

pected the speedy reduction of the place. On the 19th of September, three strong columns were sent forward to an assault, and vengeance seemed to impend over the patriotic defenders. To oppose the intended attack, Don Mariano Alvarez, the governor, made such dispositions as the time and his limited means allowed; and the breaches were guarded with great courage and indefatigable vigilance. The enemy entered at two of the openings, and penetrated to the nearest houses; but their intrusion was at the expense of their lives. Other attempts were made with equal audacity, and baffled with equal spirit. More than eight hundred of the French, according to the Spanish account, were killed; and the repulse operated for some time as a check to the invaders. As the possession of Hostalrich, and the vicinity of Blake's army, tended to prolong the defence of Gerona, general Augereau determined to possess himself of the former town and defeat general Blake; and by the great superiority of his force, he at length succeeded in accomplishing both objects. He dislodged the Spanish corps from the heights of Brunolas, and drove them to a remote station; the gates of Hostalrich were then set on fire; the French gained admission, attacked the defenders in every street, and overwhelmed them. Precluded from farther supply and hopeless of relief, Alvarez capitulated on the 10th of December, and the garrison were made prisoners of war.

In the army of La Mancha, the marquis of Ariezaga had superseded Venegas in the command, and high expectations were consequently entertained from its operations. It was confidently hoped that the new general would be able to advance to Madrid, in defiance of all opposition, and expel the usurper from the throne. But he was encountered, on the 19th of November, by a French force, under the command of king Joseph, assisted by marshals Soult, Mortier, and Victor, at Ocana, near the south bank of that river, when the action terminated in a signal victory on the part of the enemy, and the vanquished army retreated in great confusion beyond the mountains. On this occasion, however, the Spanish infantry, particularly the division of Lacey, fought with great bravery, keeping the enemy in check for more than two hours, and a great part of the French line fell back in disorder; but the superiority of the enemy's artillery, and the timid and irresolute behaviour of the Spanish cavalry, whose flight had an ill effect on the rest of the army, enabled the French to triumph. More than ten thousand of the vanquished were either killed, wounded, or made prisoners. Another defeat quickly followed; the duke del Parque, being attacked at Alba, on the river Tormes, withstood repeated assaults, but he failed to derive from the cavalry the support which he expected: and the impetuous vigour of the French drove him, after the loss of many of his troops, to the mountainous confines of Galicia. And thus, at the termination of the second campaign in the peninsula, the dark clouds of misfortune hung over the patriotic cause.

LETTER X.

The internal or domestic Affairs of France—Napoleon repudiates his Wife, Josephine, and marries the Daughter of the Emperor of Austria—Consequences of this Marriage on his Politics—Deposes his Brother Louis, and annexes Holland to France—Also the Valleys of Piedmont and the Hanse Towns—Hanover annexed to Westphalia—Bernadotte elected to the Throne of Sweden—Political Affairs of the North of Europe. A. D. 1810.

THE legislative body of France assembled on the 3d of December, 1809, on which occasion the emperor Napoleon addressed them in a style of lofty congratulation. Adverting to the late expedition to Holland, he told them that "the English army had terminated its projects in the pestilential marshes of Walcheren. The pope, whose weakness or treachery opposed the progress of the French arms in Spain, was stripped of his temporal power and authority, and compelled to restore it to the successor of Charlemagne, from

whom he received it. By the treaty of Vienna, all his allies had acquired fresh increase of territory. The Illyrian provinces stretched the frontiers of his great empire to the Saave. Holland, placed between England and France, must undergo some changes, in order to ensure the safety of the empire, and to promote their mutual interest"—and he concluded his address with the prediction of new triumphs in the peninsula. In the annual *exposé*, which immediately followed, the great works carrying on under the auspices of the emperor were particularly enumerated. The canal Napoleon, uniting the Rhine and the Rhone; the immense works at Cherbourg; the magnificent military roads traversing the Alps, the Apennines, and the Pyrenees; the draining of the marshes of Burgundy, &c. &c.—all these were indeed imperial works, and worthy of his fame and power.

