

refreshment till he reached Charleroi, where he paused for a moment in a meadow, and occupied a tent which had been pitched for his accommodation.

In the mean time, the pursuit of his discomfited army was followed up by Blucher, with the most determined perseverance. He accelerated the march of the Prussian advanced-guard, and despatched every man and horse of his cavalry in pursuit of the fugitives. At Genappe they attempted to rally and make a stand, by barricading the bridge and streets; but the Prussians forced them in a moment; and although the French were sufficiently numerous for resistance, their disorder was so irremediable, and their spirits so broken and disheartened, that in numerous instances they were slaughtered like sheep. They were driven from bivouac to bivouac, without exhibiting even the shadow of their usual courage. One hundred and fifty pieces of cannon were left in the hands of the English, and an equal number were taken by the Prussians in the course of the pursuit. The latter also obtained possession of Napoleon's baggage, and of his carriage, where, among many curious articles, was found a proclamation intended to be made public at Brussels, on the following day.

The loss on the part of the British during this dreadful battle was, as the duke of Wellington truly termed it, IMMENSE! One hundred officers slain, five hundred wounded, many of them mortally, fifteen thousand men killed and wounded (independent of the Prussian loss at Wavre), threw half Britain into mourning. Many officers of distinction fell; and it required all the glory, and all the solid advantages of this immortal day to reconcile the mind to the high price at which it was purchased. The duke of Wellington himself, compelled to be on every point of danger, was repeatedly in extreme jeopardy. Only the duke and one other gentleman of his numerous staff escaped unwounded either in horse or person. It would be difficult to estimate with any tolerable accuracy the extent of the French loss. Independent of those who fell during the engagement and pursuit, great numbers deserted; and it may be fairly questioned whether, out of the seventy-five thousand men, whom Napoleon commanded on the morning of the 18th of June, one-half of them were ever again collected under arms.(1)

LETTER XXI.

Affairs of Europe, from the Battle of Waterloo, continued—Abdication of Napoleon, and his Banishment to St. Helena—His Death and Character—Surrender of Paris—Reinstatement of Louis XVIII.—The Holy Alliance—Peace of Paris, November, 1815—Death of Murat—and Mareschal Ney—The United Netherlands—Disturbances in England—Embassy to China—Bombardment of Algiers—Riots in London—and various Parts of England—Death of the Princess Charlotte—Accession of Bernadotte to the Throne of Sweden—Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle—Evacuation of France. A. D. 1815—1819.

NAPOLEON BUONAPARTE arrived at Paris on the second evening after the battle of Waterloo; at which time the inhabitants were unacquainted with the particulars of the sanguinary contest which had taken place. Some unfavourable reports had reached them concerning the previous contest at Ligny; but it was not generally believed that any great misfortune had occurred until the emperor's return was known. The truth, however, could not be long concealed, and in a little time the whole was disclosed in its full extent. The first step now taken was to assemble the council of state, when it was suggested by one of the members, that, under existing circumstances, the primary remedy which presented itself was, the assumption of a dictatorship, and the suspension or dissolution of the two legislative chambers, a proposition which was supported by Lucien Buonaparte. But these bodies being

(1) Histoire de la Campagne de l'Armée Anglaise, &c. sur les ordres du Duc de Wellington, et de l'Armée Prussienne sous les ordres du Prince Blucher de Wahlstadt, 1815. Par. 6 de 10. Stutgard et Tubingue, 1817.—See also captain Pringle's Account of the Action of Waterloo—and sir Walter Scott's Life of Napoleon.

hastily convoked, and probably aware of what was projected, La Fayette proposed that all attempts to dissolve the assembly of representatives of the people at this terrible crisis should be considered as high-treason. The motion was readily adopted by both chambers; and it was also voted that four of the ministers should be summoned to the hall to explain the emperor's views and intentions. After a short interval of vacillation, produced by the last expiring struggles of ambition, Napoleon perceived that he was no longer the object of public confidence; and accordingly, on the 22d of June, he issued a declaration, in which, professing to offer himself a sacrifice to the hatred of the enemies of France, he affirmed that his political life was terminated, and that he resigned the crown in favour of his son Napoleon II. This abdication was accepted by the chambers; but the nomination of his son for a successor was passed over unnoticed. Fouché, the minister of police, having laid this declaration before the legislative body, that assembly voted an address of thanks for the sacrifice he had made, and a provisional government was then appointed by the two chambers, consisting of Carnot, Fouché, Caulaincourt, Grenier, and Quinette; and a commission was also nominated to repair to the allied armies with proposals for peace. As the last act of his public life, Napoleon issued a farewell address to the army; and retiring to Malmaison, he employed himself in making preparations for a voyage to the United States of America, which he had fixed on as his future asylum. On the 29th of June, he set out for Rochefort, where a small squadron awaited his orders.

