

FUNERAL OF NAPOLEON.

This splendid pageant (says the Correspondent of the Britannia) was in no other respect of a funeral character than in its religious accompaniments. It was the march of a victor hailed by applauding multitudes—the triumphal entry into a great capital of the beloved of a people, the hero of an empire; alive, no grander or more imposing reception could have been given; to the ashes of the dead, brought back among those whom his achievements have illustrated, no higher honours could be paid. The whole line of march, from the point of disembarkation to the Hotel des Invalides, was adorned on both sides with military trophies and records of civil worth.... It is utterly impossible to convey any adequate idea of this remarkable festivity—remarkable, not alone from the circumstances which led to it, but from the origin and career of the great man, to a recollection of whose past glories and elevation Europe is thus re-awakened. It will, however, be interesting to record its nature and some of its chief incidents, beyond the mere details of the ceremonial observed.

From the early hour of four, yesterday week, undertaken by the coldest day we have had this winter, many thousands proceeded to the several advantageous positions which different localities presented for the viewing of the procession. Long before eight o'clock every thoroughfare leading to the way selected for its passage was covered by vehicles of every description, and pedestrians hurrying to their several destinations. The way itself, soon crowded by the masses which came pouring into it from all sides, was, from before nine o'clock till eleven, cleared by the national guards and troops of the line as they arrived at their several positions.

COURBEVOIE.

At nine o'clock the first gun was fired, on the banks of the Seine, at Courbevoie, where a park of artillery was stationed. This became the signal for the commencement of the proceedings of the day. From a temple, erected on the left bank of the river, the Abbé Coqueran (who formed one of the escort from St. Helena) and a numerous clergy, in full canonicals, then issued and proceeded towards the steamer, La Dorade, which had been brought close up to a wooden esplanade, forming a communication between the shore and its deck. His Royal Highness the Prince de Joinville met them as they approached between two lines of troops, and, after the exchange of salutations, turned towards the vessel lined by the sailors from La Belle Poule, a body of whom proceeded to raise the coffin, and transported it to the temple, the priests going before, chanting, according to the usage of the Catholic church. The remains of the Emperor were deposited there for two hours, the religious rites which were there performed having lasted thus long. The immense concourse of people who were assembled at this spot viewed this portion of the proceedings in solemn silence, the roar of artillery alone sounding through the atmosphere.

BRIDGE OF NEUILLY.

The Island in the middle of the river close to the bridge of Neuilly, the banks on both sides of the river, as far as the eye could reach, and the windows and roofs of houses, were covered with countless human beings. The bridge above was lined by nothing but troops, which gave relief to the scene by the lightness and brilliancy of the effect. At the entrance of the bridge a lofty column of Notre Dame de Grace shot up gracefully. The inhabitants of Courbevoie had erected an obelisk, which added to the effect of the scene. In the centre of the river lay La Dorade and the flotilla which conveyed the remains of the illustrious chieftain to his former capital. At eleven o'clock these were removed by the sailors into the splendid car stationed in front of the temple. To the car were harnessed 16 magnificent black horses, four abreast, richly caparisoned with rich housings of cloth of gold, and having white plumes dressed on their heads and necks. Each horse was led by a groom in green and gold, the imperial livery. The clergy took their seats in carriages of black and silver, prepared for the occasion, and the procession then commenced its march.

The effect of the car was splendidly imposing. Its four massive gilt wheels, the richness of its basement, and the supporting figures of the canopy, with the violet veil, the tri-coloured flags, and the coffin covered by the rich pall beneath, appeared magnificent in the extreme. The tout ensemble was one of the most gorgeous sights that could be imagined.

The car had scarce made its appearance at the foot of the bridge, when tremendous shouts of "Vive l'Empereur" were heard; the first was a sudden, simultaneous, and enthusiastic burst, a welcome which, pronounced by the lips, proceeded from the hearts of the excited multitude. It was not a boisterous shout; it was no sound of uproar, but a deep and solemn peal which fell on the ear. The car paused for a few minutes, and as it moved on again to cross the bridge, the same enthusiastic cry re-echoed on every side.

