

a senate might have been selected; and abundance of able men to have formed a lower house, or house of commons. But the golden opportunity was passed over; and when the architects might, perhaps, have been disposed to execute the new fabric which they meditated, on the plan of a limited monarchy, the materials for the structure were no longer to be found.

The fear of a retributive reaction was now very generally felt in the convention. The Thermidoriens, in particular, who had killed Robespierre, and now reigned in his stead, had more substantial grounds of apprehension from any counter-revolutionary movement than even the body of the representatives at large, many of whom had been merely passive in scenes where Barras and Tallien had been active agents. The timid party of the Plain might be overawed by the returning prince; and the members of the Girondists, who could indeed scarce be said to exist as a party, might be safely despised. But the Thermidoriens themselves stood in a different predicament. They were of importance enough to attract both detestation and jealousy; they held power, which must be an object of distrust to the restored monarch; and they stood on precarious ground, between the hatred of the moderate party, who remembered them as colleagues of Robespierre and Danton, and that of the jacobins, who saw in Tallien and Barras deserters of that party, and the destroyers of the power of the sans-culottes. They had therefore, just reason to fear, that, stripped of the power which they at present possessed, they might become the unpitied and unaided scapegoats to expiate all the offences of the revolution.

Still the idea of monarchy was so generally received as the simplest and best mode of once more re-establishing good order and a fixed government, that some statesmen proposed to resume the form, but change the dynasty. With this view, divers persons were suggested by those who supposed, that by passing over the legitimate heir to the crown, the dangers annexed to his rights and claims might be avoided, and the apprehended measures of resumption and reaction might be guarded against. The son of the duke of Orleans was named, but the infamy of his father clung to him. In another wild hypothesis, the duke of York and the duke of Brunswick were suggested as fit to be named constitutional kings of France. The abbé Siéyes himself is said to have expressed himself in favour of the prince last named.

But without regarding the wishes or opinions of the people without doors, the convention resolved to establish such a model of government as should be most likely to infuse into a republic something of the stability of a monarchical establishment; and thus at once repair former errors, and preserve an appearance of consistency in the eyes of Europe.

For this purpose eleven commissioners, chiefly selected among the former Girondists, were appointed to draw up a new constitution upon a new principle, which was to receive anew the universal adhesion of the French by acclamation and oath, and to fall in a short time, under the same neglect which had attended every preceding model. This, it was understood, was to be so constructed as to unite the consistency of a monarchical government with the name and forms of a democracy.

That the system now adopted by the French commissioners might bear a form corresponding to the destinies of the nation, and flattering to its vanity, it was borrowed from that of the Roman republic, an attempt to imitate which had already introduced many of the blunders and many of the crimes of the revolution. The executive power was lodged in a council of five persons, termed directors, to whom were to be consigned the conduct of peace and war, the execution of the laws, and the general administration of the government. They were permitted no share of the legislative authority.

This arrangement was adopted to comply with the jealousy of those, who, in the individual person of a single director, holding a situation similar to that of the stadtholder in Holland, or the president of the United States, saw something too closely approaching to a monarchical government. Indeed, it is said, Louvet warned them against establishing such an office, by assuring them, that when they referred the choice of the individual who was to hold it,

to the nation at large, they would see the Bourbon heir elected. But the inconvenience of this pentarchy could not be disguised; and it seemed to follow as a necessary consequence of such a numerous executive council, either that there would be a schism, and a minority and majority established in that pre-eminent body of the state, where unity and vigour were chiefly requisite, or else that some one or two of the ablest and most crafty among the directors would establish a supremacy over the others, and use them less as their colleagues than their dependants. The legislators, however, though they knew that the whole Roman empire was found insufficient to satiate the ambition of three men, yet appeared to hope that the concord and unanimity of their five directors might continue unbroken, though they had but one nation to govern; and they decided accordingly.

The executive power being thus provided for, the legislative body was to consist of two councils; one of elders, as it was called, serving as a house of lords; another of youngers, which they termed, from its number, the council of five hundred. Both were elective, and the difference of age was the only circumstance which placed a distinction between the two bodies. The members of the council of five hundred were to be at least twenty-five years old, a qualification which, after the seventh year of the republic, was to rise to thirty years complete. In this assembly laws were to be first proposed; and, having received its approbation, they were to be referred to the council of ancients. The requisites to sit in the latter senate, were the age of forty years complete, and the being a married man or a widower. Bachelors, though above that age, were deemed unfit for legislation, perhaps from want of domestic experience.

