

however, the case was quite different. A regular oval harbour of five miles by one mile and one mile and three-quarters, did not allow the British commander to attempt to get the in-shore of the enemy. The batteries on shore, too, which there is reason to believe were effective, rendered such a proceeding utterly impracticable. The whole of the Turkish and Turco-Egyptian fleets were to be attacked in the formidable order of battle, viz. the crescent; with the batteries of the forts and of the island at the entrance of the harbour; that of the fort on the left, from which Ibrahim battered the town previous to its surrender to him; the island at the bottom of the harbour, and the forts of the town, all doubtless well served—taking all these circumstances into account, the results will show that the talents and courage displayed in this instance are fully equal to the brightest periods of the naval history of Great Britain. (1)

## LETTER XXIV.

*Conclusion of the History of European Affairs—The English defeated by the Ashantees in Western Africa—State of Affairs in France—Spain—and Portugal—Prussia—Italy—Austria, &c.—Death of Louis XVIII.—Accession of Charles X.—Hurricane on the Coast of Great Britain—Inundation of St. Petersburg—and of Cronstadt—Death of the Emperor Alexander, of Russia—His Brother, the Archduke Constantine, renounces his Succession to the Throne—Accession of Nicholas I. A. D. 1824, 1825.*

HAVING NOW, my dear Philip, brought the narrative of the affairs of our own country nearly to the times that are passing over us, it is necessary I should draw this series of letters to a close. There are, however, a few remaining incidents which have taken place, both here and on the continent, during the last three or four years, which I have yet to relate, and to this object I devote the pages of this my concluding epistle. I found that it was not in my power to incorporate them in chronological order with the events relating more especially to our own country, as detailed in my last letter, without distracting your attention,—a point which I have endeavoured to the utmost of my power to guard against in this history.

In the early part of the year 1824, the British government were not a little surprised at receiving intelligence that war had broken out at one of their colonies in Western Africa. The Fantees, who occupied the country near Cape-Coast Castle, were involved in hostilities through the ambitious and restless spirit of the Ashantees, a people possessing an extensive range of country immediately behind the gold coast. Unable to withstand this powerful nation, the Fantees had for some time past become vassals and tributaries to them; a treaty was concluded on that basis; and they acknowledged themselves the tenants of the victorious king. The governor of the colony, however, was not inclined to adhere to this treaty, and sir Charles M'Carthy, who was sent out from England to take the command upon the gold coast, promised to support the Fantees in a revolt from their new masters. The consequence was a war, in which the Ashantees manifested both courage and cruelty. The colonial force gained the advantage in some slight conflicts; but the Ashantees, having mustered an army of ten thousand men, came down upon the garrison of Fettue, which did not consist of one thousand, under the command of sir Charles, when they completely surrounded his battalions, most of whom they put to the sword, and among the rest the commander himself. Major Chisholm revenged in some measure this outrage, by inflicting a severe chastisement on the Ashantees; but he was precluded, by the retreat of his African auxiliaries, from converting the repulse into a defeat. In a subsequent contest, the Ashantees with a force of fifteen thousand men, were met by colonel Sutherland with about four hundred regu-

(1) Annual Register.—Parliamentary Debates.—Life and Trial of Queen Caroline.—Blaquier's Account of the Greek Revolution.—De l'Intervention armée pour la Pacification de la Grèce, par M. de Pradt.—London Gazette Extraordinary, November the 10th, 1827.

lars and militia, to whom he was enabled to add four thousand six hundred and fifty unorganized volunteers, all of whom fought with such zeal and alacrity, that the engagement was so discouraging to the enemy, that a great desertion ensued, and the Ashantees were glad to discontinue their hostile operations.