The car continued to pause occasionally throughout its progress, in order to afford the people an opportunity of gazing at their ease; it was surrounded by the seamen from La Belle Poule, with Prince de Joinville, in the uniform of a captain of the navy, at their head. These, to the number of 400, marched 15 abreast, before and behind the car, dressed in neat blue clothing, with pistols and a hatchet at their broad black leather belts; like our men, they wore the low black hat; unlike them, however, they are distinguished by a profusion of whisker and mustachios. They had, however, a fine and a martial appearance, forming a beautiful contrast with the rich uniforms which preceded and followed them. The King's commissioners to St. Helena, the Generals Bertrand, Gourgaud, Las Cases, &c., preceded the car, with a numerous staff of general officers. Old officers and soldiers of the empire, in the uniforms which belonged to it, followed the car. Oriental costumes were also seen—mamelukes attached to the Emperor's service. A body of Poles attended on this occasion, at their own request.

BARRIERE DE L'ETOILE AND CHAMP ELYSEES.

A great body of troops, artillery, cavalry, and infantry, preceded and followed the car; these gradually fell in along the route de Neuilly. They were headed by a regiment of lancers immediately before the passage through the triumphal arch at the barriere de l'Etoile. This spot presented the finest coup d'œil of any along the whole passage. Situated on rising ground, it commanded the whole length of the Champs Elysees, through which the troops defiled. On each side, double rows of fine trees, fronted by statuary and military trophies, connected one with the other by a line of soldiers and crowds of citizens. The whole way was covered with detached masses of brilliant colours relieved by interstices of a sombre hue, constantly moving amid the glitter of gold and steel; but the clouds of dust, and the smoke from the vases beside the different statues, burn-

ing blue flames, were so thick that it was difficult to see any distance. The lofty columns, surmounted by gilt eagles, and decorated with tri-coloured flags, and the colossal statues, rendered nevertheless many points truly splendid. Among these, the most striking, unquestionably, was the effect of the entrance of the funeral car through the barriere de l'Etoile. The imposing grandeur of the magnificent vehicle itself, worthy, from its gorgeousness, to bear the remains of the mighty dead which lay beneath; the rich and glittering trappings of the stately animals who drew it; and above all, the wondrous aspect of a whole city's population, congregated on one point, presented a spectacle never to pass from the recollection of the spectator. It was here, however, more particularly that the real character of the ceremony of the day seemed lost; instead of a funeral procession it appeared to be the return of a glorious conqueror—of Napoleon himself while living, crowned with a hundred victories, coming home in triumph to his capital—to that Paris which was alike the object of his thought and his affection in the midst of his battles, in his proudest moments of glory, and in adversity and exile.

But to the triumphal arch at the barriere de l'Etoile, where certainly occurred the most interesting incident along the whole passage from Courbevoie to the Invalides. The troops were formed in a circle of three lines round it, cavalry and infantry, leaving a vacant space between the first line and this magnificent architectural superstructure. On the right of the arch was stationed a park of artillery, flanked by several squadrons of lancers. Precisely at one o'clock the car entered the archway, in the centre of which it remained stationary for a few minutes. The guns then commenced firing, when the crowd pressing on the troops, succeeded in breaking through them, and men, women, and children, succeeded, despite every opposition, in reaching the arch, where many fell on their knees, and remained in this devotional attitude till it passed.

As the car entered the arch, the weather, which had been occasionally cloudy, and which threatened snow, brightened, and the sun shone brilliantly forth; the day continued fine and clear from the moment. The Prince de Joinville was warmly cheered as he appeared under the archway, as were the pupils of the Ecole de St. Cyr; Marshal Gerard and his staff followed soon after, but were not similarly treated. At this spot the people seemed to have collected in myriads, the crowd was as dense as at Courbevoie, the trees being filled with the more active and adventurous, without apparently any accident.

The summit of the triumphal arch facing the Champs Elysees was surmounted by gilded figures, representing the apotheosis of the hero. The Emperor, in his imperial robes stands in front of his throne. At his side are two figures, representing Peace and War. Four figures of Fame on horseback, as if starting to communicate to the world the intelligence of the honours paid to France's hero, placed at each angle of the monument, and trophies of arms complete its decorations.

BRIDGE OF LA CONCORDE.

At each angle of the bridge of La Concorde, opposite the Chamber of Deputies, were four columns, each surmounted by an immense gilded eagle and ornamented by a huge silk tri-coloured flag,—these waved by the wind to and fro majestically. Eight allegorical statues were erected on the balustrades of this bridge.

I am reminded here, as I recall the passing over this bridge, of the beautiful effect produced by a body of 87 cavaliers, carrying as many staffs, surmounted by the imperial eagle and engraved with the name of one of France's departments, (including Algeria,) each of which was thus represented at this solemnity; to the staffs were attached the French flag.