On the whole, the form of the constitution of the year 3, *i. e.* 1795, showed a greater degree of practical efficacy, sense, and consistency than any of those previously suggested; and in the introduction, though there was the usual proclamation of the rights of man, his duties to the laws and to the social system were for the first time enumerated in manly and forcible language, intimating the desire of the framers of these institutions to put a stop to the continuation of revolutionary violence in future.

The constitution of the year 3, with all its defects, would have been willingly received by the nation in general, as affording some security from the revolutionary storm, had it not been for a selfish and usurping device of the Thermidoriens to mutilate and render it nugatory at the very outset, by engraving upon it the means of continuing the exercise of their own arbitrary authority. It must never be forgotten, that these conquerors of Robespierre had shared all the excesses of his party before they became his personal enemies; and that when deprived of their official situations and influence, which they were likely to be by a representative body freely and fairly elected, they were certain to be exposed to great individual danger.

Determined, therefore, to retain the power in their own hands, the Thermidoriens suffered, with an indifference amounting almost to contempt, the constitution to pass through, and be approved of by, the convention. But, under pretence that it would be highly impolitic to deprive the nation of the services of men accustomed to public business, they procured two decrees to be passed; the first ordaining the electoral bodies of France to choose, as representatives to the two councils under the new constitution, at least two-thirds of the members presently sitting in convention; and the second declaring, that in default of a return of two-thirds of the present deputies, as prescribed, the convention themselves should fill up the vacancies out of their own body; in other words, should name a large proportion of themselves their own successors in legislative power.

These decrees were sent down to the primary assemblies of the people, and every art was used to render them acceptable; but the nation, and particularly the city of Paris, generally revolted at the stretch of arbitrary authority. They recollected that all the members who had sat in the first national assembly, so remarkable for talent, had been declared ineligible, on that single account, for the second legislative body; and now, men so infinitely the inferiors of

but every where found the most formidable resistance. One large force occupied the quays on the left bank of the Seine, threatening the palace from that side of the river. Another strong division advanced on the Tuileries, through the street of St. Honoré, designing to debouche on the palace, where the convention was sitting, by the Rue de l'Echelle. They did so, without duly reflecting that they were flanked on most points by strong posts in the lanes and crossings, defended by artillery.

The contest began in the Rue St. Honoré. Buonaparte had established a strong post with two guns at the Cul-de-Sac Dauphiné, opposite the church of St. Roche. He permitted the imprudent Parisians to involve their long and dense columns in the narrow street without interruption, until they established a body of grenadiers in the front of the church, and opposite to the position at the Cul-de-Sac. Each party, as usual, throws on the other the blame of commencing the civil contest for which both were prepared. But all agree that the firing commenced with musketry. It was instantly followed by discharges of grape-shot and cannister, which, pointed as the guns were, upon thick columns of the national guards, arranged on the quays and in the narrow streets, made an astounding carnage. The national guards offered a brave resistance, and even attempted to rush on the artillery, and carry the guns by main force. But a measure which is desperate enough in the open field, becomes impossible when the road to assault lies through narrow streets, which are swept by the cannon at every discharge. The citizens were compelled to give way. By a more judicious arrangement of their respective forces different results might have been hoped; but how could Danican in any circumstances have competed with Buonaparte? The affair, in which several hundred men were killed and wounded, was terminated as a general action in about an hour; and the victorious troops of the convention, marching into the different sections, completed the dispersion and disarming of their opponents, an operation which lasted till late at night.

The convention used this victory with the moderation which recollection of the reign of terror had inspired. Only two persons suffered death for the day of the sections. One of them, La Fond, had been a garde-de-corps, was distinguished for his intrepidity, and repeatedly rallied the national guard under the storm of grape-shot. Several other persons, having fled, were in their absence capitally condemned, but were not strictly looked after; and deportation was the punishment inflicted upon others. The accused were indebted for this clemency chiefly to the interference of those members of convention who, themselves exiled on the 31st of May, had suffered persecution, and learned mercy.