Reverting to the European continent, we shall now take a cursory survey of the actual state of some of the leading powers, from the time at which we last quitted the subject to the present period. In France the population in general, both in the metropolis and principal towns, were far from reconciled to the new order of things under the Bourbons. The murmurs of the nation were loud against the court whom they thought culpably inattentive to the affairs of Europe. Their vanity was not a little mortified at the apparent decline of that influence which formerly rendered France, a first-rate power, but which was now neutralized by the domineering spirit of the high contracting parties to the "holy alliance,"—Russia, Austria, and Prussia. The liberal party and the ultra-royalists were agreed in this; and intimations of disgust marked an address which was voted by the chamber of deputies. On one point, indeed, they differed *toto celo*, namely, on the regard which the king bestowed on the new constitution. The liberal party complained that he did not fully adhere to its various stipulations; while the other would have been better pleased had he attended less to its injunctions. This dissatisfied state of affairs induced the king to make new ministerial arrangements in which the royalists predominated. Viscount Montmorenci became minister for the foreign department, and he resolved to retrieve the honour of France by an officious interference in the affairs of Spain. Discontent showed itself by occasional insurrections, which broke out in various places, the most important of which were those at Saumur, Rochelle, and Toulon, but they were quelled with the loss of a few lives.

In the peninsula, matters were in a much more distracted state than in France. The Spanish cortes who were in possession of the reins of government, did all they could to keep the imbecile Ferdinand in check; and his attempts to shake off the trammels to which he was subject, concurred with the efforts of his adherents to create disorder and confusion. Riego presided in a session of the ordinary cortes, and that assembly pursued such a course as by no means suited the views or feelings of his majesty. At the close of the session a military riot ensued, which after some loss of lives, terminated in favour of the constitutional party. Elio, an active royalist, was tried and put to death; but this act of rigour did not deter the king's friends from pursuing their unconstitutional measures. In Navarre they were routed in several contests; in Catalonia they suffered greatly from the adroitness of general Mina; and in Arragon they were unsuccessful; yet they were not wholly subdued.

In Portugal, the revolution proceeded with singular success. The cortes completed the new constitution, though with much apparent labour; and on its promulgation it was found to bear a great resemblance to the new code of Spain. But these proceedings in Spain and Portugal could not be viewed by the three despotic powers who originated the holy alliance without poignant regret: and the emperor of Russia, in particular, beholding them with disgust and indignation, convened a congress at Verona, in which it was resolved that their ministers at the court of Madrid should remonstrate with the rulers of that country, on their late proceedings, and insist on such arrangements as might preclude the necessity of the interference of other powers. They also tutored king Ferdinand to address the cortes in a high tone, and to insist upon the relinquishment of those revolutionary measures *which menaced France with serious danger!* The British minister at Madrid protested against the right of foreign states to control an independent nation, or of dictating the system which it ought to adopt. The crowned despots, however, persisted in their unjustifiable course, and found no difficulty in prevailing on Louis XVIII. to become the instrument of carrying their determinations into effect.

in any quarter for several days after the deluge had subsided: no payments were made; no money demanded; the ordinary transactions and affairs of men were altogether forgotten amid the scene of desolation and misery. The inundation appears to have subsided almost as suddenly as it came on,—in one day it began and ended. Cronstadt was completely under water, and many vessels were lost. The imperial navy suffered greatly. A ship of the line, of one hundred guns, was found standing in the great square when the waters subsided, and two steamboats stood in the middle of the town not far from the theatre. A large ship was dashed against a house with such force that it knocked it down. By order of the governor, four hundred soldiers were employed in burying those who lost their lives on this melancholy occasion.

But to trace its ravages nearer home: at Portsmouth ships foundered in every direction. All the houses fronting the sea at Seaford had their foundations sapped, and many cottages were washed away. At Dover, the tempest was more severe than any that had been experienced for many years.—Off Margate, a brig went down, and all on board perished. The Blandon, an outward-bound West Indiaman, lying in the Downs, went down.—Off Weymouth, a large ship, the Colville, was wrecked, and all on board perished. The breakwater and nearly the whole of the esplanade were washed away.—At Plymouth, some of the shipping in the sound, parted, cut their cables, and becoming unmanageable, drove foul of other vessels, carrying away their masts, bowsprits, &c., and altogether drifting upon the rocks.—Along the Devonshire coast, nothing but wrecks were to be seen; and within the small compass of three hundred yards, were to be seen the wrecks of no less than sixteen fine merchantmen. Similar calamities, such as the unroofing of houses and the falling of chimneys, occurred in various other parts of the kingdom. This hurricane, the most extraordinary phenomenon of its kind upon record, traversed in a double curve of about four hundred leagues, in a very few minutes, the north of Europe.