Such was the posture of affairs when the ruler of France was in the zenith of his greatness and glory, that he surprised the world, if indeed any thing in his conduct could be thought surprising, by one of the basest actions of his life, namely, the repudiation of his amiable and accomplished spouse, Josephine, and his marriage with the eldest daughter of the emperor of Austria. With the former he had now cohabited more than a dozen years, but she had the misfortune to bear him no issue. He was passionately attached to her; for her personal charms were great, and as numerous as could be possessed by a wife. She had shared his more lowly fortunes, and by her management and address during his absence in Egypt, had paved the way for the splendid success which he had attained on his return. She had also done much to render his government popular, by softening the sudden and fierce bursts of passion to which he was subject. No one could understand like Josephine the peculiarities of her husband's temper; no one dared, like her, to encounter his displeasure, rather than not advise him for his better interest; no one could possess such opportunities of watching the fit season for intercession; and no one, it is allowed on all hands, made a more prudent or a more beneficent use of the opportunities she enjoyed. The character of Napoleon, vehement by temper, a soldier by education, and invested by the success of his arms with the most despotic power, required in an especial manner the moderating influence of such a mind, which could interfere without intrusion, and remonstrate without offence. It is certain that she had obtained great influence over her husband, and to maintain it, Josephine cheerfully made the greatest personal sacrifices. In all the rapid journeys which he performed, she was his companion. No obstacle of road or weather was permitted to interfere with her departure. However sudden the call, the empress was ever ready; however untimely the hour, her carriage was in instant attendance. The influence which she maintained by the sacrifice of her personal comforts was used for the advancement of her husband's best interests,—the relief of those who were in distress, and the averting the consequences of hasty resolutions, formed in a moment of violence or irritation.

But the sterility of the empress Josephine was now rendered, by the course of nature, an irremediable evil, over which she mourned in hopeless distress; and conscious on what precarious circumstances the continuance of their union seemed now to depend, she gave way occasionally to fits of jealousy, less excited, according to Napoleon, by personal attachment, than by suspicion that her influence over her husband's mind might be diminished, in case of his having offspring by some paramour. She therefore naturally turned her thoughts to seek a remedy, and exerted her influence over her husband, to induce him to declare some one his successor, according to the unlimited powers vested in him by the imperial constitution. She directed his attention towards his step-son Eugene Beauharnois, her own son by her first marriage; but this did not meet Napoleon's approbation. A child, the son of his brother Louis, by Hortense Beauharnois, appeared, during its brief existence, more likely to become the destined heir of this immense inheritance. But the son of Louis and Hortense died of a disorder incident to childhood; and thus was broken, while yet a twig, the shoot, that growing to maturity, might

desire the dissolution of their marriage. He was, he said, but forty years old, and might well hope to live to train up such children as Providence might send him, in his own sentiments and arts of government. Again he dwelt on the truth and tenderness of his beloved spouse, his partner during fifteen years of happy union. Crowned as she had been by his own hand, he desired she should retain the rank of empress during her life. Josephine then arose, and with a faltering voice and eyes suffused with tears, expressed in few words sentiments similar to those of her husband. The imperial pair then demanded from the arch-chancellor a written document in evidence of their mutual desire of separation; and it was granted accordingly in all due form, with the authority of the council. The senate were next assembled; and, on the 16th of December, pronounced a consultum or decree, authorizing the separation of the emperor and empress, and assuring to Josephine a dowry of two millions of francs, and the rank of empress during her life.