The steps of the Chamber of Deputies, and the whole passage to the esplanade of the Invalides, was equally brilliant and crowded. Opposite to it, La Dorade, and the flotilla of steamers arrived and took up their station, at about one.

ESPLANADE OF THE INVALIDES.

At an early hour, the immense amphitheatres erected on each side of the avenue leading from the quay to the principal entrance of the Hotel des Invalides, began to receive those whom fortune had favoured with tickets, and although the number of tickets delivered amounted to 30,000, there was ample accommodation for at least 10,000 more. In spite of the piercing cold which prevailed, and the likelihood of snow, which fell more than once, though but slightly, during the day, all those provided with tickets were present at their post, some even as early as eight, a. m., although the procession was not expected, even by the most sanguine, to reach the Hotel des Invalides before two, p. m., so great was the desire to obtain a glance, not of the remains, but the car which contained the remains of him who had raised the military glory of France to such a height, and whose tyranny had been expiated by a wretched death in a foreign land, severed alike from his country and his family, and attended but by a few faithful followers, who adhered to their master even in his fallen fortunes. One of these gallant servants, General Bertrand, was present, and was one of the principal attractions of the day. Another was expected to have been there, General Montholon. His letter, addressed a few days since to the French Government, supplicating the permission to pay anew the last sad duties to that master whose exile he had shared, should, according to many, have procured him that painful pleasure, even had his attendance at the ceremony entailed the necessity of a pardon. This, however, was not the opinion of the Government, for no General Montholon was perceived amid the splendid throng of dignitaries who preceded the remains of Napoleon to their last home.

Several hours elapsed ere the procession appeared, and here it is painful to have to remark how little dignity prevailed in the interim. In one place national guards were seen getting planks and breaking them for the purpose of making fires; in another, national guards, soldiers of the line, &c., formed a ring and danced round a flag; elsewhere an officer was in the centre; and in the third place a hat. True, the weather was piercing cold, but still they were on military duty, and the ceremony about to be performed was a funeral ceremony.

At length, however, the funeral car was perceived on the other side of the river, and some order was restored, the troops that had piled their arms hastened to snatch up their muskets and to form their ranks.

At a little before one the head of the procession was seen coming slowly forward, and the sight became gradually more and more beautiful. The ground leading from the quay to the principal entrance of the Invalides consists in a long straight avenue, at the bottom of which, with its back to the water, stood the colossal statue of the Emperor; the avenue was lined with the statues of the principal heroes and monarchs that France has produced.

At length the car was seen—the mighty car, drawn by 16 black horses, covered with gold housings—the car, brilliant beyond compare, and yet neither deficient in taste nor void of mournful semblance. And here, in taste nor void of mournful semblance. And here, perhaps, was the most beautiful sight of the day. The central road filled with troops, and the procession advancing between the colossal statues, just described, separated from one another by urns emitting a lurid light, while the background was filled on either side by the multitude shut up in the immense amphitheatres provided for the occasion, and by numerous masts, from which tri-coloured streamers were gracefully floating in the air, forming a sight replete with such beauty and interest, that "those who saw can surely ne'er forget."

The cry "he comes, he comes!" now resounded on all sides; and, however interesting the minor details may have been, attention was rivetted to the car,—the funeral car, containing the remains of Napoleon. As the car passed, each head was uncovered; and although the shouts of "Vive Napoleon! Vive l'Empereur!" were few and far between, a certain degree of emotion prevailed, and many an eye was suffused with tears. To be just, however, it must be said that far less enthusiasm prevailed than was expected on the occasion.

The car was immediately preceded by the Prince of Joinville, on horseback, in the uniform of captain of the navy, attended by his staff, and accompanied on each side by 200 of the sailors of the Belle Poule, the frigate despatched by the French Government to St. Helena, to bring home the remains of the Emperor.

It was half-past two when a salute of 21 guns announced that the funeral car had reached the gate of the Invalides; the sailors of the Belle Poule instantly commenced their preparations to descend the body from the car. A great struggle was here made to obtain a glimpse of the coffin as it was borne by 36 sailors into the Cour Royale of the Invalides, where the Archbishop of Paris, attended by all his clergy, was waiting to receive it.

THE CHURCH OF THE INVALIDES.

