

(October 6, 1789). The Tuileries¹ henceforth became the residence of the king and queen. From that day the palace at Versailles has never been occupied by a French sovereign.²

The shadow of the Revolution that rested on it then still remains. Its grand galleries and state apartments are as magnificent as ever, but none the less the place seems haunted with the spirit of retribution.

From the time of that "Joyous Entry" the nobility began to leave France in ever-increasing numbers. They gathered on the German frontier, boasting of what they would do to restore the king; but they never did much except exasperate the people of Paris, who believed that they would return with a foreign army and reestablish the old order of things.

The Constituent Assembly now left Versailles and established themselves in Paris. This brought them directly under the influence of the fickle, excited populace and of the Jacobin and other radical clubs of the city.

181. Confiscation of Land; Issue of Paper Money. — There was now a pressing need of money, for France had to equip armies to defend the new government against foreign interference. To meet this, and yet avoid taxation, the assembly confiscated the crown lands,³ the estates of those nobles who had fled, and finally the possessions of the clergy.

The Church remonstrated loudly against the seizure of its property, but without avail. The whole of its vast wealth, comprising, it is said, upwards of a third of all the land of France, worth over two thousand millions of francs (\$400,000,000), was taken to be "the dowry of the Constitution." This law was followed by an act suppressing monasteries and nunneries, and one which put the election of bishops and the appointment of priests in the hands of the people.

¹ Tuileries (twêl-rê): a royal palace in Paris. It was burned by the mob in 1871.

² See Paragraph 231.

³ The assembly voted the king a revenue of twenty-five million francs as indemnity for the seizure of the crown lands.

But since these lands could not be converted into cash at once, the assembly proceeded to issue paper money. So long as this issue actually rested on the land as security, all went well; but the temptation to increase it was irresistible. It was so easy to keep the government presses going, and print batches of crisp notes that pretended to be as good as gold. So the multiplication of *assignats*,¹ as the bills were called, went on until forty-four thousand millions of francs had been issued!

Then the depreciation of this "rag currency" set in so rapidly that one franc in silver would buy over seven thousand in paper. All the necessaries of life became enormously dear, and finally the assignats ceased to have any value or use whatever, unless a day laborer happened to want one to light his pipe with.

182. Ratification of the Constitution. — On the 14th of July, 1790, the anniversary of the taking of the Bastille, the constitution, under which these assignats were issued, was formally ratified by king and people. An altar, called the Altar of the Country, was erected in the Field of Mars, in Paris, and France sent a hundred thousand representatives to swear allegiance to the new government. In presence of an immense enthusiastic multitude Louis XVI took an oath to maintain the liberties of the people under the constitution.² The queen held up the dauphin in her arms, as if to associate him with his father's pledge of good government.

It had been raining steadily; but at this moment the sun broke through the clouds and sent its rays full on the king and his wife and child, as they stood with hands uplifted by the altar. A great shout of joy went up from the vast assemblage at the happy omen. But it was the last time that the sun

¹ Assignats (â-sê-nyâ): so called because the public lands were held to be assigned or pledged in payment of these notes.

² Louis renewed his oath on September 14, 1791.

ever shone with favor on the royal family, or that the people ever shouted with joy at sight of them.

183. The Clergy Oath; Death of Mirabeau; Flight of the Royal Family.—The assembly, not satisfied with seizing the church lands¹ and giving the state the control of the clergy, next proceeded to compel them to take an oath of allegiance to the constitution. As such an oath was a virtual acknowledgment that the assembly had done what was lawful and right, the pope declared that all of the French clergy who took it should be cut off from communion with the Catholic Church. The king vetoed the assembly's measure, but in the end was obliged to sanction it, and ultimately about half of the clergy took the obnoxious oath.

The next spring (1791) Mirabeau died. His death was a heavy loss to the moderate party, since it threw power into the hands of the more violent radicals.