The convention showed themselves at the same time liberal to their protectors. General Berruyer, who commanded the volunteers of 1789, and other general officers employed on the day of the sections, were loaded with praises and preferment. But a separate triumph was destined to Buonaparte, as the hero of the day. Five days after the battle, Barras solicited the attention of the convention to the young officer by whose prompt and skilful dispositions the Tuileries had been protected on the 13th Vendemaire, and proposed that they should approve of general Buonaparte's appointment as second in command of the army of the interior, Barras himself still remaining commander-in-chief. The proposal was adopted by acclamation. The convention retained their resentment against Menou, whom they suspected of treachery; but Buonaparte interfering as a mediator, they were content to look over his offence.

After this decided triumph over their opponents the convention ostensibly laid down their authority, and retiring from the scene in their present character, appeared upon it anew in that of a primary assembly, in order to make choice of such of their members as, by virtue of the decrees of two-thirds, as they were called, were to remain on the stage, as members of the legislative councils of elders and five hundred.

The directory consisted of Barras, Siéyes, Reubel, Latourneur de la Manche, and Reveilliere Lepaux, to the exclusion of Tallien, who was deeply

offended. Four of these directors were reformed jacobins, or Thermidorians; the fifth, Reveilliere Lepaux, was esteemed a Girondist. Siéyes, whose taste was rather for speculating in politics than acting in them, declined what he considered a hazardous office, and was replaced by Carnot.

The nature of the insurrection of the sections was not ostensibly royalist, but several of its leaders were of that party in secret, and, if successful, it would most certainly have assumed that complexion. Thus, the first step of Napoleon's rise commenced by the destruction of the hopes of the house of Bourbon, under the reviving influence of which, twenty years afterward, he was obliged to succumb. But the long path which closed so darkly was now opening upon him in light and joy. Buonaparte's high services, and the rank which he had obtained, rendered him now a young man of the first hope and expectation, mingling on terms of consideration among the rulers of the state, instead of being regarded as a neglected stranger, supporting himself with difficulty, and haunting public offices and bureaux in vain, to obtain some chance of preferment, or even employment.

From second in command, the new general soon became general-in-chief of the army of the interior, Barras having found his duties as a director were incompatible with those of military command. He employed his genius, equally prompt and profound, in improving the state of the military forces; and, in order to prevent the recurrence of such insurrections as that of the 13th Vendemaire, or day of the sections, and as the many others by which it was preceded, he appointed and organized a guard for the protection of the representative body.

Meantime, circumstances, which we will relate according to his own statement, introduced Buonaparte to an acquaintance, which was destined to have much influence on his future fate. A fine boy, ten or twelve years old, presented himself at the levee of the general of the interior, with a request of a nature unusually interesting. He stated his name to be Eugene Beauharnois, son of the ci-devant vicomte de Beauharnois, who, adhering to the revolutionary party, had been a general in the republican service upon the Rhine, and falling under the causeless suspicion of the committee of public safety, was delivered to the revolutionary tribunal, and fell by its sentence just four days before the overthrow of Robespierre. Eugene was come to request of Buonaparte, as general of the interior, that his father's sword might be restored to him. The prayer of the young supplicant was as interesting as his manners were engaging, and Napoleon felt so much interest in him, that he was induced to cultivate the acquaintance of Eugene's mother, afterward the empress Josephine.

This lady was a Creolian, the daughter of a planter in St. Domingo. Her name at full length was Marie Joseph Rose Tascher de la Pagerie. She had suffered her share of revolutionary miseries. After her husband, general Beauharnois, had been deprived of his command, she was arrested as a suspected person, and detained in prison till the general liberation, which succeeded the revolution of the 9th Thermidor. While in confinement, madame Beauharnois had formed an intimacy with a companion in distress, madame Fontenai, now madame Tallien, from which she derived great advantages after her friend's marriage.

With a remarkably graceful person, amiable manners, and an inexhaustible fund of good-humour, madame Beauharnois was formed to be an ornament to society. Barras, the Thermidorien hero, himself an ex-noble, was fond of society, desirous of enjoying it on an agreeable scale, and of washing away the dregs which jacobinism had mingled with all the dearest interests of life. He loved show and pleasure, too, and might now indulge both without the risk of falling under the suspicion of incivism, which, in the reign of terror, would have been incurred by any attempt to intermingle elegance with the enjoyments of social intercourse. At the apartments which he occupied, as one of the directory, in the Luxembourg palace, he gave its free course to his natural taste, and assembled an agreeable society of both sexes. Madame Tallien and her friend formed the soul of these assemblies.

and it was supposed that Barras was not insensible to the charms of madame Beauharnois,—a rumour which was likely to arise, whether with or without foundation.