During the year 1825, the northern powers, Sweden, Denmark, and Germany, remained in their usual state, without undergoing any alteration of circumstances worthy of being recorded. An order of the king of Prussia, directed to the authorities of his Rhenish provinces, prohibited the priests of the Catholic church from exacting, previous to the celebration of marriage between parents of different sects, a promise that the offspring should be brought up in the Roman Catholic system. Some of the members of the holy alliance, who had nearly renounced all intercourse with Wurtemberg, as not being sufficiently friendly to their principles, now renewed their diplomatic relations with that power. Both Russia and Austria again sent ambassadors to Stutgard, and professed to have forgiven the constitutional tendency of the feelings and maxims of the king. Maximilian Joseph, the king of Bavaria, was attacked by apoplexy, and died at Munich on the 13th of October, 1825. He was succeeded by the prince royal, Charles Louis Augustus, who was thirty-nine years of age. The late king was exceedingly popular among his subjects, and he merited their esteem. He was exempt from bigotry and prejudice, a friend to improvement, but not hasty or incautious; shrewd, sagacious, and good-tempered; not over-fond of power, and mild and temperate in the exercise of it; simple and unassuming in his manners, and very economical in his expenditure.

In the month of February of this year, the emperor Alexander of Russia issued a proclamation, convoking the estates of the kingdom of Poland for the third general diet, to open on the 13th of May, and to close on the 13th of June. The diet met at Warsaw, according to appointment, and the emperor opened their sittings with a speech, directing their attention to such measures as he considered to be most imperative and conducive to their interests. During the greater part of the year, Alexander spent his time chiefly in traversing the various provinces of his dominions. Towards the end of autumn he visited the Crimea. His health had been for some time on the decline; but in consequence of his activity in moving from place to place, and partly

also by reason of the little communication of the districts, in which he then was, with the rest of Europe, the state of his health was little known, and the reports concerning it did not attract much notice in Europe. On the 10th of November, he quitted the port of Sebastopol, after having minutely inspected it, and every thing connected with the fleet in the Black sea. On his way to Bachtiserai, he found himself slightly affected with a pain in his head, which he attributed to his having taken cold. On his return, however, he made one of a party on horseback to travel along the shore of the sea of Azof. He halted at Taganrog, a town situate on the cliff of a very lofty promontory, commanding an extensive prospect of the sea, and of all the European coast, to the mouths of the Don. On his arrival there, he felt himself too much indisposed to proceed, and he wrote to the empress-mother announcing his illness, yet, at the same time, intimating that he did not apprehend any thing serious, and that he should take all possible care of himself. His wife, the empress Elizabeth, was along with him. He had feverish symptoms about him, and was affected in the leg by a species of erysipelas. This latter disorder disappeared very suddenly, and the fever instantaneously assumed an alarming appearance. The emperor then exclaimed, "I shall share the fate of my sister, who died of an erysipelas driven in." His medical attendants, however, were of opinion, that this symptom was but subordinate, and that the disease of the emperor was a gastric bilious fever, common to those countries. On the 18th he appeared a little better, but soon relapsed. He became delirious on the 27th, and though the medical means which were used produced a marked improvement on the 28th and 29th, the change was only momentary, and death rapidly approached. He expired on the 1st of December, 1825. A few hours before his death, he ordered the blinds of his window to be thrown open; and while he surveyed the cloudless sky of the Crimea, he exclaimed, "What a lovely day." The empress Elizabeth had been with her husband during the whole of his illness, and seldom quitted his pillow. When he had breathed his last, she washed the countenance and the hands of him whom she had loved so well: she closed his eyes, crossed his hands on his bosom, and then fainted.