Louis was now convinced that it was useless for him to remain longer in Paris. He and his family prepared for flight. The king's object was to appeal to the sovereigns of Europe for military aid, though he afterward declared that he did not intend leaving the kingdom. The royal family succeeded in getting to Varennes,² near the northeastern frontier, but were stopped there and brought back to Paris.

It was their second enforced entry; no one now pretended to call it "joyous." As they passed through the streets on their way to the Tuileries, which had now become their prison in everything but name, there was profound silence. Government placards conspicuously posted notified the public as follows: "Whoever applauds the king shall be flogged; whoever insults him shall be hanged."

184. The Legislative Assembly; the King mobbed in the Tuileries.—The Constituent Assembly, having now completed its work of framing and then revising the constitution,

¹ See Paragraph 181.

² Varennes (vā-rēnz'): near Verdun.

dissolved itself. By a self-denying ordinance it declared its members ineligible to reelection or to positions under the government. The next day (October 1, 1791) a new representative body met, called the Legislative Assembly.

It was composed of three classes: the Constitutionals, or conservative party, who favored limited monarchy; the Girondists,¹ who wished to establish a republic; and finally, the Jacobins, or violent radicals, led by Robespierre, Danton, and Marat.²

Two questions of the first importance came up for discussion at the outset. First, should those members of the clergy who persisted in refusing to take the oath of allegiance to the constitution be deprived of their salaries and prohibited from holding religious service? Secondly, should the emigrant nobles who took up arms against the government be condemned as traitors to the country? On both these questions the assembly voted in the affirmative, but the king vetoed the measures.

Meantime Austria, Prussia, and Spain were threatening to send armies into France to reestablish Louis in all his former rights, and to restore to the Church its confiscated property. The assembly denounced the Constitutionalist ministry as favoring the hostile coalition against France. The ministry resigned, and a Girondist ministry came into power with Roland³ at their head. The result of this change was a declaration of war against Austria, which had been foremost in the coalition, the Emperor Francis II being a nephew of Marie Antoinette. Louis himself, with sinking heart and faltering voice, had to declare hostilities.

The first movement of the French against the enemy was a shameful failure. Then the assembly voted three decrees,

¹ Girondists: so called because their most prominent men came from the department of the Gironde (zhē-rōnd') in the southwest of France.

² Marat (mā-rā').

³ Roland (ro-lōn'): he was the husband of the famous Madame Roland, who died a victim of the Reign of Terror.

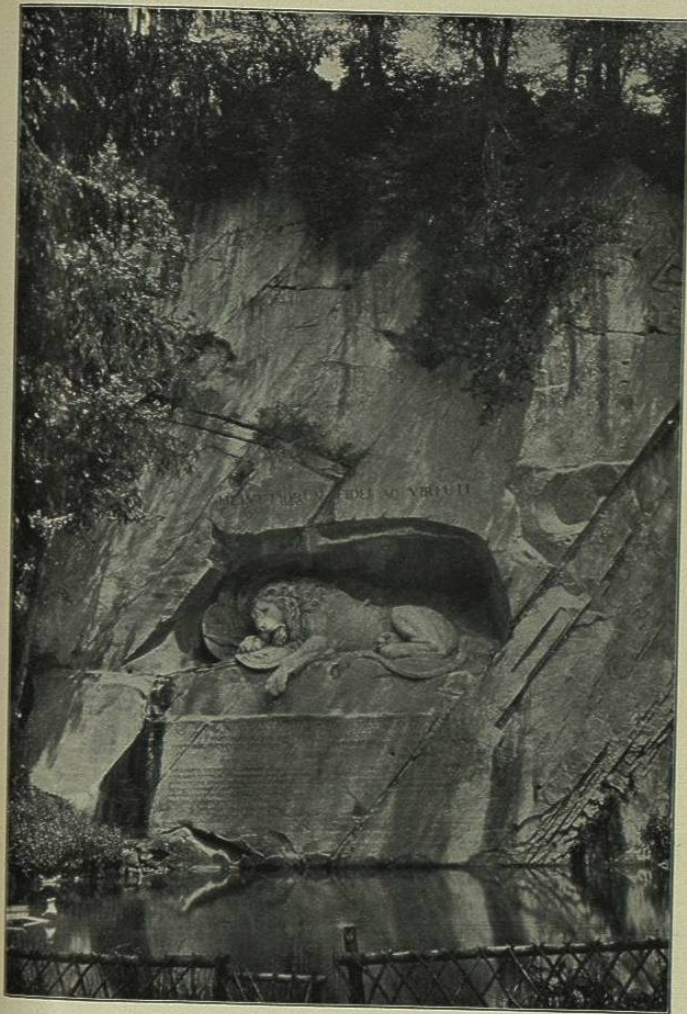
banishing the refractory priests from France, disbanding the Swiss bodyguard of the king, and finally ordering the establishment of a camp of twenty thousand provincial troops for the protection of Paris. The king agreed to the disbanding of his household troops, but vetoed the other two measures. The ministry under Roland remonstrated, and Louis dismissed them from office.