The routine of ceremonies being completed, Napoleon retired to St. Cloud, where he lived in seclusion for some days. Josephine, on her part, took up her residence in the beautiful villa of Malmaison, near St. Germain. Here she principally dwelt for the remaining years of her life, which were just prolonged to see the first fall of her husband; an event which might have been averted had he been content to listen more frequently to her lessons of moderation. Her life was chiefly spent in cultivating the fine arts, of which she collected some beautiful specimens, and in pursuing the study of botany; but especially in the almost daily practice of acts of benevolence and charity, of which the English who had been detained at the breaking out of hostilities, of whom there were several at St. Germain, frequently shared the benefit. Napoleon often visited her, and uniformly treated her with the respect to which she was entitled. He also added to her dowry another million of francs, that she might feel no inconvenience from the habits of expense to which it was her foible to be addicted.

The necessary formalities relating to his new espousals were discussed and adjusted in little more than twenty-four hours; and on the 11th of March, 1810, their nuptials were celebrated at Vienna. The person of Napoleon was represented by his favourite Berthier, while the archduke Charles assisted at the ceremony in the name of the emperor Francis. A few days afterward, the youthful bride, accompanied by the queen of Naples, proceeded towards France. Napoleon met them at Soissons, and accompanied them to Paris, where the marriage ceremony was again performed by the emperor's uncle, the cardinal Fesch. The most splendid rejoicings, illuminations, concerts, festivities, took place on this occasion, though the general joy was much abated by a great calamity which threw a shade over their rejoicings. Prince Swartzenberg, the Austrian ambassador, had given a distinguished ball on the occasion, when the dancing-room, which was temporary, and erected in the garden, caught fire. No efforts could stop the progress of the flames, in which several persons perished, and among others the sister of the ambassador himself. This tragical circumstance struck a damp on the public mind, and was considered as a bad omen, especially when coupled in recollection with the marriage of Louis XVI. with a former princess of the house of Austria, which had been signalized by a similar disaster, as mentioned in one of my former letters.

As a domestic occurrence, nothing could contribute more to the happiness of Napoleon than his union with Maria Louisa. He was accustomed to compare her with Josephine, by assigning to the latter all the advantages of art and grace; to the former the charms of simple modesty and innocence. Both were excellent women, of great sweetness of temper, and fondly attached to Napoleon. As a political occurrence, however, his marriage with the archduchess of Austria has by many been regarded as a grand error. He abandoned his position and his part of an upstart and revolutionary monarch, who was labouring in Europe against the ancient courts, as the republic had done against the ancient monarchies. He placed himself in an awkward position in respect to Austria, which he should either have crushed

after the victory of Wagram, or have re-established after the marriage of the archduchess. Solid alliances repose only on real interests, and Napoleon did not know how to deprive the Austrian cabinet either of the desire or the power to combat with him again. This marriage also changed the character of his empire, and separated it still more from the popular interests. He now sought for ancient families to grace his court, and he did all in his power to amalgamate the ancient with the new noblesse, as he had already done with respect to the dynasties. Austerlitz had consecrated the *plebeian* empire; Wagram was to establish the *noble* empire. The birth of a son, in March, 1811, who received the title of *king of Rome*, seemed to consolidate the power of Napoleon by assuring him of a successor. It is time, however, that we quit this subject.