On the 3d of July, the ex-emperor arrived at Rochefort, attended by an escort of honour, and took up his residence at the house of the prefect, with the view of immediate embarkation. The port, however, was closely blockaded by English cruisers; and after some ineffectual attempts to elude their vigilance, he determined ultimately to cast himself upon the generosity of the British nation, claiming its protection. On the 15th, having previously sent a flag of truce to the Bellerophon, an English man-of-war, commanded by captain Maitland, he went off with his suite and baggage, in a brig, which conveyed him to that ship, and he was put on board. He now addressed a letter to the prince-regent of England, in the following terms: "Exposed to the factions which divide my country, and to the hostility of the greatest powers in Europe, I have closed my political career. I come, like Themistocles, to seek the hospitality of the British nation. I place myself under the protection of their laws, which I claim from your royal highness as the most powerful, the most constant, and the most generous of my enemies." Of this letter, however, not the slightest notice was taken; nor was he permitted to land on the British coast. His property was sequestrated, and no title beyond that of "general," was to be given him. After due deliberation in the British cabinet, and consulting with the allied powers, it was announced that his future residence was unalterably determined to be the island of St. Helena, there to be detained as a state prisoner, under the inspection of commissioners appointed by the allied powers. Against this terrific sentence of banishment to a rock in the Southern Atlantic, he entered an energetic protest, denying that he was a captive, having surrendered himself to the protection of the British laws, which he had never violated, and of the British government, to whose jurisdiction he was not amenable.

From the Bellerophon, Napoleon was, after the lapse of a month, transferred to the Northumberland, bearing the flag of admiral sir George Cockburn, attended by a few faithful friends who determined to share his fortunes; and, on the 8th of August, that ship proceeded on her voyage for St. Helena, where, in a few weeks, she arrived safely. Such is the vicissitude of human affairs, and in so dark a cloud did the splendid career of Napoleon terminate! In this state of exile he had abundant leisure for calm reflection; but he expressed neither contrition for his past errors, nor resignation to his present fate. On the contrary, his days were spent in quarrelling with sir Hudson Lowe, the governor of the island, and in venting his bitterest reproaches against him to all who were admitted into his presence. Setting his resent-

establishment and privileges of the Catholic church should be preserved, and incompatible with the fundamental principle of that church." The king was farther admonished, that such a regulation must sooner or later alienate the hearts of his subjects in those provinces, "with whom attachment to the Catholic faith is stronger and more lively than in any other country in Europe." It does not, however, appear that this remonstrance produced any change in the system of toleration which had been provided for by the new constitution; and a subsequent royal ordonnance professed to provide only for the security and freedom of the Catholic church, without investing it with any exclusive authority. In the month of September, the ceremonial of the king's inauguration took place at Brussels, with every mark of general satisfaction. On this occasion the principal ecclesiastics of the cathedral of St. Gedeule addressed a discourse to the king, replete with sentiments of Christian benevolence; at the same time claiming for the Catholic religion nothing more than the protection guaranteed by the constitution. Soon after the promulgation of this constitution, a matrimonial alliance took place between the prince of Orange, and the grand-dutchess Anna, sister of the emperor Alexander. We shall now return to the affairs of our own country.