Then the Paris mob rose, and with swords and pikes in their hands burst into the palace of the Tuileries and, forcing their way into the king's presence, demanded that he should sign the decrees, and recall the Girondist ministers.

Louis was no coward; he was perfectly calm, and refused to promise, saying, "This is neither the time nor the place; I will do all the Constitution prescribes." One of the mob, putting a red woollen liberty cap on the end of a pike, thrust it out toward the king; he took it and placed it on his head amid shouts of "Long live the King!"

185. Attack on the Tuileries; Massacre of the Swiss Guard; Imprisonment of the Royal Family; the September Massacres.— A number of weeks later a manifesto from the Duke of Brunswick, commander in chief of the allied forces, was received in Paris, in which he threatened to hang every man as a traitor who supported the assembly and who refused to submit to Louis XVI as his rightful king. Danton, Marat, and Robespierre demanded that the king should be at once deposed. The assembly delayed action. The citizens rose in insurrection, and made ready to attack the Tuileries. Louis fled with his family to the assembly for protection. The mob attacked the palace, which was at first bravely defended by the Swiss guards.

Then orders came from the king that the guards were to cease firing and come to the assembly. Part of them received the order and started; the others failed to get the word sent to them. All, to the number of about eight hundred, with some twelve hundred nobles and gentlemen of the palace,



THE LION OF LUCERNE

were massacred by the rabble. Thorwaldsen¹ has commemorated the fall of the devoted Swiss soldiers in his colossal sculpture cut in the face of the rock at Lucerne: a dying lion transfixed by a broken lance protects the royal lilies of France with his paw. That, and the Expiatory Chapel in Paris, built by Louis XVIII, to the memory of Louis XVI and his queen, are the two noblest monuments of the Revolution.

After these murders, the insurgents, their hands smeared with blood, marched to the terrified assembly and demanded that they should declare that the king had forfeited his throne; and next, that a National Convention should be called to take their place. The assembly (August 10, 1792) passed a decree temporarily suspending the king from office and summoning the convention demanded. Lafayette was deprived of the command of the National Guards, and was obliged to leave France to save his life. Meanwhile the king and royal family were sent as prisoners to the Temple.²

Louis was never to leave that gloomy building until he bade farewell to it to mount the steps of the guillotine. The queen was later sent to another prison, and thence, like her husband, to the scaffold. Marie Antoinette in her power and prosperity had been haughty and frivolous. In her time of trial and sorrow she showed herself patient, brave, and full of sweet dignity.

A few weeks after the imprisonment of the royal family all Paris was thrown into consternation by the news that the allied armies had entered France and captured Longwy and Verdun.³ A kind of panic of ferocity was the result. Danton declared, "We must strike terror to the Royalists." The Paris authorities forthwith ordered that the political prisoners in the

¹ Thorwaldsen (tor'wawld-sgn).

² Temple: the ancient stronghold of the Knights Templars in Paris. See Paragraph 75.