Thus died, in the 48th year of his age, a sovereign who must ever rank, both for public and private virtues, among the best of princes. Endowed with many accomplishments which would have distinguished an individual in common life, and blessed with great equanimity of temper, he was beloved in social intercourse. To his mother he was a most dutiful and affectionate son; and though the lax morality of the Russian court seduced him into some connexions not quite consistent with his conjugal duties, the empress Elizabeth possessed much of his confidence, and was always treated with kindness and respect. In his attention to business he was indefatigable; he was honestly and assiduously zealous for the improvement of his subjects; and though frequently placed in the most trying situations, he always conducted himself with prudence, firmness, and moderation. He was intrusted with power more vast in its extent, and more uncontrolled in its nature, than has fallen to the lot of any other man in modern times; and yet there never was any monarch by whom power was less abused. His truckling conduct towards Napoleon, at one period of his reign, and his zeal in behalf of the "holy alliance," will, no doubt, be pleaded in abatement of the perfection of the picture now drawn of him; but even against these we must set the peculiar circumstances in which he was placed, and the condition of the subjects of a great proportion of his mighty empire, whose rude and uncultivated state renders them ill qualified for the enjoyment of rational liberty.

The intelligence of the decease of Alexander produced a general inquietude throughout Europe; for it was an event which put in hazard the internal tranquillity of his vast empire, and might possibly change the course of his foreign policy. This painful apprehension was at first increased by some absurd rumours, which attributed his death to violent means; and by the opinions which were entertained concerning the character of his expected successor, his brother Constantine. In Russia itself, the death of an emperor, at once so beloved and so revered, was followed by great anxiety.

It was not until the 7th of December, that reports of Alexander's indisposition began to be spread abroad in St. Petersburg. On the 9th, notice was given that prayers for his recovery would be offered up in all the churches. In the church of Alexander Novsky, the principal nobility, ministers, generals, officers of the guards, and a great crowd of people assembled. Suddenly, before divine service was ended, major-general Niedhart, chief of the staff of the guards, entered the church, and going up to general Wanow, commander of the guards, communicated to him the sad event. It was immediately made known to all present, and the church was filled with lamentation. This intelligence had been sent from the palace, where, at the moment when prayers were in the act of being offered up in the church in presence of the imperial family, an express had arrived from Taganrog. The governor-general had communicated the fatal news to the grand-duke Nicholas. The latter, having announced it to the empress-mother, called together the guard of the palace, and took before them the oath of allegiance to the emperor Constantine I. The guard immediately followed his example and took the same oath; all the commanders of corps, together with the general staff, likewise took the oath and signed it, and then proceeded to receive the oath of the troops of the garrison. During the whole of this proceeding, the grand-duke Constantine was at Warsaw.

It was generally understood that Constantine, at, or shortly after the time of his marriage with a Polish lady of no very elevated rank, had renounced his right of succession to the imperial dignity. The senate now announced to Nicholas, that the late emperor had deposited with them, in October, 1823, a sealed packet, which they were directed, by the superscription, to open in case of his death, before they proceeded to any other act. This command they had obeyed: and they had found that the packet contained a letter of Constantine, dated the 14th of January, 1822, renouncing the succession to the throne, with a manifesto of Alexander, dated the 16th of August, 1823, ratifying Constantine's act of renunciation, and declaring Nicholas heir to the crown. It farther appeared, that documents of the same tenor had been deposited with the directing senate, with the holy synod, and in the cathedral church of the Ascension at Moscow. Nicholas, however, refused to act upon these instruments: and the directing senate, after having taken in general assembly the oath of fidelity to Constantine, issued orders that the event should be made known every where by printed ukases; that there should be sent to all the authorities, military and civil, the form of the oath which they were to take as faithful subjects of his imperial majesty, with the exception of the peasants of the crown, and of the seignoral domains, and the serfs; and that they should send to the senate the *proces verbaux* of this taking of the oath, with the signatures of the individuals appended, by whom it had been taken.