Although the peace which had now happily been brought about upon the continent of Europe drew security in its train, yet it did not diminish the burdens of the nation in that degree which was too fondly expected. It left the people of England under the pressure of an enormous taxation, one of the many and never-failing results of a long continued war. A large standing army was still to be kept up; and it was the intention of the ministry to continue the obnoxious tax on property, reducing it however to five per cent. This measure excited a general alarm, and the wantonness of ministerial profusion was loudly censured. Petitions against its continuance were poured into parliament in abundance, in despite of which the chancellor of the exchequer ventured to propose its continuance. The spirit of the house, however, revolted from it, and when it was exploded by a majority of thirty-seven votes, the shouts which arose from the unexpected popular triumph resounded over the whole neighbourhood. The debates respecting a new settlement of the civil list were warm and acrimonious. Useless places and sinecures were pertinaciously retained; and the aggregate allowance was even augmented, though the payment of a considerable part of it out of a different fund afforded a pretext for the minister for asserting that it was diminished. Lord Castlereagh soon after made a motion, which was acceded to, for the erection of a naval monument in honour of the battle of Trafalgar, of lord Nelson, and of the officers and seamen who lost their lives on that glorious occasion. This was a counterpart to the resolution lately carried for a monument to perpetuate the victory of Waterloo, dedicated to the duke of Wellington and the army.

During the session of parliament in 1816, a message from the prince-regent announced the approaching marriage, with his own consent, of his daughter, the princess Charlotte Augusta, with his serene highness Leopold George Frederick, prince of Saxe Cobourg-Saalfeld, who had visited England in the train of the confederate sovereigns. His royal highness expressed his persuasion of the concurrence of the house in enabling him to make such a provision on the occasion, as might correspond with the dignity and honour of the country. It was consequently proposed by the chancellor of the exchequer, and unanimously agreed to by the house, that an income of sixty thousand pounds a year should be settled on the illustrious pair; of which sum, ten thousand pounds were to form a privy purse for her royal highness, and the remainder was to defray the domestic expenses of the prince of Cobourg—that amount to be settled on them for their joint lives. A farther sum of sixty thousand pounds was granted by way of outfit. The marriage accordingly took place on the 2d of May, 1816, and appeared to give general satisfaction to the country. About the same time was married his royal highness the duke of Gloucester to the princess Mary, sister to the prince-regent, and fourth daughter of his majesty George III.

The distresses of the agricultural interest occasioned a number of petitions to parliament for relief. The manufacturers at the same time complained of that want of employment which was consequent on the general impoverishment of their countrymen. Riotous proceedings took place in several counties of England, the natural consequence of the discontent which this state of affairs produced. In Suffolk large parties marched from one village to another, destroying or injuring the houses of individuals who were considered as unfriendly to the poor. In the county of Cambridge, a body of provincials extorted money from the inhabitants of Ely and Littleport, pillaged many of the shops, and continued their outrages until a party of dragoons and yeomanry appeared. A contest ensued; the riot was quelled, and five of the delinquents, being tried and condemned, were punished with death. A riot at Norwich was more easily suppressed; and other commotions were insignificant and transitory. In the neighbourhood of the metropolis a popular meeting took place towards the end of the year 1816, which threatened alarming consequences. This assemblage took place in the Spa fields, Islington, and resolutions of reform, suggested by Mr. Henry Hunt, were voted by acclamation. An apothecary of the name of Watson also harangued the rabble in the same neighbourhood; and the subsequent operations of those who listened to his oratory excited a momentary alarm in the metropolis. The mob paraded the streets, carried off firearms from the shops of gunsmiths, marched to the royal exchange, where they had a short contest with the lord-mayor and some of the police; but they at length dispersed from the fear of a military attack. These disturbances did not, however, seriously encroach on the general tranquillity of the country. The greater part of the inhabitants looked forward to a full enjoyment of the blessings of peace, and patiently waited for the removal of the prevailing distress.

While these things were in progress, a very unexpected occurrence took place on the Barbary coast, which gave occasion for a display of the undaunted bravery and intrepidity of the British navy, too honourable to the country and triumphant in its results to be omitted in this narrative. The predatory practices and horrible cruelties of the Algerines had long excited general indignation; and it was the ardent wish of every commercial state, that signal chastisement should be inflicted on that nest of pirates. As even British vessels were occasionally attacked by them, lord Exmouth sailed to Algiers with a squadron of ships under his command, instructed by his government to try, in the first instance, the effects of a temperate expostulation with the dey, to whose consideration he submitted three points. The first was that the Ionian islands, lately formed into a republic, should be treated as British colonies; the next was the propriety of concluding peace with Naples and Sardinia; and the last related to the abolition of Christian slavery in his dominions. On the first and second points explicit promises of compliance were given; but regarding the other, the reply was, that it was too important to be hastily settled or readily conceded. The rulers of Tunis and Tripoli, who were also visited by the admiral, were more compliant than their brother of Algiers; they promised not to consign prisoners of war to the miseries or disgrace of slavery, but to treat them according to the practice of Christian nations. Having settled matters with these two inferior powers, his lordship returned to Algiers, and renewed his remonstrances, but without effect. And while he was thus employed a savage massacre was perpetrated at Bona upon a number of coral-fishers, who were acting under the supposed security of the British flag. A fresh squadron calculated for a bold enterprise, was accordingly placed under lord Exmouth's command; and he was also joined by vice-admiral Capellon, whom the king of the Netherlands had sent with a small fleet to further the success of the expedition.