³ Longwy and Verdun: towns in the northeast of France; the first is on the Belgian frontier.

city, men and women, several thousand in number, should be put to death.

On the 2d of September, 1792, bands of ruffians were sent to the prisons, and the butchery began. When it ended, four days later, the radical revolutionists had nothing more to fear from the political prisoners. Among those who perished at this time was the Princess Lamballe, a favorite of the queen. Her bleeding head, borne on a pike, was held up in front of the window of Marie Antoinette's apartments in the Temple. The queen fainted, and so was mercifully spared the ghastly sight.

186. Meeting of the National Convention; France declared a Republic; Execution of the King.—On the 21st of September, 1792, the National Convention, chosen by universal suffrage, met, and proceeded at once to abolish royalty and declare France a republic, "one and indivisible."¹ Titles of honor and respect were forbidden; henceforth all men and women were to be addressed as "citizen," or "citizeness."

The convention was made up of two parties: the Girondists,—who were now considered conservative,—and the extreme radicals, who got the nickname of the Mountain from their occupying the highest benches, on the left of the hall.

These two parties were at swords' points. The Girondists wished to bring the instigators of the September massacre to trial. The Mountain, on the other hand, were determined to drive out the Girondists and monopolize all power.

Danton, the leader of the Mountain, and the master spirit of the convention, now dared the armies of the allies to advance. "Let us throw them," said he, "the head of a king." That proposition sealed Louis' fate. He was brought before the convention on a charge of having conspired against the constitution and the public good. Of that charge "Louis Capet," as he was styled in the indictment, was found guilty

¹ The day following (September 22, 1792) was considered to be the first day of the Year One of the Republic.

and condemned to immediate death by a majority of one; though, at a second vote, two days later, that majority was increased to sixty.

The Girondists would have saved his life if they could, but the party of the Mountain was too strong for them. Among those who dared to plead for the king was Thomas Paine,¹ who had taken part in the American Revolution. He said, "The man whom you have condemned to death is regarded by the people of the United States as their best friend, as the founder of their liberty."

On the 21st of January, 1793, in the thirty-ninth year of his age, the king was beheaded. He left a son of eight, who died a few years later, of neglect.² Louis XVI gave his life in expiation of the sins of others, rather than of his own. Had Louis XIV and XV done their duty by France half as well as their unfortunate successor tried to do his, there would have been no revolution.

187. The Grand Coalition against France; the Revolutionary Tribunal; Defection of Dumouriez; Committee of Public Safety.—The execution of the king, instead of intimidating the European powers, had the opposite effect. England now joined Holland, Spain, Austria, and Prussia to overthrow the convention and restore the monarchy. The Revolution was regarded as a menace to every throne in Europe. Nor was this feeling groundless; for the French generals had received orders, when their armies advanced, to proclaim the abolition of feudal rights and privileges, and to inaugurate the sovereignty of the people. In other words, they were to extend the French Revolution as far and as fast as they were able.

But in the spring of 1793 the allied armies checked the French advance, and ended by driving them out of Belgium.

¹ Paine visited France after the American Revolution, and was elected a member of the National Convention. He sided with the Girondists.

² See Miss Martineau's story of the Peasant and the Prince (Ginn & Company, Boston).

The Mountain threw the blame of this and of all other disasters on the policy of the Girondists. They made use of it to secure the creation of a Revolutionary Tribunal, having power to judge without appeal all who conspired against the state. Shortly after, Dumouriez,¹ the ablest of the French generals, turned against the convention, began negotiations with the Austrians for the reestablishment of the monarchy, and finally, leaving his army, who refused to support him, fled to the enemy's quarters.

The wildest alarm now prevailed in Paris. The convention established a Committee of Public Safety, consisting of nine members, all of whom were violent radicals, opposed to the Girondists. The committee adopted a new democratic constitution. In this body Danton was chief. The sessions of this new body were secret, and it practically had control of the government. The convention had two hundred thousand men under arms. It was now voted that the number should be at once increased to half a million.