The decorations of the interior of the Church of the Invalides were very magnificent. The whole of the dome to the first order of architecture, was hung with violet-coloured drapery, bordered and fringed with gold. To the right and left, where are the tombs of Vauban and Turenne, were elevated platforms with seats for the Peers and Deputies and the corps diplomatique. At the end near the great southern door, was an altar for the religious ceremony, at the right of which was a rich tribune for the King and the Royal family, surmounted with trophies of flags, and with rich drapery, embroidered with palm branches in gold, and with gold border and fringe. By the side of this tribune was that for the ladies of honour of the court, facing the tribune of the Ministers. The two latter had draperies bordered and fringed with silver. The three friezes which crown the attic were covered with hangings, bordered and fringed with silver and spangled with gold, upon which were escutcheons, bearing the imperial arms and the letter N. All these hangings and decorations were interlaced with garlands, and chaplets of immortelles and laurel. The twelve windows which light the dome were concealed by magnificent violet-coloured blinds, on each of which was an enormous eagle with extended wings. The eight piers which support the dome were covered with drapery, embroidered with gold and golden bees. At the place where the tomb is to be was the catafalque, 50 feet in height, composed of two bases ornamented with bas-reliefs; the first decorated at each angle with a statue representing Victory, 10 feet in height; one with a palm in his hand, the other resting upon a shield; the other supports formed Corinthian columns, upon which was placed the roof of the catafalque. This roof was in the form of a dome, and was surmounted by an eagle with expanded wings, ten feet in breadth. It was upon this second basis that the coffin was placed. The whole was richly gilded. Round the catafalque, which was lighted by a great number of lustres, were sixteen funeral urns, from which blue flame issued. The nave of the church, the space between the aisles, the tribunes, and the seats were hung with black drapery, fringed and bordered with silver, in the form of curtains, and at the side of each column was a trophy of tri-coloured flags. Over the cornice of the spaces between the arches was a hanging, representing in gold the imperial crown, surmounted by a sceptre and eagle. Beneath, upon each architrave, was a drapery sustaining at each extremity the cross of the Legion of Honour. The nave was bordered with a line of candelabra, which sent forth blue flames. All the pillars were covered with bas-reliefs, representing trophies of arms; and underneath were pedestals, on which were inscribed the names of the generals of the empire.

The general effect of these decorations, to which we must again allude, was at once gorgeous and solemn, fully suited to the mingled ideas of imperial greatness and the nothingness of the remains, in honour of which the splendid preparations had been made. The profusion of richly cut chandeliers bearing wax-tapers, which threw well-tempered light over the nave, its aisles, and galleries, and the immense number of much larger chandeliers, tapers, &c. which filled the interior of the dome with a blaze of dazzling rays, formed the first feature that struck the spectator on entering. The catafalque under the dome was one of the happiest efforts of decorative art we have ever seen; and from its being all in white and gold, with its immense eagle above the canopy, was of striking grandeur. When all the persons assembled, previous to the entrance of the funeral procession, the scene was one of deep solemnity and great interest. Down the western side of the nave was a long line of the veteran inmates of the Hotel, which was prolonged by some of the troops from Africa, with their red caps, and by municipal guards. On the eastern or opposite side the line was kept by the 10th legion of national guards. Behind these were seats for certain public bodies and military officers, and behind these again rose the seats filling up the aisles. These aisles, as well as the galleries above, were hung with black, and the windows were carefully blocked up. Nearly all the company were in black, varied here and there by the uniform of some officers. Every thing was in perfect keeping with the solemnity of the occasion.

The interior of the church was filled at an early hour by the persons who came in carriages, and were allowed to go in by the southern entrance. Those who went on foot and entered by the gateway of the esplanade, found nearly all the seats occupied when they got in.

At two o'clock, the arrival of numerous generals, with their aides-de-camp, and the bustle of the orderly officers, announced that the royal cortège from the Tuilleries was at hand, and a salute of 21 guns ushered in the arrival of the King. The drums in the nave beat a royal salute, and the archbishop, preceded by the clergy, advanced towards the end of the nave, as if to receive his

Majesty; but there was some mistake in this ceremony, for the procession, before it reached the door, was stopped, and had to return.

The King and the royal family did not come, but went at once to the dome. His Majesty, wearing the uniform of the National Guard, took on the throne prepared for him, to the right of the King were the princes and his Majesty's aides-de-camp. On the left of the altar was the Archbishop of Paris with the bishops assisting—the Curé des Invalides and the clergy. In an inclosed seat near the altar were the Queen, the Princesses, and the ladies in attendance.