In the mean time, such preparations had been made for the defence of Algiers as rendered the attack extremely dangerous; but nothing could deter or discourage the two commanders and their gallant associates. Lord Ex-

mouth, in the Queen Charlotte, cast anchor so near the mole and the batteries, that the enemy appeared confounded at this mark of intrepidity. The other ships followed, and took the stations which his lordship prescribed, with a promptness and precision that even exceeded his hopes. This was on the 27th of August, and a tremendous fire was now poured from the walls, the batteries, and the ships in the harbour: but it was answered with corresponding spirit. The bomb-vessels, and the boats which had guns and rockets, ably seconded the operations of the larger ships; and it was "by their fire," as the admiral says in his despatches, "that all the ships in the port, except one, were in flames, which extended rapidly over the whole arsenal, storehouses, and gun-boats, exhibiting a spectacle of awful grandeur and interest which no pen can describe." The contest raged for six hours without intermission; and as sufficient havoc had then been made, the assailants slowly retired, waiting the effect of that defeat and disgrace which the barbarians had sustained. Dreading a renewal of the attack, the dey listened to the offer of terms; and a treaty was concluded, by which he bound himself to the abolition of Christian slavery in his dominions, and to the immediate surrender of all his slaves. More than a thousand of these unhappy exiles were instantly liberated, and placed under the protection of the allies; and a sum of money, amounting to four hundred thousand dollars, was transmitted by the captors to the courts of Naples and Sardinia. This gallant enterprise, which England performed for the general good of Christendom, without stipulation and without reimbursement, cost her, however, a number of valuable lives—about a hundred and thirty men being killed, and seven hundred wounded.

It is truly painful to record the tumultuous proceedings which took place at this period in various parts of England; but the pressure of distress was great upon the lower classes of society, and they were goaded by it to pursue measures which were little calculated to ameliorate their condition. At the opening of the session of parliament, on the 28th of January, 1817, the prince-regent, in his speech from the throne, stated the anxious desire of the government to make every reduction, which the safety of the empire and "true policy" would allow. The deficiency in the revenue was acknowledged, but ascribed to temporary causes; and the whole concluded with a pointed allusion to the disturbances which had taken place in various parts of the country; and intimating a determination to omit no precautions for preserving the public peace. On the return of the prince-regent from the house of peers, after opening the session, an immense crowd had assembled in the park, by whom he was received with marked demonstrations of popular resentment; and on passing Carleton house, the glass of the state carriage was broken by a stone; nor was it without difficulty, that he at length reached the palace. This flagrant outrage being on the same day reported to parliament by lord Sidmouth, the two houses joined in an address suitable to the occasion. A proclamation was also issued, offering a reward of a thousand pounds for the discovery of the offender; but it proved in vain. When the usual address was brought forward in reply to the speech from the throne, earl Grey moved an amendment, importing an opinion, "that the pressure on the resources of the country was much more extensive in its operation, more severe in its effects, more deep and general in its causes, and more difficult of removal, than had ever before been experienced; and that the house would immediately enter on an inquiry into the state of the nation." The marquis Wellesley affirmed "that the distress of the country had grown to a magnitude which no art or colour of language could disguise; that a speech so inadequate to the exigencies of the times, as that which the regent had delivered, he had never heard."