When madame Beauharnois and general Buonaparte became intimate, the latter assures us, and we see no reason to doubt him, that although the lady was two or three years older than himself, yet being still in the full bloom of beauty, and extremely agreeable in her manners, he was induced, solely by her personal charms, to make her an offer of his hand, heart, and fortunes—little supposing, of course, to what a pitch the latter were to arise.

The marrying madame Beauharnois was a means of uniting his fortune with those of Barras and Tallien, the first of whom governed France as one of the directors; and the last, from talents and political connexions, had scarcely inferior influence. He had already deserved well of them for his conduct on the day of the sections, but he required their countenance to rise still higher; and without derogating from the bride's merits, we may suppose her influence in their society corresponded with the views of her lover.

It is, however, certain, that he always regarded her with peculiar affection; that he relied on her fate, which he considered as linked with and strengthening his own; and reposed, besides, considerable confidence in Josephine's tact and address in political business. She had at all times the art of mitigating his temper, and turning aside the hasty determinations of his angry moments, not by directly opposing, but by gradually parrying and disarming them. It must be added to her great praise, that she was always a willing, and often a successful, advocate in the cause of humanity.

They were married on the 9th of March, 1796; and the dowry of the bride was the chief command of the Italian armies, a scene which opened a full career to the ambition of the youthful general. Buonaparte remained with his wife only three days after his marriage, hastened to see his family, who were still at Marseilles, and, having enjoyed the pleasure of exhibiting himself as a favourite of fortune, in the city which he had lately left in the capacity of an indigent adventurer, proceeded rapidly to commence the career to which fate called him, by placing himself at the head of the Italian army

LETTER XXVII.

Affairs of Great Britain from the Commencement of the War with France—sends an Army into Flanders—subsidizes Prussia—has a Dispute with America—bad State of her domestic Politics—Lord Howe defeats the French Fleet—ill Success of the Duke of York—Miseries of his retreating Army—he returns to England with the Wreck of his Army—Austria subsidized—English Expedition to the Coast of France—tumultuous Proceedings in the British Metropolis—Lord Malmesbury sent to Paris to negotiate a Peace—its Failure, &c. A. D. 1793—1796.

In the grand drama that was at this time acting on the theatre of the world, all the powers of Europe were unhappily called to sustain a part: but France was unquestionably the prime actor, and her history must therefore be allowed to take the precedence of that of every other country. It would, nevertheless, be unpardonable in an English historian, to pass over unheeded the transactions of his own country during this fearful crisis, and therefore you must allow me, my dear Philip, to carry you back to the commencement of the year 1793, the period when Great Britain declared war against the French republic.

We may now be allowed to say, that it had been happy for England, and for the continental states also, had she stood aloof at this awful crisis, as a mere spectator of the horrid tragedy, occupying an attitude of self-defence. Secure in her insulated situation, and garrisoned by her wooden walls, she might have bid defiance to the volcano, and remained secure amid the tempest. It was her policy also to remain at peace; but, unhappily, at this

time, the sympathies of the different parties in England was so powerfully excited by the state of things on the continent, that the dictates of sound reason could no longer be heard; and the wickedness of the ruling party in France was certainly calculated to awaken the horror of men in an extraordinary degree: the consequence was, that the original friends of the revolution became mute; the once sacred name of liberty itself became offensive; the alarmists rose suddenly in number and force; clamours and indignation sprang up in every quarter; and amid a wild uproar of false terrors and of virtuous sympathy, the nation was plunged headlong into a state of war.

It must indeed be admitted, that the conduct of those persons in France, who had risen to power, was not much calculated to conciliate the good opinion of the British government. The presumptuous confidence inspired by the success of her arms, led her rulers to volunteer assistance to such other countries as were dissatisfied with their political condition; and a letter from the minister of marine, addressed to all friends of liberty in the seaports, contained the following passage, which, among others, was quoted and animadverted upon by Mr. Pitt, in the house of commons: "The king and his parliament mean to make war against us: will the English republicans suffer it? already these freemen show their discontent, and the repugnance which they have to bear arms against their brothers the French. Well; we will fly to their succour; we will make a descent in the island; we will lodge there fifty thousand caps of liberty; we will plant there the sacred tree, and will stretch out our arms to our republican brethren: their tyrannical government shall soon be destroyed."