The emperor of France at this moment beheld the whole continent of Europe, Spain and Portugal excepted, either as his allies or his obsequious vassals. Proceeding in his plan of annexation by which he laboured to round his "empire of the West," he now took within his grasp the seven Dutch provinces, of which he had recently constituted his brother Louis king. They had, indeed, been a mere dependency of "the great nation," from that period; but in the month of December preceding, an intimation had been given, of rendering them a component part of the French empire, to which it was pleaded they naturally belonged, as being no more than an *alluvion* of the Rhine, the Maese, and the Scheldt. Forty thousand French soldiers were therefore gradually, but unceremoniously, introduced into Holland, and troops were quartered at the mouths of the rivers, accompanied by French custom-house officers, in order to prevent all commerce with England. On the 29th of June, notice was given to king Louis, that the emperor insisted on the occupation of Amsterdam, which was to be made the French head-quarters. Louis, justly regarding himself as no longer king, resigned that nominal dignity in favour of his sons, and declared his queen regent. On the day of his abdication, he published a farewell address to the legislative body, in which he stated the circumstances that had rendered it necessary for him to sign a treaty with his brother the emperor, whereby he had been deprived of all authority; and he advised them to receive the French troops with all cordiality and respect. He expressed a warm affection for his late subjects; and indeed his conduct during his short reign had been such as to show himself the real friend of the people upon whom he had been arbitrarily imposed, and as too much a Dutchman to retain the favour of the emperor of France. His act of abdication was considered to be of no validity, not having been previously concerted with the emperor; and the seven provinces were inseparably annexed to the French empire. The Valais of Piedmont were also annexed to France, for the purpose of securing the passage of the Alps by the Simplon; and possession was taken of the Hanse Towns, and of the whole course from the Elbe to the Ems,—commanded, it was said, by circumstances. The electorate of Hanover was annexed to the kingdom of Westphalia, and its very name was obliterated from the map of Europe; while to that country and all the other dependent kingdoms, the conscription laws were extended. In France, the chains of despotic power were riveted by spies, arbitrary imprisonments, a rigorous police, and restrictions on the liberty of the press; and while the glory of the nation was raised to the highest pitch, every vestige of its freedom was obliterated.

The affairs of Sweden took a very singular turn at this period; and it may be ranked among the most extraordinary occurrences in European history. On the 29th of May, the prince of Augustenburg, presumptive heir to the crown of Sweden, died suddenly; and in August, 1810, a diet was assembled at Orebo, to supply the vacancy thus occasioned. In consequence of a strong and pointed recommendation from the emperor Napoleon, the king of Sweden proposed marshal Bernadotte, as the person on whom he wished the choice to fall. This celebrated general, who was of Protestant extraction, had for a considerable time been placed at the head of the army of observation in the electorate of Hanover, where the equity and moderation of his

conduct had equalled the reputation of his talents. The king's nomination, therefore, was unanimously approved; and on the 1st of November, Bernadotte was installed in due form. On this occasion he addressed an admirable speech to the diet, expressing in unaffected language his sincere gratitude for the high and unexpected honour conferred upon him, with his unfeigned wishes that the reigning monarch would long afford him the advantage of learning from his conduct the arduous and important lessons of government. "Sound policy," said Bernadotte, "must have for its basis justice and truth. Such are the principles of the king; they shall also be mine. I have had a near view of war and its ravages: and I know that there is no conquest which can console a country for the blood of its children shed in a foreign land. Sweden has sustained great losses, but her honour is without taint. Let us submit to the decrees of Providence, and recollect that we possess a soil sufficient for our wants, and a sword to defend it." In the ensuing month, a declaration of war was issued against Great Britain; but the pacific intention of the court of Stockholm was sufficiently apparent; and the war, to the disappointment of Napoleon, proved little more than nominal. The hostility of Denmark was indeed real and great, but her power was circumscribed; and in the course of the summer a British squadron took possession of the Danish isle of Anholt, situated in the sea called the Cattegat. (1)

LETTER XI.

Affairs of Great Britain, A. D. 1810—Parliamentary Inquiry into the Expedition to the Scheldt—Sir Francis Burdett sent to the Tower—Riots in the Metropolis—Naval Expeditions and Successes—Derangement of the King, and Appointment of a Regency. A. D. 1810, 1811.