It would be tedious to detail to you the various measures to which ministers had recourse, in order to remedy this disastrous state of public affairs. Let it suffice to say, that the motion of earl Grey in the lords, and a similar one by Mr. Ponsonby in the commons, were overruled by a large majority—that secret committees were appointed in both houses to examine certain

papers laid before them by the government; and these committees, on the 18th and 19th of February, reported "that a traitorous conspiracy had been formed in the metropolis for the purpose of overthrowing, by means of an insurrection, the established government, laws, and constitution of the realm: and of effecting a general plunder and division of property: that traces appeared of a central committee in London, which communicated with clubs and associations in various parts of the country, but chiefly in the manufacturing districts; some of which associations were bound together by secret and unlawful oaths: that the late popular assemblages in Spa fields were intended to subserve the purposes of the conspirators: that the riotous attack on the gunsmiths' shops in the city, for the purpose of procuring arms, was the commencement of an insurrection, which, if successful, was to have been followed by desperate attempts upon the tower, the bank, and the barracks at Knightsbridge, and other points." It appeared, however, that no adequate preparations of any kind had been made for the execution of these designs; and that no person in the higher, and scarcely any in the middle classes of life, had taken part with them. Much was also said of the dangerous notions disseminated by a political sect called Spenceans, respecting a community of lands, and of the seditious and blasphemous writings industriously dispersed among the lower classes. Both reports concluded by invoking the interference of parliament to obviate dangers, which the utmost vigilance of government, under the existing laws, had been found inadequate to avert.

To counteract these pernicious attempts, the habeas corpus act was suspended until the 1st of June ensuing, and several acts of parliament were passed, having for their object the security of his majesty's person and government—the suppression of tumultuous meetings and debating societies—the taking of secret and illegal oaths—and the punishing with rigour any attempt to gain over soldiers or sailors to act with any association, or set of men, or to withdraw them from their allegiance. Secured by these bills, the ministers boldly prosecuted their career, and judging that some condemnations for treason would still farther strengthen the throne, they ordered an indictment to be prepared against Watson, the apothecary, and three of his associates: but the former being acquitted by the jury, the attorney-general then declared, in a tone of gracious condescension, that he would abandon the proceedings which he had instituted against the rest!

A vigorous attempt was made at this time in the county of Nottingham, to organize an insurrection, but it failed; and the prime agents in the plot, viz. Brandreth, Turner, and Ludlam, were apprehended, tried, found guilty, and executed. As the suspension of the habeas corpus act expired on the 1st of June, another message was brought down from the prince-regent two days afterward, accompanied by fresh documents relating to the proceedings of the disaffected. These were also intrusted to a secret committee, who reported on them, and on this occasion it was fairly admitted, that the evidence laid before the committee had been chiefly derived from the depositions and communications of persons who were either themselves more or less implicated in the criminal transactions, or who had ostensibly engaged in them with the view of giving information to government: that the evidence of both those classes of persons must be regarded with suspicion; and that there was reason to apprehend, that the language and conduct of some of the latter might, in certain instances, have had the effect of encouraging designs which it was intended that they should only be the instruments of detecting! This employment of spies, which was openly avowed and defended by the ministers, exposed them to severe reproach both within the house and without; but on the new alarm which was excited by means of this second report, they obtained a fresh suspension of the habeas corpus, to extend to the 1st of March, 1818. Towards the close of the session, Mr. Abbot, who had held the office of speaker to the house of commons in five successive parliaments with distinguished reputation, intimated his intention of resigning, on account of ill health; and was soon after called to the house of lords, by the title of lord

ment at open defiance, his language was, "You have power over my body, but you have none over my soul. That soul is as proud, fierce, and determined at the present moment, as when it commanded Europe." And his whole deportment was governed by the same unseasonable haughtiness. Applications were repeatedly made to ascertain his wants and wishes, but to little purpose. To captain Hamilton, of the frigate Havana, at an audience previous to the departure of that officer from St. Helena, he said, "They wish to know what I desire: I demand my liberty, or my death. Report these words to your prince-regent. I was not your prisoner. Savages would have had more respect for my situation. Your ministers have basely violated, in my person, the sacred rights of hospitality: they have for ever dishonoured England. I have been cruelly deceived, but heaven will avenge my wrongs."

That the last scenes of his life should have been imbibed by every species of vexation and chagrin must therefore be rather the subject of regret than of wonder. After twice abdicating the imperial dignity, he still affected to maintain the state of an emperor. His remonstrances were invective tending only to irritation. Weighed down by mental suffering, and labouring under the terrible malady of cancer in the stomach, which had been growing upon him since the year 1817, he expired at St. Helena on the 5th of May, 1821.

