

PROCEEDINGS IN FRANCE
ON THE FLIGHT AND CAPTURE OF THE
KING, QUEEN, AND ROYAL FAMILY.

(Continued from our last.)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 21.

ADJOURNED SITTING.

The first resolution was, that the Assembly would sit day and night, except in the intervals of adjournment for two hours at a time.

Decreed, That the ministers shall act for the King, in all correspondence with foreign nations, so that no interruption may occur in that respect by his absence.

The state of the Royal Treasury was then enquired into.

M. de la Tour Maubourg observed, that the form of the military oath, voted a few days since by the Assembly, was now rendered improper, by the circumstance of the king's departure, and moved, "that the military committee should be directed to compose a new one.

M. Charles de Lameth invited all military men in the Assembly to do their duty upon the present occasion, and it was decreed, that "whoever of them should not, in the course of the day, confirm their attachment to the Assembly by an oath, should be degraded from their rank as Members of the Assembly and officers of the Army.

Decreed, That the form of the new oath should be produced, before the rising of the Assembly.

M. Alexander de Lameth, from the Military and constitutional committee, read a decree, which was accepted, for insuring the assistance of four or five thousand men to the Assembly upon any emergency.

A letter was read from the committee of Reports and Researches, stating, that they were then in consultation with the Directory of the department of Paris, concerning the means of preserving, during the night, the persons and property of individuals.

At half past ten o'clock at night the Assembly adjourned for two hours.

The Assembly met according to adjournment, and sat for the whole night, but they transacted scarcely any business, and none of importance.

At midnight, the sitting was suspended till five o'clock next morning; but the president and a few members remained in the hall, during these intervals, taking a short repose. The Assembly was thus continued capable of executing its functions immediately, if there had been occasion.

At five it was resumed, and within a few minutes, the words "he is seized—he is seized"—were heard from that part of the hall nearest to the bar,

The members took their places, and the President, M. Beauharnois, announced, that a courier had arrived from the municipal officers at Varennes, with the following letter.

« Monsieur le President,

« In our present state of alarm, we authorize M. Mauquin, a Surgeon, at Varennes, to proceed and inform the Assembly, that his majesty is here, and that we intreat you to direct our conduct upon the occasion.

It was immediately decreed, that orders should be given for ensuring the safe return of the King; that the nation should be informed of his having been detained by the fidelity of the citizens; that M. de Bouille should be degraded and imprisoned; and that the commanding officer should be directed to prevent any person from passing the barriers, and from receiving post horses.

M. M. Latour Maubourg, Barnave and Pétion, were deputed, as Commissioners, to proceed to Varennes, and protect the return of the King, with the power of giving orders to the troops of the line, the National guards, and administrative bodies, and all things concerning their mission.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON,
JUNE 23.

The President read the following letter from the three Commissioners appointed 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 tranquility 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.

M. Robertspierre moved, that a Civic Crown should be decreed to M. Mangin and the two National Guards who stopped the carriage of the King. This proposal was referred to the Committee of Constitution.

Information was given that an inventory had been taken of the Crown Jewels, and that they had all been found safe.

M. Rewball proposed that copies of all the Addresses received should be sent to the departments.

Several Members desired that the departments to which they belonged might be accepted; they were animated by the same spirit which dictated the Addresses, and did not want the stimulus of example.

M. Thouret. « The event of the night of the 21st is a glaring proof of the perpetration of a great crime. Whether the King has been carried off by violence; or whether he has been misled by perfidious suggestions, it is indispensably requisite that the National Assembly should characterise the crime and deliver up the guilty to the just vengeance of the laws

In the name of the Committee of Constitution, I submit to their consideration the following propositions:

« That the National Assembly do declare, that all those persons be considered as traitors to the Nation and to the King, who advised or aided his carrying off; or who, to favour designs as atrocious as contrary to the rights of the people, and to the interests of royalty, shall attempt to oppose his return and re-union with the representatives of the nation.

That the National Assembly do immediately command all persons whatsoever enjoying civil and military employments, to avail themselves, each in his respective department, of the authority with which they are invested, to protect the return of the King, to repel by force, and to seize and arrest all those who shall dare, in any degree to violate the respect due to the royal dignity.

Several members demanded that these propositions should be put to the vote.

M. Robertspierre. « Points of the utmost importance are prejudiced by the propositions which you have just heard. In the first instance nothing is discoverable but a severe disposition against the advisers of the flight of the King. It is the duty of the representatives of the Nation to discuss a question of still greater moment. You yourselves all offer it; I will not unfold its nature; but I shall move for an adjournment. Wisely have you admitted that it is unbecoming to suppose that any criminal intentions have existed against the person of his Majesty. The measures and propositions which you have already taken, are sufficient. Since this event, the people have manifested a conduct so prudent and so prepossessing in their favour, that it is scarcely possible to avoid relying upon their moderation. We should insult and injure them, were we to suppose that the precautions already taken are insufficient. To declare that we foresee disorders, when they do not exist, is to create dangers.

R. Rewball. « The Constitutional Committee have used the words *carrying off*. After so evident an act, shall we not dare to speak the truth? It is because we have been too guarded in the utterance of it, that we stand in our present predicament. The words *carrying off* are improper to be used by all those members of the Assembly who are not accomplices in his flight. The King ought to come back; and it our duty to protect his return; but I move for the erasure of the words, "for his re-union with the Representatives of the Nation." I shall not explain myself more upon the subject.