188. Distress in Paris; Civil War in the Provinces; Arrest of the Girondists. — Meanwhile the price of bread was constantly rising, the distress of the people was great; and, on the other hand, the value of paper money was rapidly falling. The Mountain² believed prices could be regulated by law; that farmers could be compelled to bring grain to Paris and forced to take the assignats,³ or Revolutionary bank notes, at par. The Girondists had no faith in these measures, and steadily opposed them.

While these things were taking place at Paris, a counter-revolution was going on in some of the provinces. In Brittany, Maine, and Anjou a majority of the inhabitants continued loyal to the monarchy. In those districts the people had suffered less from the effects of bad government,

¹ Dumouriez (dü-moo-re-á').

² See Paragraph 186.

³ See Paragraph 181.

and the relations between the peasantry and the nobles and clergy were generally friendly.

Filled with horror at the execution of the king, and clinging strongly to the Catholic Church, these simple, kind-hearted rustics rose in defense of the altar and the throne.

In La Vendée,¹ a province of the west, Louis XVI's young son, who was in prison with his mother, was proclaimed king. Civil war ensued, and the Chouans,² as the insurrectionists of Brittany were nicknamed, with the Vendéans, kept up an obstinate guerilla warfare against the forces of the convention.

The ill success of the French armies abroad and the civil war at home threw still more power into the hands of the formidable Committee of Safety. Through their influence a law was passed by which the members of the convention gave up the exemption from arrest on political charges, which they had hitherto possessed. This made it possible for the two hostile parties, the Mountain³ and the Girondists, to plot each other's destruction.

The Girondists made the first move, and accused Marat of being unfaithful to the true interests of the republic. But the hideous Marat, who sat in the convention with his wooden shoes and red liberty cap, always demanding victims for his favorite guillotine, was not to be overthrown. He had the Paris mob to back him. The gentle, low-voiced, catlike Robespierre was also a favorite with the rabble, and he held his place against the Girondists.

Then came the Mountain's turn. They denounced the opposite party. Thousands of insurgents broke into the chamber, and with Marat and Robespierre demanded the arrest of the

¹ La Vendée (lä vön-dä').

² Chouans (shoo-ön'): a name derived either from Jean Chouan, the chief of the band, or from *chat-huant*, a screech owl, because the Chouans, like the owls, were seldom seen except at night, and they imitated the cry of those birds.

³ See Paragraph 186.

Girondists. The decree was carried, and thirty-one Girondist deputies were made prisoners.

189. The Reign of Terror; Insurrection in the Provinces; Assassination of Marat. — From this date, June 2, 1793, when the Mountain came into absolute power, the Reign of Terror began.¹

Ten of the Girondists escaped and excited an insurrection in the provinces in their behalf. The city of Lyons rose in their favor, and Toulon declared itself on the side of the royalists. The convention sent an army to reduce the people of the first-named city to submission. The army took with them a guillotine on wheels, for the purpose of beheading all prisoners of war.

But, quick as was the guillotine in its fatal work, it was too slow for the impatient soldiers. They massed their prisoners in the public squares and mowed them down with grapeshot. The general in command swore that he would not cease the work of destruction until he had leveled the rebellious city to the ground; then, when the last rebel was slain and the last stone overthrown, he declared that he would erect a monument bearing the inscription:

Lyons resisted liberty — Lyons is no more.

At Nantes, on the Loire, more than thirty thousand persons were put to death. Here, too, the guillotine was set aside as inadequate to the task. Large barges were filled with men, women, and children bound together. These barges were rowed out into the middle of the river and there sunk. In La Vendée thousands were likewise massacred.

The cynical Marat rubbed his hands in delight over the wholesale destruction of the enemies of his party. Terror, as Barère declared, had indeed become "the order of the day,"

¹ The duration of the period of the Reign of Terror is differently given by different authorities. It was on September 5, 1793, that Barère declared: "terror was decreed to be the order of the day."

and this butcher of men, who had vowed that every opposing head should fall, showed his admiring friends his reception room papered with death warrants.

