

While we were retiring, Louis gave to a Commissioner of the Commune a paper, on which was written the names of his Confessors. They are Edward Jobert, or de Ferment, &c.

The Convention, having heard the report of the Minister, decrees,

“That the respite demanded by Louis shall not be granted.

“That the vigilance of the Municipality shall be continued in a chamber adjoining that of Louis; and that he shall communicate freely with his family. Respecting the other points, the Convention passes to the order of the day, considering that the Committee of Legislation is competent thereto.”

*Decree of the National Convention, of the 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th of January.*

ARTICLE I. The National Convention decrees LOUIS CAPET, last King of the French, guilty of a conspiracy against the Liberty of the Nation, and of a crime against the general Safety of the State.

II. The National Convention declares that Louis Capet shall undergo the punishment of death.

III. The National Convention declares that the act of Louis Capet, brought to the bar by his Counsel, and termed an Appeal to the Nation on the sentence passed against him in the Convention, is null; and forbids every person from giving it authority, on pain of being prosecuted, and punished as guilty of a crime against the general safety of the Republic.

IV. The Temporary Executive Council shall notify the present decree, within the day, to Louis Capet, and shall take the necessary measures of police and safety, to secure its execution within twenty four hours, reckoning from the notification, and shall render an account of the whole to the National Convention immediately after its execution.

PARIS, JANUARY 22.

#### EXECUTION OF THE KING.

Yesterday morning, by break of day, the drums beat to arms in all the sections, and the National battalions met at their respective guard houses. Numerous patrols were sent off, who traversed the capital in every direction, while bodies of men were placed at intervals from each other, and all the squares were lined with horse, foot, and artillery.

“Louis had an interview with the Queen, his sister, and children, at six this morning. We may conceive what must have been the nature of the scene—but a narrative of it is impossible, for we do not take the Commissioners of the Commune to be very faithful, or very feeling historians. Rumour, however, says, that the Queen had been for some days in a state of distraction—that at times her mind was totally absent, and she was to be raised from her lethargy to a sense of her sorrows. All that we can say of the interview upon any authority is, that the

King returned to his chamber with great composure, and waited for his summons without the least symptom of dismay.

“At twenty minutes after eight o'clock, Louis left the Tower of the Temple, accompanied by Mr. Edgeworth, an English priest of the Catholic persuasion, and went into the Mayor's coach, which was surrounded by a band of 1200 picked men, under the immediate command of General Santerre.

“At twenty minutes after ten, the cavalcade arrived at the Place de la Revolution, and the unfortunate and illustrious Victim immediately ascended the scaffold with a bold and intrepid air, the Commissioners, the Mayor, and his Confessor, remaining at the foot of it. He had on nothing but a white under waitcoat, his neck and breast open, and his hair rolled up behind as the Abbies wear theirs.

“After the horrible apparatus of death had been prepared, Louis XVI. wished to harrangue the people, but the signal was given, by rattle from the drums placed on the scaffold, and the fatal instrument falling upon his neck, his head was instantly severed from his body!

“During this interval, which, by the report of the Commissioners appointed by the Executive Council, was only two minutes, the most profound silence prevailed, not a murmur, not a breath, was heard.

“One of the executioners, of whom there were three, taking up the head, the hair dropping blood, and shewing it to the spectators, shouts of Vive la Nation, Vive la Republique, resounded from all parts of the square, while hats and caps, on the points of pikes and bayonets, were waved in the air. These shouts were repeated from the parts adjacent; and the populace, collected into various groupes, were often heard to say, “We have always wished well to him, but he never wished well to us.”

“The body was soon after carried to the Parish Church of Saint Magdalen, where it was interred in such a manner as to be surrounded by the bodies of those who were killed at his marriage, and by the Swiss who fell at his dethronement.

“A report is circulated, that the daughter of Louis died last night. This report is not confirmed.

“The assassination of the Deputy Pelletier St. Fargeau, by a Royalist, has occasioned an universal consternation among the Republicans.

#### LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF LOUIS THE XVI.

The following is the substance of the Will of Louis the XVIth, written in his own hand:

*In the Name of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, this 25th of December,*

I, LOUIS the XVIth by name, King of France, have been confined with my family in the tower of the Temple at Paris, by those who were my subjects, and since the 11th, deprived of all communication what-

ever with my family; besides which, under a trial, of which it is impossible, on account of the passions of men, to foresee the issue; and for which no pretext or means can be found in any existing laws, having only God to witness for my thoughts, and to whom I can address myself, I here, in his presence declare my last will and sentiments.

I here resign my soul to my Creator; I pray him in his mercy not to judge it after its own merits; but by those of our blessed Saviour Je-u Christ, who offered himself to God the Father for us men, how unworthy soever we may have been—*for us the most so.*

*[The unfortunate Monarch then professes his adherence to the Roman Catholic Religion very fully, and asks forgiveness for any acts he may have done (though against his will) contrary to the discipline of the Catholic Faith, and then proceeds as follows:]*

I PRAY those whom I have inadvertently offended (for I do not recollect to have willfully offended any one) or to those whom I may have given any bad example, to pardon me the evil which they suppose I may have done them.

I pray all charitable persons to unite their prayers to mine, to obtain from God the pardon of my sins.

I forgive, with all my heart, those who have made themselves my enemies, without my having given them any cause; I pray God to pardon them—as well as those who, by a false and misguided zeal, have done me much harm.

I recommend to God, my Wife, my Children, my Sister, my Aunts, my Brothers, and all who are related to me by the ties of blood or otherwise. I particularly beseech the Almighty to look with eyes of mercy on my Wife, my Children, and my Aunts, who have suffered so long with me; that it would please him to support them with his grace, if they should lose me, and as long as they remain on this perishable earth.

I recommend my Children to my wife; I never doubted of her tenderness for them. I recommend her particularly to make them good Christians, and worthy members of Society; to teach them to look upon the grandeur of this world (if they are condemned to experience it) as a dangerous and perishable thing, and to turn their thoughts to eternity, as the only solid and durable glory. I request my sister to continue her tenderness for my Children, and to supply the place of a mother, if they have the misfortune to lose theirs.

I beseech my wife to forgive all the evils she suffers for me, and all the uneasiness I may have given her during the term of our union, as she may be assured, that could she think she has any thing to reproach herself with, I can never think so.

I warmly recommend to my Children, after their duty to God, which must take the lead of all things else, to be united among themselves, to be submissive and obedient to their mother, and grateful for all her care and solicitude for them. I desire them to