In the mean time, the news of Alexander's decease had reached Warsaw on the 7th of December, two days before the event was made known in St. Petersburg. Constantine, however, continued to live as a private individual; and, far from assuming any of the titles or emblems of royalty, despatched, on the following day, his brother, the grand-duke Michael, to the capital, with two letters, addressed, the one to the empress-mother, the other to Nicholas; in both of which he adhered to his abdication, and refused to mount the throne. After receiving formal intelligence that the oath of fidelity had been taken to him, he still persisted solemnly in his purpose; and refused to accept the official documents which were transmitted to him as emperor. Nicholas then consented to accept the imperial dignity; and by a manifesto, dated the 24th of December, announced his own accession, and communicated to the empire the instruments under which his right to the throne arose. These were, the letter from Constantine to the late emperor, expressive of his desire to abdicate the right of succession, stating that he "does not lay claim to the spirit, the abilities, or the strength, which would be required to exercise the high dignity," attaching eventually to his right of primogeniture, and declaring himself satisfied with private life—Alexander's answer, accepting the

renunciation; a manifesto by Alexander, in conformity to the preceding arrangement, settling the crown on Nicholas—and the letters dated the 26th of November, O.S. from Constantine to Nicholas and the empress-mother, referring to his former abdication, and confirming it. At the same time, the new emperor transmitted to Constantine a rescript announcing his accession; to which that prince immediately returned an answer, displaying the affection of a brother and the duty of a subject.

Though the manifesto was dated on the 24th of December, it was not till the 25th that Nicholas read, in the senate, the formal renunciation of the crown by his brother, and declared that he accepted the throne. He was immediately proclaimed emperor of Russia. On the 26th, the manifesto of Nicholas I. was published; and on the morning of that day, all the regiments of the guards were to take the oath of allegiance to the new sovereign. At noon, the general of the guards proceeded to the palace to announce that the oath had been taken by the regiment of horse-guards, as well as by several other regiments then at St. Petersburg. No accounts had been received from other regiments, but this circumstance was attributed to their barracks being at a greater distance; until it was announced that four officers of artillery had shown some opposition; that they had been put under arrest; and that the remainder of the artillery had taken the oath unanimously. Immediately afterward news was brought that three or four hundred men of the regiment of Moscow had quitted their barracks with colours flying, and had proclaimed Constantine I. These men proceeded to the square of Isaac, where they were soon joined by great numbers of the people, and by many soldiers of the body grenadier regiment, and of the marines of the guard. No other corps took part in the sedition, and the number of the factious did not exceed two thousand.

When general Miloradovitch was informed of these disorders, he hastened to the square to address the insurgents; but at that moment a man in plain clothes fired a pistol-shot at him, and he died of the wound some hours afterward. The emperor himself next appeared among them unarmed, and endeavoured to remonstrate with them on their conduct, but without success. At length, having exhausted all gentle means, and explaining to them the circumstance of the renunciation of Constantine, he was compelled, at the approach of evening, to issue orders for the troops and artillery to advance. The rebels, having formed themselves into a square, had the boldness to fire first, but they were soon dispersed, and pursued in all directions. The number killed amounted to two hundred. At six o'clock order was re-established; the troops remained faithful; and the greater portion of them bivouacked all night around the palace. The grand-duke Michael, who arrived in St. Petersburg at the moment of the tumult, succeeded in reclaiming six companies of the regiment of Moscow, who took no part in the revolt, but who had refused to take the oath.

It has been alleged that this disturbance was not the effect of any accident, or of any predilection of the soldiery for the prince who had abdicated, but the result of a revolutionary plot that had been hatching for several years, and which seized this moment as a favourable opportunity for accomplishing the designs of the conspirators, which were to be brought about by means of the assassination of the whole of the imperial family, and a general massacre of all that should adhere to their cause. With the view of investigating the subject, the emperor instantly instituted a special commission of inquiry, consisting of the grand-duke Michael, the minister of war general Tatistcheff, the privy counsellor prince Galitzin, general Berkendorff, Lewascheff, and Patapoff. This committee, it was said, quickly ascertained the nature and extent of the plot, and the names of those who were most active in its formation and management. Numerous arrests, especially of military officers, took place, both in the capital, and in the various provinces of the empire.