But his own turn was now to come. Charlotte Corday, a heroic young girl from Normandy, who was in sympathy with the Girondists, believed it her duty to rid the world of this monster. She succeeded in getting access to him, and while he was jotting down the names of fresh victims she stabbed him to the heart, and expiated the act on the guillotine.

190. The Law of "Suspects"; Execution of the Queen; the Girondists and Madame Roland. — But Charlotte Corday's dagger, though it slew Marat, did not, as she hoped, put an end to the Reign of Terror. On the contrary, its fury increased. Hébert,¹ the leader of the Commune of Paris,² now urged Danton and his comrades to spare none who did not side with them. "To be safe," said he, "we must kill all." Thus urged, the convention passed a law to imprison all persons "suspected" of ill-will toward the Republic.

Under the operation of the law the jails throughout France were soon crowded with prisoners awaiting trial and death. Henceforth the guillotine was permanently set up in the center of Paris and was never idle. The terrible machine had in fact become the chief means of government. Universal suspicion bred universal terror. Men came to distrust their bosom friends; nay, the very members of their own families. No one felt safe from day to day. No one knew who might be watching or following him, or when he might be arrested as a "suspect."

This very horror increased the number of victims; for "citizen" now vied with "citizen" in endeavoring to secure victims; since the more heads a man could send to the scaffold, the safer his own might be. Generally the trial of prisoners

¹ Hébert (â-bêr).

² Commune of Paris: the revolutionary committee governing Paris.

was the merest mockery. Their doom was sealed from the beginning. "It is only the dead," said the Tribunal, "who never come back."

Acting on this principle the Mountain now¹ determined to take the life of the queen. She was brought before the Tribunal. Sixteen years before, Burke had seen her at Versailles, "glittering like the morning star, full of life and splendor and joy."² Imprisonment and sorrow had made her prematurely old. She refused to plead in her own behalf; she only said: "I was a queen, and you took away my crown; a wife, and you killed my husband; a mother, and you robbed me of my children: my blood alone remains; take it, but do not make me suffer long."³ She was sentenced to the guillotine and executed the same day (October 16, 1793). On the day of her execution the queen wrote on a page which still shows the marks of her tears: "I had friends; the idea of being separated from them forever, and their pain, are one of the greatest regrets I have in dying. Let them know, at least, that I thought of them to the last moment."

The twenty-one Girondists soon followed. One stabbed himself to escape the guillotine; but he did not escape it, for his corpse was beheaded with the rest.

Up to the scaffold, up to the fatal knife, the Girondists went one by one, singing the Marseillaise⁴:

Come, children of our country,
The day of glory has arrived.

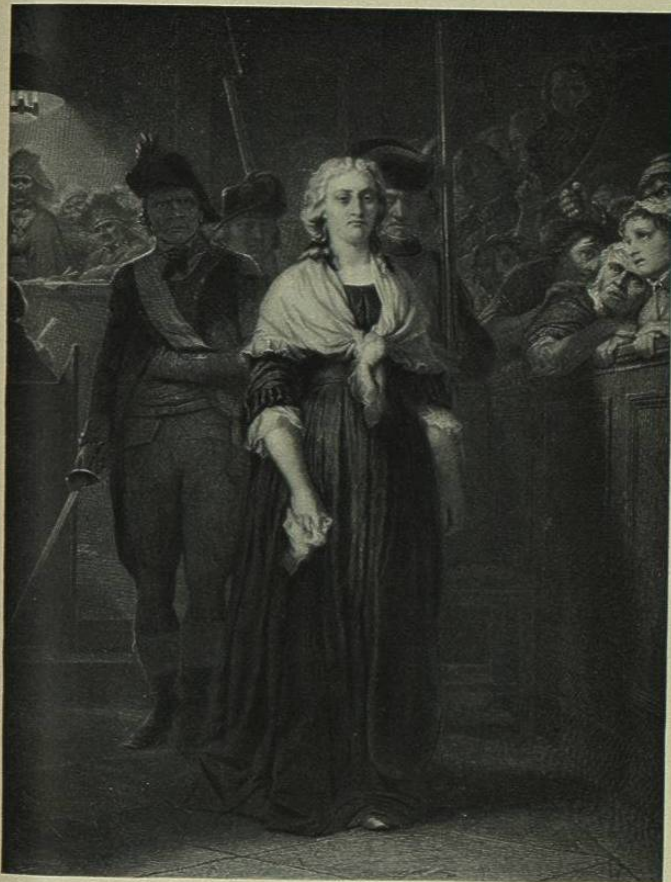
As the ax did its work, the song grew fainter and fainter; but it did not cease till the last head fell.