THE British parliament assembled on the 23d of January, 1810, and never did the political atmosphere in this country exhibit a deeper gloom. Russia, the only continental power which could singly cope with France, was in strict alliance with the French emperor. Austria had been once more laid prostrate at his feet. The resistance of Spain, in the general opinion, had become nearly hopeless; and all the other powers of Europe were in a state of perfect vassalage. Yet, under these unfavourable circumstances, the speech delivered by the lord-chancellor, in his majesty's name, expressed a just confidence, under divine Providence, in the wisdom of his parliament, the valour of his forces, and the spirit of his people. His majesty hoped that material advantages would be found to result from the demolition of the docks and the arsenals of Flushing. The expulsion of the French from Portugal, and the splendid victory obtained by lord viscount Wellington at Talavera, had contributed to check the progress of their arms in the peninsula. The speech went on to state that his majesty had received assurances of the friendly disposition of America, and that the state of the national commerce of Great Britain was flourishing, and the produce of the revenue increasing.

The Walcheren expedition, as may naturally be supposed, constituted a prolific topic of declamation to the leaders of opposition in both houses of parliament. The appointment of lord Chatham to the command having been made one of the principal topics of blame, Mr. Perceval, in his reply, contented himself with saying, that the result of the inquiry, if any inquiry were thought necessary, would in a great measure decide the question of the propriety or impropriety of the appointment of that noble lord to the command of the expedition. Adverting to the overture made, by command of the king, to lords Grey and Grenville to form a part of the administration, he declared that he did not wish for the situation which he then occupied. The circumstances of the times required a strong and extended administra-

(1) Sir Walter Scott's *Life of Napoleon*, vol. vii.—*Histoire de la Revolution Francaise*, par A. F. Mignet.—*Sketch of the Reign of Gustavus IV.*—*Dr. Aikin's Annals of George III.*—*Edinburgh Annual Register*, 1810.

tion, and he had entertained hopes that the application would have been successful. Had he been at liberty to state his proposals, the first would have been to resign the treasury to their disposal. After a variety of other proceedings, in which the same subjects were brought under discussion, lord Porchester, on the 26th of January, moved in the house of commons that a committee be appointed to inquire into the policy and the conduct of the late expedition to the Scheldt, which was carried by a small majority, and a committee of the whole house was fixed on for the purpose. His lordship then moved for an address to the king for copies of instructions given to the commanders, with other documents relating to this ill-fated expedition, which was also agreed to, and a secret committee was nominated for the inspection of such confidential communications as were deemed improper to be made public.

Among the papers thus submitted to inspection, there was found "A copy of the earl of Chatham's statement of his proceedings, dated October the 15th, 1809, and presented to the king, February the 14th, 1810." This document, from its contents, appeared to be an appeal to his majesty by the commander of one part of the expedition against the conduct of the commander of another part, and the circumstance occasioned much debate in the house. Mr. Whitbread moved an address to the king, requesting that there might be laid before the house copies of all reports and other papers submitted at any time to his majesty by the earl of Chatham, relative to the late expedition, which was carried. The answer to this address acknowledged that the king had received a report from lord Chatham, on the 15th of January, which he kept till February the 10th, when it was returned to the earl in consequence of his desire to make some alterations in it; that the report thus altered having been again presented to the king on the 14th, it was, by his majesty's orders, delivered to the secretary of state, and no copy of it kept by the king. Mr. Whitbread, on the 2d of March, moved two resolutions respecting this matter: one stating the fact, as now mentioned—the other, a strong censure of the same. After a long debate, the previous question was moved, but negatived; and the first resolution being thus carried, Mr. Whitbread consented to waive the second, admitting a modification of it proposed by Mr. Canning. It was then determined that the resolution should be entered on the journals of the house; the result of which was that lord Chatham resigned his office of master-general of the ordnance.

When the proceedings relative to the Walcheren expedition first came before the house of commons, Mr. Yorke moved an enforcement of the standing order for the exclusion of strangers, which he continued to move from day to day. This induced Mr. Sheridan to move a revision of the standing order, so that the decision should not rest on the caprice of any individual member, which was vehemently opposed by Mr. Windham, who indulged himself in a wild and furious invective against the reporters of the debates in parliament. He professed, indeed, to know nothing of them personally; but he understood them to be a set of men who were chargeable with the most corrupt misrepresentations; that among them were to be found persons of all descriptions, bankrupts, lottery-office keepers, decayed tradesmen, and even serving men. Those gentry, he said, had their favourites; and his honourable friend Mr. Sheridan was esteemed and hailed by them as a patron of the liberty of the press; but he exhorted the house to maintain their ancient rules and orders! This singular tirade was answered with spirit and temper by Mr. Stephens, an eminent civilian, who had himself, in his earlier days, been a reporter of the debates in parliament.