At the meeting of parliament 1793, the formation of a republic in France, the proceedings against the unhappy Louis, and the active correspondence kept up between some societies in England and the French revolutionists, excited general attention, and seriously alarmed both the court and the aristocracy. Besides convening the two houses of parliament at an earlier period than usual, the king had called out a considerable part of the militia, as if the country were threatened with imminent danger. And in the speech from the throne, the two houses were requested, without delay, to adopt such measures as might be necessary for enforcing obedience to the laws, and for repressing every attempt to disturb the peace and tranquillity of the kingdom.

To prevent the intrusion of foreign emissaries of sedition, a seasonable bill was brought forward by lord Grenville; and while it was in its progress, M. Chauvelin, the French chargé-d'affaires, sent a note to the minister, intimating the wish of the executive council of France to preserve peace and amity with Great Britain; at the same time, lamenting the apparent disinclination of the English cabinet to a friendly agreement. The recall of lord Gower from Paris, the refusal of acknowledging M. Chauvelin as a minister of the republic, the stoppage of the supplies of corn, and the encouragement supposed to be given by England to Austria and Prussia, had alarmed and disgusted the French. An application, therefore, was now made for an unequivocal answer to a plain question: "Whether the French were to consider Great Britain as a neutral or a hostile power?" Some explanations were also offered on the part of France, regarding two obnoxious decrees; but they were not satisfactory to the English secretary, who hinted that the conduct of France was such as to preclude the neutrality of the nations around her; and admonished her, if she really wished to preserve peace with Great Britain, "to show herself disposed to renounce her views of aggression and aggrandizement, and to confine herself within her own territory, without insulting other governments, without disturbing their tranquillity, without violating their rights."

In a note from the executive council, reference was made to the conduct of the king of Spain, who had treated with a minister of the republic, and adjusted a convention of neutrality; and it was hoped, that Great Britain would not scruple to follow the example of a power of the first rank! Further explanations of the disputed points were also offered by M. Chauvelin.

those who were the colleagues of Mirabeau, Mounier, and other great names, presumed not only to declare themselves eligible by re-election, but dared to establish two-thirds of their number as indispensable ingredients of the legislative assemblies, which, according to the words and spirit of the constitution, ought to be chosen by the free voice of the people. The electors, and particularly those of the sections of Paris, angrily demanded to know, upon what public services the deputies of the convention founded their title to a privilege so unjust and anomalous.

To sum up the whole, these experienced men of public business, without whose intermediation it was pretended the national affairs could not be carried on, could only shelter themselves from the charge of unbounded wickedness, by pleading their unlimited cowardice, and by poorly alleging that for two years they had sat, voted, and deliberated, under a system of compulsion and terror. So much meanness rendered those who were degraded by it unfit, not merely to rule, but to live; and yet two-thirds of their number were, according to their own decrees, to be intruded on the nation as an indispensable portion of its representatives.

Such was the language held in the assemblies of the sections of Paris, who were the more irritated against the domineering and engrossing spirit exhibited in these usurping enactments, because it was impossible to forget that it was their interference, and the protection afforded by their national guard, which had saved the convention from massacre on more occasions than one.

In the mean while, reports continued to be made from the primary assemblies, of their adhesion to the constitution, in which they were almost unanimous, and of their sentiments concerning the two decrees, authorizing and commanding the re-election of two-thirds of the convention, on which there existed a strong difference of opinion. The convention, determined, at all events, to carry through with a high hand the iniquitous and arbitrary measure which they proposed, failed not to make these reports such as they desired them to be, and announced that the two decrees had been accepted by a majority of the primary assemblies. The citizens of Paris challenged the accuracy of the returns—alleged that the reports were falsified—demanded a scrutiny, and openly bid defiance to the convention. Their power of meeting together in their sections, on account of the appeal to the people, gave them an opportunity of feeling their own strength, and encouraging each other by speeches and applauses. They were farther emboldened and animated by men of literary talent, whose power was restored with the liberty of the press. Finally, they declared their sittings permanent, and that they had the right to protect the liberties of France. The greater part of the national guards were united on this occasion against the existing government; and nothing less was talked of than that they should avail themselves of their arms and numbers, march down to the Tuileries, and dictate law to the convention with their muskets, as the revolutionary mob of the suburbs used to do with their pikes.