A little before three, two guns, in quick succession, and then 19 others, announced the arrival of the royal coffin at the entrance of the Hotel. The archbishop immediately went with his clergy to receive it, and sprinkle it with holy water. At three precisely the orchestra began a solemn march, and the choir entered the nave chanting, and moving slowly towards the dome. At this moment the excitement was at its height—the music died away; there was a dead silence throughout the church, and immediately there was seen the imperial coffin covered with its velvet and embossed pall, on which was the imperial crown veiled and borne on the shoulders of the sailors and commissioned officers of the army, surrounded by a closely-pressed throng of sailors, with the young officers following, which moved up the church at a rapid rate. The effect of this at its first coming was found a stillness, and all the troops presented one of the most imposing parts of the ceremony, the coffin had, however, reached the entrance of the solemn march was again renewed, and burst out into a glorious strain of triumph, which could be finer.

The Prince de Joinville then presented the King, saying:—"Sire, I present to you the body of the Emperor Napoleon."

The King replied, raising his voice, "I receive it in the name of France."

General Athalin carried the sword of the Emperor a cushion, and gave it to Marshal Soult, who presented it to the King.

His Majesty then addressed General Bertrand, said—"General, I charge you to place this sword of the Emperor upon his coffin."

This the general then did. The appearance of the sailors of the Belle Poule, favorite, who brought in the coffin, and a detachment of whom, with their officers, were stationed in the nave, formed a curious contrast to the brilliant militaires, by whose side they thus, unexpectedly, found themselves. Their short jackets, checked shirt-collars thrown back, small broad hats, bronzed and weather-beaten countenances, their pistols and boarding-swords in their girdles, glistened them immediately, and everybody's eyes turned to them as they took their seats. The march in getting the coffin up to the resting place under the catafalque was very remarkable, the which they had to hoist it being more than 40 feet pavement, and yet in a few minutes the operation effected with ease. The musical part of the ceremony was as efficient as the united talents of the performers who took part in it could make it be.

The march played by the orchestra alone, on the return of the clergy, and the entrance of the body, was magnificent. After this, the first voice heard was that of Grisi, himself—and it filled with its compass the echoes of the mense edifice.—Lablanche's deep notes were heard with peculiar advantage. The Requiem, the De Profundis, the Dies iræ, were performed with the power of which has seldom been surpassed; the instruments, too, were conducted with great vigour and effect. The position of the orchestra occupied all the space over the nave, with a lary in front of the organ, filling up three arches very judicious, since it brought out the voice performers, and the sound of the instruments volume.

The service lasted altogether, about an hour; its termination a great number of the persons been in the aisles, moved towards the dome to the catafalque and the splendid decorations of the edifice; and, though the last offices of the were ended by four o'clock, it was after five the edifice was finally cleared. It is calculated that were 7,000 persons in the interior of the church on this occasion. The Infante and Infanta of Spain, their family, were present.

FRENCH BOMBAST.—In describing the scene produced by the rising of the Rhone and Saone, an extraordinary feature of which is, that the water latter river have poured themselves into the former, the editor of the Courrier de la Dramatique, following grandiloquent passages:—"We have at beneath our eyes, en grand and in reality, the most picture of Poussin, representing the commencement of the universal deluge. That which we dreaded to pass. The rain has not ceased since our last, and the Rhone, transcendently swollen by the reduced waters of the Saone and the Isère, rises more menacing than ever. The waters inundate cover (the latter would seem to be a consequence former) the entire of our valley. Fields and habitations but one immense lake, from which spring intervals but the summits of the loftiest poplars for the base of the picture. On high the most black all over, are surcharged with somber traversed by affrighted flocks of ducks and swans whence at times escape torrents of rain, and distant of thunder. Then towards the north is seen aurora borealis-like glimmer, which completes perfect resemblance to Poussin's picture. C'est de Meanwhile, through the city is heard nothing but and wailing, productive of pity and pain. So most touching and pathetic are perpetually around us, and bathing with tears the rough Grand catastrophes, fires, inundations, &c. (which grander than those mentioned?) lead even in their their consoling cortège of dévouement and train rage, and all most beautiful actions. The too fearfully sounded," &c.

HINDOO WIDOWS.—A Hindoo, named Galdier Gosian, an inhabitant of Baltee, died lately, no less than 100 widows.

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