, what pleasure shall I feel to be among you.” I had not in the carriage, more than the sum of 13,200 livres in gold, and 500,000 in assignats; and these were inclosed within the port-folio which has been returned to me by the department.

‘I did not communicate my intentions to Monsieur until within a short time previous to my departure; and he only pro-

ceeded into a foreign state with the intention of returning to Montmedy, but without returning the same road. Several days before, I had ordered the three persons who attended me, to provide themselves the dresses of couriers, in which they might bear my dispatches. It was not until the preceding evening that I told them they were to accompany me. I only took a passport for going out of the kingdom, because none is granted at the office for Foreign Affairs for the interior parts of the kingdom: neither was the road marked out even at all pursued. I never made any other protestations than those which I addressed to the Assembly on the day of my departure; and these do not bear so much upon the ground work of the principles of the Constitution as upon the form of sanctions, upon the deficiency of that freedom which I ought to enjoy, and upon the point, that as the constitutional decrees were not presented to me in one mass, I could not possibly judge of them in a collected view, and altogether. The principal part of this memorial rests upon the defect of the administrative and executive measures. I was sensible, during my journey, that the public opinion was decidedly in favour of the Constitution. I did not conceive that I could fully have ascertained the nature of the public opinion at Paris; but, upon the road, and in consequence of all the elucidations which, as the result of my enquiries, flashed upon my mind, I became convinced, as I now am, how indispensably necessary it is even for the Constitution to give power to those officers of the state who are appointed for the maintenance of public order. As soon as I could ascertain the nature of the public opinion, I did not hesitate to sacrifice my personal interests to the welfare of my people, this being the great object of all my wishes and desires.

‘I shall most willingly forget all the unpleasant circumstances that I have experienced, to secure the peace and the happiness of the nation.’