Another circumstance, incidentally connected with the debates on the Walcheren expedition, was productive of consequences which rendered the present session memorable in parliamentary history. There existed at the moment a debating society in London, under the name of the British forum, of which the president was John Gale Jones. On the 19th of February, a placard appeared in the streets of London, informing the public that a question had been debated at the British forum, "which was the greater outrage on the public feeling, Mr. Yorke's enforcement of the standing order of the house

have been reckoned on as the stay of an empire. Napoleon manifested the deepest grief, but that of Josephine was inconsolable.

It now became evident to the politicians of the Tuileries, that whatever attachment Napoleon might possess and feel for the empress, it was likely in the long run to give way to the eager desire of a lineal succession, to which he might bequeath his splendid inheritance. As age advanced, every year weakened, though in an imperceptible degree, the influence of Josephine, and must have rendered more eager the desire of her husband to form a new alliance, while he was yet at a period of life which authorized him to hope that he might live to train to maturity the expected heir. Fouché, the minister of police, the boldest political intriguer of his time, intuitively discovered to what point the emperor must ultimately arrive; and, artfully sounding his master's disposition, he discovered that Napoleon was struggling between the supposed political advantages to be derived from a new matrimonial union on the one hand, and on the other, the strong attachment which he still retained for Josephine, whose society and habits held him, as it were, spell-bound. Fouché, therefore, craftily determined to make Josephine herself the medium of suggesting to her husband the measure of her own divorce, and of his second marriage, as a sacrifice necessary to consolidate the empire, and complete the felicity of the emperor. One evening, at Fontainebleau, as the empress was returning from mass, Fouché detained her in the embrasure of a window in the gallery, while, with an audacity almost incomprehensible, he explained, with all the alleviating qualifications his ingenuity could suggest, the necessity of a sacrifice, which he represented as equally sublime and inevitable. The agitation of Josephine became excessive; but she commanded her emotions sufficiently to ask Fouché, with a faltering voice, whether he was commissioned to hold such language to her. He replied in the negative, adding, that he only ventured on such an insinuation from his having predicted with certainty what must necessarily come to pass; and from his desire to turn her attention to what so nearly concerned her glory and happiness. In consequence of this interview, an impassioned and interesting scene is said to have taken place between Buonaparte and his consort, in which he disavowed the communication of Fouché, and endeavoured by every means in his power to dispel her apprehensions; but he refused to dismiss his minister, when she demanded it as a punishment due to his audacity, in tampering with her feelings. But the idea being now started, the main objection was removed, and Napoleon being spared the pain of directly communicating the unkind and ungrateful proposal to Josephine, he had now only to afford her time to familiarize herself with the idea of a divorce, as that which political combinations rendered inevitable.

The communication of Fouché was made before Napoleon undertook his operations in Spain; and by the time of the meeting at Erfurt, the divorce seems to have been a matter determined. The views of the emperor were primarily directed to the court of St. Petersburg; and negotiations were set on foot, which had a reference to one of the archduchesses, but the reigning empress and empress-mother were opposed to it. The idea was therefore abandoned, and an archduchess of the house of Austria was substituted for her whose hand was refused. This project is said to have been started in the course of the treaty of Schoenbrunn, and was not without its influence in providing lenient terms for the weaker party. Napoleon himself declared that he renounced his purpose of dismembering Austria when his marriage was fixed upon. It is certain that the measures for separating the amiable and interesting Josephine from the man whose fortunes she had assisted to raise, and to whose person she was so much attached, were in full operation soon after Napoleon's return from the campaign of Wagram. On the 3d of December, he attended the solemn service of *Te Deum* for his victories. He was clad with unusual magnificence, wearing the Spanish costume, and displaying in his hat an enormous plume of feathers. The kings of Saxony and Wurtemberg, who attended as his satellites on the occasion, were placed beside him in full uniform, and remained uncovered during the ceremony.