¹ See Paragraph 186.

² Burke's Reflection on the French Revolution.

³ See Delaroche's fine picture of "Marie Antoinette leaving the Tribunal" after her sentence to death.

⁴ Marseillaise (mār-sā-yāz'): this song, the "battle hymn" of the French Revolution, was written in 1792 by Rouget de l'Isle, an artillery officer. It got its name from the fact that it was first sung in Paris by a battalion of soldiers from Marseilles.



MARIE ANTOINETTE SENTENCED TO THE GUILLOTINE

In less than a fortnight Madame Roland, at whose house the Girondists used to meet, ascended the same scaffold. Martin says that "she was the strongest and truest character of the Revolution." Near the guillotine a colossal plaster image of Liberty had been erected. The brave woman looked at it, and said, as she bent to the ax, "O Liberty! what crimes are committed in thy name!"

From this time the death cart went constantly loaded with fresh batches of victims to feed the falling knife. The saintly Princess Elizabeth, sister of the king, and many other illustrious names were among them. It had become a carnival of murder, and scores of market women went to the place of execution as they would to the theater. There, at the foot of the scaffold, they sat peacefully knitting, and counting the heads as they fell.

Well might Chateaubriand¹ say that not all the water of the fountains which now sparkle in the sunshine of that famous square² could wash out the stains of the blood that had been recklessly shed there.

191. Festival of the Goddess of Reason; Fall of the Atheists and the Dantonists; Festival of the Supreme Being; Execution of Robespierre. — But the day of reckoning was at hand. Now that the Mountain had rid themselves of the Girondists, they, and their coadjutors of the Commune of Paris, turned on each other.

Hébert and his party were professed atheists, while Robespierre was not. Through Hébert's influence, an actress dressed to represent the Goddess of Reason received the homage of the atheists in the cathedral of Notre Dame. Sunday was abolished. The churches were closed against religious worship. The cross was torn down, and a model of the "Holy Guillotine" set up in its place. Signs of mourning for the

¹ Chateaubriand (sha-tō-bre-ōn').

² The Place de la Concorde.

dead were prohibited. Over the entrance to the burial grounds was written, "Death is an eternal sleep."

"In future," said Hébert, "we want no other religion but that of Nature; no other temple than that of Reason; no other worship than that of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity." Everything, in fact, was to be changed. The months were renamed after the weather and the seasons—the Frosty, the Rainy, the Hot, and so on; the calendar was abolished, and men were no more to reckon time from the birth of Christ, but from the Year One of the French Republic. The royal tombs at St. Denis had already been broken open by an act of the convention, and the remains of the kings thrown out.

But Robespierre had no sympathy with Hébert's movement, and attacked him and his party as intolerant fanatics, worse than the priests they had expelled. Rousseau had declared that men who did not believe in a special Providence, and in a life beyond the grave, could not be good citizens. This was Robespierre's idea. "If no God existed," said he, quoting Voltaire, "we should have to invent one."