It is difficult to form a true estimate of his character, or present you, my son, with any thing like a correct delineation of it. Looking to the dark side of the portrait, his early conduct at Venice, his barbarities at Jaffa, his warfare against St. Domingo, his treatment of Touissant, captain Wright, the duc d'Enghein, &c. &c., his treachery to Spain, his sacrifices of the Tyrolese, his insidious protestations to Poland, his boundless usurpations and inextinguishable thirst of empire; it may be asked, what can redeem the vices of his character? But if we reverse the picture, and compare him with his more immediate predecessors in the career of fame, such as Louis XIV., Peter the Great, or Frederick of Prussia, the moral and political conduct of Napoleon will appear to no disadvantage. The first effort of his government was to restore peace to the world—an effort answered only by contumely and insult. His subsequent attempts of 1805 and 1807 were equally ineffectual. Compelled, therefore, to press forward in the path of victory, he no longer sought for peace; and, intoxicated with success, he finally fell the victim of his own presumption. In splendour of genius, in patronage of the arts and sciences, in national works of utility and magnificence, and in calling forth merit of every kind, he far excelled all the sovereigns of his time. And from the peculiar situation in which he stood, his political aggrandizement was closely connected with the civil and religious interests of humanity. France, Italy, and the Netherlands felt and acknowledged the equity of his internal government. He was a beneficent legislator; and the code which he promulgated will transmit his name with honour to succeeding generations. We now return to the great theatre of European politics.

After the battle of Waterloo, the allies came to the determination of treating with the French only under the walls of Paris; and on the 21st of June, the duke of Wellington and prince Blucher, at the head of their respective armies, entered the French territory. From Malpaquet, the duke of Wellington addressed a proclamation to the people of France, announcing that he had entered the country, not as an enemy, except of the usurper, the foe of the human race, with whom there could be neither peace nor truce—but to enable them to throw off the yoke by which they were oppressed. He also enforced through his march the strictest military discipline. On the 23d, he sent a detachment against Cambay, which was taken by escalade without much loss; and Louis XVIII. soon after removed from Ghent to that city. The march of the allied army was now one continued triumph. Avesnes, Peronne, and other towns, either opened their gates, or were reduced after a slight resistance. They continued their march to the capital; and on the 28th, the Prussian advanced-guard was attacked at Villars Coteret, but, on the approach of the main body, the assailants were repulsed with loss. The duke of Wellington crossed the Oise on the 29th and 30th, at which time

marshal Blucher passed the Seine at St. Germain, their plan being to invest Paris on two sides. The heights about the city were strongly fortified, and it was defended by forty or fifty thousand troops of the line and guards, besides the national guards, tirailleurs, and Parisian volunteers.

Blucher met with considerable opposition in establishing himself on the left of the Seine, but he ultimately succeeded; and Paris being now exposed on its most vulnerable side, with a communication opened between the two blockading armies, a proposal was made for the cessation of hostilities, for the purpose of entering into a convention. This was concluded on the 3d of July, between prince Blucher and the duke of Wellington on the one part, and Davoust (prince of Eckmuhl) on the other; the convention having a reference merely to military points, without touching any that were political. By its stipulations, the French army was on the following day to commence its march for the Loire, and was moreover to evacuate Paris completely in three days. All the fortified posts around the city, and finally its barriers, were to be given up: the duty of Paris was to be performed by the national guards and the municipal gen-d'armerie; public property was to be respected, with the exception of what related to war; private persons and property were also to be respected, and all individuals continuing in the capital were to enjoy their rights and liberties "without being called to account, either for the situations they may have held, or as to their conduct or political opinions." This last clause is worthy of observation, because it was afterward adduced on the trial of an eminent state criminal as a promise of a general amnesty. The chambers continued their sittings after the signing of the convention, but this show of authority was soon terminated. In 1814, Louis XVIII. had been placed on the throne in conformity to the will of the nation; he was now to be reinstated solely by a foreign force. The chambers were closed by order of the military; and, on the 8th of July, that monarch once more made his entry into the capital under the most gloomy and unpropitious omens. Its military positions were all occupied by the allied troops, and it was under their safeguard that the regal government was restored, and the white cockade resumed its honours.