From the cathedral, Napoleon passed to the opening of the legislative body, and boasted, in the oration he addressed to them, of the victories he had achieved, and the trophies he had acquired, as already mentioned in the commencement of my letter; and he concluded with this ominous declaration: "I and my family will always know how to sacrifice our most tender affections to the interests and welfare of the great nation"—the meaning of which was soon no riddle to the public in general. Two days afterward, Josephine was made acquainted with the cruel certainty that the separation was ultimately determined upon. But neither the many months which had passed since the subject was first touched upon by Fouché, nor the conviction which she must have long since received from various quarters, that the measure was unalterably resolved upon, could support her under the terrible annunciation that she was to be repudiated. The scene is thus described by an eye-witness.⁽¹⁾

"Their majesties sat down to table: Josephine wore a large white hat, tied under the chin, and concealing a part of her face. I thought, however, I perceived that she had been shedding tears, and that she still retained them with difficulty. She seemed to me the image of grief and despair. The most profound silence reigned during this dinner; they scarcely touched, except for form's sake, the dishes which were set before them. The only words which were uttered, were addressed to me by Napoleon, 'What o'clock is it,' rising from table as he spoke. Josephine followed slowly. Coffee was presented, and Napoleon took his cup himself from the page on duty, motioning that he desired to be alone. I withdrew very quickly; but uneasy, anxious, and abandoned to my own sorrowful reflections. In the waiting saloon, which usually served as their majesties' eating-room, I threw myself into an armed chair, beside the door of the emperor's saloon, and was mechanically looking at the attendants as they cleared away the service that had been used at their majesties' dinner, when, all at once, I heard, from the emperor's saloon, the empress Josephine uttering the most piercing cries. The groom of the chamber, imagining she must be ill, was on the point of opening the door: I prevented him, remarking that the emperor would call for assistance if he found it necessary. I was standing near the door, when Napoleon himself opened it, and, perceiving me, said, hastily, Come in B—, and shut the door. I entered the saloon, and beheld the unhappy empress stretched on the carpet, giving vent to an agonizing burst of grief, and exclaiming, No, I shall never survive it.".....I pass over the affecting detail of poor Josephine's sufferings on the occasion, and shall merely add Napoleon's remarks to his "prefet," when Josephine had a little recovered herself. "His uneasiness and agitation," says Mons. B. "were extreme. In the grief which he felt, he told me the cause of all that had happened, and used these expressions: 'the interest of France and my dynasty has done violence to my heart, the divorce has become an imperative duty upon me: I am so much the more afflicted at the scene which Josephine has just exhibited, because, three days ago, she must have known from Hortense the unhappy necessity which condemns me to separate from her. I pity her with all my heart; I thought she had more strength of character, and I was not prepared for the burst of her grief.'"

The preparations for the separation went on without delay. On the 15th of December, just ten days after the official communication of her fate had been given to the empress, Napoleon and Josephine appeared in the presence of the arch-chancellor, the family of Napoleon, the principal officers of state; in a word, the full imperial council. In this assembly, Napoleon stated the deep national interest which required that he should have successors of his own body to occupy the throne on which Providence had placed him. He informed them that he had for several years renounced the hope of having children by his well-beloved empress Josephine; and that therefore he had resolved to subject the feelings of his heart to the good of the state, and

(1) *Memoires Anecdotiques sur l'Interieur du Palais, &c.*, par L. F. J. de Bausset, Ancien Préfet du Palais Imperial, Paris, 1827, tom. i, p. 369—373.