The real nature and extent of the alleged plot was not disclosed to the world; but that a conspiracy did exist, subsequent events too plainly evinced.

In 1823, under the flimsy pretext of forming a *cordón sanitaire*, an army of seventy thousand men was put in a state of requisition by the French government, and marched to the foot of the Pyrenees. The duke of Angoulême was selected by his royal uncle to take the command of this body of troops; but before they began to march, it was thought necessary to apply to the legislature for its sanction. The king opened the session with a speech, in which he told them that unless Ferdinand were allowed to possess the discretionary power of giving to the Spanish people institutions which they could hold only from him, war was inevitable—which was just telling them, in other words, that no public reform ought to take place in any country, and no system of tyranny to be annihilated, without the free consent of a despot! a proposition so monstrously extravagant and absurd that it requires only to be fairly stated to expose its fallacy and excite contempt. In this light it was viewed by some of the liberal party of both chambers; and Manuel, an eminent professor of jurisprudence, in delivering his sentiments, made no hesitation in denouncing Ferdinand as an atrocious tyrant, for which he was expelled the assembly of deputies, sixty of whom, nevertheless, protested against this unjustifiable proceeding. A riot was excited in Paris in favour of Manuel, but it had no very serious result. The British court remonstrated against the invasion of Spain, but the majority in both chambers supported the monarch and sanctioned his measures.

Notwithstanding the disgust which the Spanish people in general entertained for the conduct of Ferdinand, there was no very general rising to oppose the invasion of their country by the armies of France. The duke of Angoulême marched forward with all the confidence of success; and the few parties that made any effort to dispute his progress were readily put to flight. Advancing to the Ebro, the main body of the invaders passed it with little difficulty, while a strong division kept Mina in check, and the duke proceeded to Madrid with little molestation. He immediately called upon the supreme councils of Castile and the Indies to nominate five persons to act as regents of the kingdom, who readily assumed the exercise of power. In the mean time, the cortes exhibited a firm and resolute spirit. Having coolly replied to the menacing notes of the members of the holy alliance, and dismissed the ambassadors of those potentates, they declared their intention of resisting aggression with all the power which they could call into action. When informed of the seizure of Madrid, they moved the place of their sittings from Seville to Cadiz. Ferdinand at first expressed an unwillingness to accompany the deputies in their flight: but, flushed with an expectation of a speedy rescue, he acquiesced in the measure.

The French army, though in possession of the capital, had not subdued the kingdom; but the supineness of the constitutionalists was such as to occasion them little disturbance. The operations of the latter were paralyzed by the defection of Morillo and other distinguished officers who fell martyrs to French intrigue, and were seduced from the patriotic cause. Corunna and other towns were so feebly defended that they were easily reduced; Ballasteros was so harassed that he was glad to submit; Riego was pursued and taken; and Mina was driven into exile. The French now formed the siege of Cadiz; stormed an outwork called the Trocadero; successfully assaulted San Pedro, and bombarded the city until confusion and terror prevailed within its precincts. The cortes now restored the king to his liberty; and the latter, having obtained an interview with the duke of Angoulême, gave orders for the surrender of the city and its dependencies to the French. Before he regained his liberty, he pledged himself to consign to oblivion the whole conduct of the constitutionalists, and pardon every offence of which the courtiers might accuse them; but he basely violated his promise; and, not content with annulling all their acts and proceedings, he threw many of them into prison, and put the brave Riego to death. He tamely permitted the French to garrison all his principal fortresses, and virtually became a vassal of the holy alliance.