On the 26th of September (1815), the three allied sovereigns, namely, those of Russia, Austria, and Prussia, entered into a treaty at Paris, and which treaty received the sign of those potentates. By the tenor of this singular document, which received the name of "the holy alliance," being couched in the most devout and solemn language, the high contracting parties declared their resolution to take for their sole guide, both in their domestic administration and foreign relations, the precepts of the holy religion of Christ their Saviour. In consequence, they bound themselves to the observance of three articles:—the first of these united them in a fraternity of mutual assistance, and in the common protection of religion, peace, and justice; which in the second article was explained to mean, that they regarded themselves as delegated by Providence to govern three branches of one and the same Christian nation, of which the Divine Being, under his three characters, was the sole real sovereign. The third article declared a readiness to receive into the holy alliance all the powers who should solemnly avow the sacred principles which had dictated it. Politicians were greatly perplexed to comprehend the import of an engagement at once so vague and so serious, which appeared to bind the contracting parties to nothing more than, as Christian princes, they stood already pledged to observe; and it was stated to have originated in a fit of enthusiasm which seized the mind of the emperor Alexander. Mr. Brougham brought the subject before the British house of commons during the following year, when it appeared from the confession of ministers, that the prince-regent had been solicited, by a joint letter of the three sovereigns, to accede to it, and that he had in reply expressed his satisfaction with the nature of the treaty, and given an assurance that the British government would not be one of the least disposed to act up to its principles, but that nevertheless he had declined to become a party to the treaty. Subsequent events seem to indicate, that a resolution to support the authority of

each other against any revolutionary movement among their own subjects, was the real object of this mystical combination of princes, veiled by so thick a mantle of religion. But to proceed with the affairs of France.

Louis XVIII. had resumed the crown under circumstances which rendered it truly a crown of thorns. Finding himself entirely in the hands of foreign troops as his guardians, and only the nominal sovereign of a country distracted by party, and in a state of perpetual irritation from a sense of fallen greatness and of present subjugation, it is no wonder that his measures were at first fluctuating, and that his council underwent frequent change. Some of the principal towns in France, which had held out under their military commanders, were at length brought to submit; and the French army itself, that dangerous organ of power in any hand, was finally dissolved, to be replaced by a new one collected on national principles. The public discontent was, however, greatly aggravated by an act of resumption exercised by the allies; it was that of entirely stripping the museum of the Louvre of all those fruits of conquest which had rendered it the repository of the most famous works of art in Europe, and returning them to their original proprietors. It had been the pride and boast of Napoleon to collect those pieces of ancient and modern art, and to send them to the French capital as trophies of his victories. These spoiliations were now reclaimed, and restored to Germany, to Flanders, and to Italy. Venice received back the famous Corinthian horses; Florence, the Venus de Medicis; Rome, the Apollo Belvidere; and chef d'œuvres of Raffael and Michael Angelo. Thus the humiliations of France may be said to have commenced with the second *entrée* of Louis XVIII. into Paris.

After a long and anxious suspense, the congress held at Vienna announced the conditions on which France was permitted to retain her station among the powers of Europe. This, however, was definitively settled at Paris, by a treaty signed November the 20th, which stipulated that Louis should cede to the allies the important fortresses of Landau, Saar-Louis, Phillipville, and Marienburg, with the dutchy of Bouillon. Versoix, and part of the territory of Gex, were yielded to the Helvetic confederacy; the works of Huningen were dismantled; and France engaged not to erect others within the distance of three leagues from Basle, thus leaving a free passage into the heart of France. Seventeen of the principal towns on the frontiers of French Flanders, Champagne, Lorraine, and Alsace, among which were Condé, Valenciennes, Cambrai, &c., the bulwarks of the Flemish and Germanic frontier, were to be delivered up to the allies, to be held in trust for five years by an army of occupation consisting of a hundred and fifty thousand men maintained solely at the expense of France. An assessment was also levied on the latter of seven hundred millions of francs, to be divided among the allies, and defrayed by modes and at periods specified in a separate convention. Conditions so degrading, Marlborough and Eugene had never attempted to impose after ten victorious campaigns. Such, however, was the mode adopted by the allies to maintain the imbecile monarch on his inglorious and improvident throne. Such the bitter cup of humiliation to be drank by that country, after so many triumphs over her neighbours, enjoyed with so little moderation.