Then Hébert and his party attempted to excite an insurrection against Robespierre and the convention. The latter had them arrested, tried, and guillotined. Next came the turn of Danton and his comrades. They had grown weary of the Reign of Terror, if they were not indeed horrified at its excesses. Danton had created the Revolutionary Tribunal which sent such multitudes to death. Now, that Tribunal pronounced his sentence and that of his friends. They laid their necks under that ax which had first descended on that of a king.

Robespierre thus became the real head of France. He pushed the war in La Vendée until it became simply slaughter and extermination. He redoubled the severity of the laws. He sent out spies everywhere to keep himself informed of the state of feeling. From a humble member of the States-General of 1789, he had risen in a little more than five years

to be an absolute ruler, more despotic than any of the Bourbon kings had dared to be.

He felt that to complete his system a religious basis was needed. He accordingly resolved to hold a festival in honor of the Supreme Being. Dressed in a sky-blue coat, holding a bunch of flowers, fruit, and grain in his hand, Robespierre appeared in the Field of Mars, and in the presence of a vast multitude the service began.

A choir of over two thousand sang a hymn to the Supreme Being. Bands of young girls scattered flowers. Then Robespierre advanced and set fire to two allegorical figures representing Atheism and Selfishness. As they burned, a figure of Wisdom appeared; but it was Wisdom blackened and scorched with smoke and flame.

Of the two, it is difficult to say which was the more revolting, the theatrical mummeries of the Worship of Reason or the theatrical mummeries of the Festival of the Supreme Being.

No sooner was the performance over than the guillotine, which had been temporarily veiled, began its work again. In Paris alone, during the last seven weeks of Robespierre's power, about two hundred victims a week were executed, and the whole number that perished in the Revolution by massacre, civil war, and the scaffold has been estimated as high as a million.

The destruction of life at last became unendurable. The convention rose against Robespierre. He was arrested and beheaded, July 28, 1794. With his downfall the Reign of Terror virtually ended. It had lasted a little more than a year—but what a year! For once, however, the guillotine proved itself the friend of humanity, since in ridding France of Robespierre, it freed the country from the power of a man who had made the name of republic more hateful than that of the worst of monarchies.

192. The Reaction; the "White Terror"; Victories of the Republic; the Directory. — The government, if government it can be called, was now in the hands of the convention, which was in a state of disorganization. Strong reaction set in. In the south of France the opponents of the Republic rose and inaugurated what was called the "White Terror," a name given it to distinguish it from the Red Terror of the past.

Bands of men, calling themselves Companies of Jesus and Companies of the Sun, massacred the prisoners in the jails, and committed horrible atrocities for weeks before they were checked.

Early in 1795 the armies of the Republic gained a great victory over the English and Dutch, resulting in the conquest of Holland, which adopted a democratic form of government, modeled on that of France. Later in the year Belgium was declared a part of the French Republic. Meanwhile the insurrection in La Vendée had been suppressed, and peace established in that department.

In the summer of the same year (1795) the convention appointed a committee to draw up a new constitution — the third since 1789.¹ By it the government was placed in the hands of five directors, and so received the name of the Directory.

A new power is now about to appear on the scene. The Revolution may be said to have finished its course. With a single slight exception there will be no more insurrections. All subsequent change, for many years, will be accomplished not by revolts of the people or "reigns of terror," but by the organized power of the government and the army.

193. Summary. — The period covering twenty-one years (1774–1795) opens with some feeble attempts at reform on the part of Louis XVI. This halting and half-hearted policy is

¹ Since then France has successively framed and adopted no less than six new constitutions, or nine in all during the last hundred years.

followed by the meeting of the States-General, which reorganizes itself as the National Assembly.

The fall of the Bastille inaugurates the Revolution, which sweeps away the monarchy, the privileged classes, and the Church. Political and social dissolution gives rise to jealousy and anarchy, ending in a "reign of terror" and the dictatorship of Robespierre.

The period closes with reaction and with the attempt to organize a new and more stable government. The chief permanent results of the Revolution are the establishment of civil and religious liberty, and the equality of all citizens before the law.