The convention, unpopular themselves, and embarked in an unpopular cause, began to look anxiously around for assistance. They chiefly relied on the aid of about five thousand regular troops, who were assembled in and around Paris. These declared for government with the greater readiness, that the insurrection was of a character decidedly aristocratical, and that the French armies, as already repeatedly noticed, were attached to the republic.

The convention had also the assistance of several hundred artillerymen, who, since the taking of the bastille, had been always zealous democrats. Still apprehensive of the result, they added to this force another of a more ominous description. It was a body of volunteers, consisting of about fifteen hundred men, whom they chose to denominate the sacred band, or the patriots of 1789. They were gleaned out of the suburbs, and from the jails, the remnants of the insurrectional battalions which had formed the body-guard of Hébert and Robespierre, and had been the instruments by which they executed their atrocities. The convention proclaimed them men of the

10th of August—undoubtedly they were also men of the massacres of September. It was conceived that the beholding such a pack of bloodhounds, ready to be let loose, might inspire horror into the citizens of Paris, to whom their very aspect brought so many fearful recollections. It did so, but it also inspired hatred; and the number and zeal of the citizens, compensating for the fury of the Terrorists; and for the superior discipline of the regular troops to be employed against them, promised an arduous and doubtful conflict. Much, it was obvious, must depend upon the courage and conduct of the leaders.

The sections employed, as their commander-in-chief, general Danican, an old officer of no high reputation for military skill, but otherwise a worthy and sincere man. The convention at first made choice of Menou, and directed him, supported by a strong military force, to march into the section Le Pelletier, and disarm the national guards of that district. This section is one of the most wealthy, and of course most aristocratic, in Paris, being inhabited by bankers, merchants, the wealthiest class of tradesmen, and the better orders in general. Its inhabitants had formerly composed the battalion of national guards des Filles Saint Thomas, the only one which, taking part in the defence of the Tuileries, shared the fate of the Swiss guards, upon the memorable 10th of August. The section continued to entertain sentiments of the same character, and when Menou appeared at the head of his forces, accompanied by Laporte, a member of the convention, he found the citizens under arms, and exhibiting such a show of resistance, as induced him, after a parley, to retreat without venturing an attack upon them.

Menou's indecision showed that he was not a man suited to the times, and he was suspended from his command by the convention, and placed under arrest. The general management of affairs, and the direction of the conventional forces, was then committed to Barras; but the utmost anxiety prevailed among the members of the committees by whom government was administered, to find a general of nerve and decision enough to act under Barras, in the actual command of the military force, in a service so delicate, and times so menacing. It was then that a few words from Barras, addressed to his colleagues, Carnot and Tallien, decided the fate of Europe for well nigh twenty years. "I have the man," he said, "whom you want; a little Corsican officer, who will not stand upon ceremony."

The acquaintance of Barras and Buonaparte had been formed at the siege of Toulon, and the former had not forgotten the inventive and decisive genius of the young officer, to whom the conquest of that city was to be ascribed. On the recommendation of Barras, Buonaparte was sent for. He had witnessed the retreat of Menou, and explained with much simplicity the causes of that check, and the modes of resistance which ought to be adopted in case of the apprehended attack. His explanations gave satisfaction. Buonaparte was placed at the head of the conventional forces, and took all the necessary precautions to defend the same palace which he had seen attacked and carried by a body of insurgents on the 10th of August. But he possessed far more formidable means of defence than were in the power of the unfortunate Louis. He had two hundred pieces of cannon, which his high military skill enabled him to distribute to the utmost advantage. He had more than five thousand regular forces, and about fifteen hundred volunteers. He was thus enabled to defend the whole circuit of the Tuileries; to establish posts in all the avenues by which it could be approached; to possess himself of the bridges, so as to prevent co-operation between the sections which lay on the opposite bank of the river; and, finally, to establish a strong reserve in the Place Louis Quinze, or, as it was then called, Place de la Revolution. Buonaparte had only a few hours to make all these arrangements, for he was named in place of Menou late on the night before the conflict.

On the 13th Vendémiaire, corresponding to the 5th of October, the civil affray, commonly called the day of the sections, took place. The national guards assembled, to the number of thirty thousand men and upwards, but having no artillery. They advanced by different avenues, in close columns,