Louis XVIII., under the influence of terror inspired by recent events, seemed disposed in this new state of things to adopt a popular system of government. Talleyrand received the appointment of minister of foreign affairs, baron Louis of finance, Fouché of police, and St. Cyr of war. On the 27th of July, Talleyrand addressed a letter to lord Castlereagh, then at Paris, in reply to the urgent solicitation of the British government, announcing "that his most Christian majesty had issued directions, on the part of France, that the traffic in slaves, should from that moment cease every where and for ever." A change of policy, however, soon took place; and an ordonnance was issued, declaring that thirty-eight peers, who had accepted seats in the chamber summoned by Napoleon Buonaparte, had forfeited their dignity. Another ordonnance contained a long list of generals

and officers who had taken part in what was called the hundred days' reign of Napoleon, and they were ordered to be arrested and brought to trial before courts-martial. In a second list were inserted the names of very many persons in Paris, who were ordered to withdraw into the interior till their fate could be determined on. The duke de Richelieu now superseded Talleyrand as first minister, Des Cazes was appointed to the department of the police, and Barbe-Marbois of justice. Labedoyere, the first officer of rank who had joined Napoleon after his return from Elba, was tried, condemned, and executed under the royal ordonnance. After a short interval it was determined to proceed with the same rigour against mareschal Ney, who had fought the battles of his country with so much glory; and who, being a resident in Paris at the moment of the last capitulation, was supposed to be included in the convention by which that capital, then very capable of defence, was surrendered without bloodshed.

The arrest and trial of Ney gave rise to much animated discussion in the political circles, both in France and other countries. On the one side it was argued, that the words of the convention were so full and explicit, as to amount to a general amnesty; the words were—"and *all individuals, now resident in the capital*, shall enjoy their rights and liberties, without being disturbed or called to account, either for the situations they may have held, or as to their conduct or political opinions." A different view, however, was taken of the question by others, proceeding upon a distinction between *military* and *political* points; and the appeal being by mutual agreement submitted to the decision of the duke of Wellington, his grace gave his sanction to this last view of the case, and thus signed the death-warrant of "the bravest of the brave." Ney was accordingly executed as a soldier, on the 7th of December, 1815, meeting his fate with heroic firmness. Mareschal Soult, who had been placed by Napoleon at the head of the war department, was present in the battles of Ligny and Waterloo, and involved in the same danger with Ney; but he made so noble a defence, that the proceedings against him were abandoned. A different fate, however, awaited Murat, an officer distinguished for personal valour, and who had once held a pre-eminent rank among the mareschals of France. In an unsuccessful attempt to recover the kingdom of Naples, he was taken prisoner, tried by a court-martial, which pronounced sentence of death upon him, and sentenced to be shot, which was carried into effect on the very same day. He behaved on the occasion with his wonted courage; placed on his breast a picture of his wife; refused to have his eyes bandaged, and receiving six balls through his head, died without a groan. His military talents, in his own line of a cavalry officer, were confessedly great; and Napoleon probably incurred no slight injury by not availing himself of them at the battle of Waterloo. Under his government, Naples, emerging from its barbarism, rose to a respectable rank among the nations of Europe. He conferred many benefits on his subjects, and was generous and hospitable in his intercourse with strangers.

Since the assumption of the regal dignity by the prince of Orange, his prudence and moderation had been eminently conspicuous. In the affair of Waterloo he displayed all the heroism of the house of Orange, and was wounded in the conflict. Desirous of giving his subjects the advantage of a government founded on liberal principles and corresponding with the new order of things in Europe, a committee was appointed to draw up a constitution for the seventeen provinces over which he was now to sway the sceptre. Their report was transmitted to the king, and afterward laid before an extraordinary assembly of the states of the United Netherlands, by whom it was unanimously accepted. The principal objection to this union had arisen from the strong attachment of the people of Holland to the reformed and that of the Flemings to the Catholic religion. This was strikingly manifested in an address from certain prelates to the king of the Netherlands, dated the 29th of July, 1815, in which it was affirmed "that the equal favour and protection to all religious denominations promised by the constitution, was inconsistent with the assurances of his majesty that the