Alarmed at the rumour of what was going forward in the sister kingdom,

the patriots of Portugal applied to the English government for assistance, in case of need, and they received a favourable answer. But the danger of a counter-revolution in that country arose more from internal machinations than from external hostility. The count d'Amarante, disgusted at the new system, roused to arms the inhabitants of the northern provinces; but his early operations were attended by so little success that he was himself compelled to seek an asylum in Spain. His retreat, however, did not wholly put down the insurgents; for one of the regiments of the line revolted, and Don Miguel, the king's second son, joined the disaffected, who were presently countenanced by the greater part of the army. His majesty declared that, as a father, he would abandon the prince, and, as a king, he would punish him—but all this was mere pretence; for when the municipality of Lisbon requested to know his royal will and pleasure respecting public affairs, he replied that he was ready to change the existing government. In consequence, he appointed new ministers—the cortes on this indignantly retired; and the people acquiesced in the counter-revolution. Thus restored to the plenitude of power, the king anxiously directed his attention to the affairs of Brazil, which colony had, by this time, thrown off its dependence on the mother-country. The new sovereign, the prince royal, whom they had chosen, and who had assumed the title of constitutional protector of Brazil, offered to the Portuguese the alternative of friendship upon terms of complete equality, or a sanguinary contest. The king, his father, however, earnestly wished to reclaim the colony. Negotiations, consequently, took place between the father and the son; and the power of the latter remained in an unsettled state. He was harassed by the divisions which arose in his cabinet; the transactions of a congress which he had convoked gave him disgust, and he dissolved the assembly; and symptoms of a civil war, though transient, appeared in various parts of the empire.

The state of Italy was more tranquil at this time than that of either Spain or Portugal. In Naples and Piedmont, indeed, the system of prosecution was continued against the friends of constitutional freedom. In the territories of the church, a change of government arose, in consequence of the demise of pope Pius VII., which took place on the 20th of August, 1823. He was succeeded by the cardinal della Gonga, who assumed the title of Leo XII., and who commenced his pontificate in the style of a high-church bigot. His subsequent career has proved that he is an advocate for every practice that is old, whether right or wrong, and that he is a thorough paced slave to prejudice, and a determined foe to reform.

The king of Prussia had now been amusing his subjects for several years with promises of a regular representative government; and to fulfil his engagements, he issued a decree that assemblies should be convoked, not only for the purpose of discussing the concerns of each province, but for the investigation of the affairs of the whole nation collectively: they were to consist of representatives of the nobility, deputies for the boroughs, and yeomanry. But their discussions were little better than an unmeaning form; for, so long as his Prussian majesty retained all power in his own hands, their deliberations ended in the mere tendering of advice, which he was at perfect liberty to accept or reject—rather than in allowing the just claims of his subjects. The emperor of Austria not only continued to neglect the performance of his promise respecting popular freedom, but under the pretence of some late resolutions in the German diet, he in various instances checked the liberal spirit which actuated the kings of Wurtemberg and Bavaria, and concurred with the emperor of Russia and king of France in recommending restrictions on the liberty of the press in Switzerland, and the suppression of reading societies, in the haughty tone which enforced compliance. The king of the Netherlands, however, manifested a greater regard to the interests of his subjects, by the adoption of prudent measures of internal improvement, and the regulation of commerce. He disapproved of the interference of France in the affairs of Spain; and was disgusted with the prohibitory system pursued by the French government with regard to com-

merce, the illiberality of which he retaliated by imitating their own example.

In France, during the year 1824, the most important of the matters which occupied the chambers and the public was a plan introduced by M. de Villele for reducing the interest of the national debt, which, though it passed the chamber of deputies, was rejected by the peers. Another important topic, though properly between the ministry and the public, that created a considerable ferment at the time, regarded the freedom of the press, which was powerfully advocated by the viscount de Chateaubriand, in a spirited pamphlet—and the law officers of the crown were defeated in their attempts to prosecute the editors of several journals of the liberal cast. In these contests, however, the king himself took little interest; his health had been for some time in a declining state, and he fell a victim to the gout, erysipelas, and other disorders. The complication of maladies which afflicted the monarch had for some time been gradually exhausting the powers of nature, and for several months previous to his dissolution, his existence had been little else than a protracted agony, which he sustained with manly fortitude. The first public declaration of his danger was contained in a document signed by four physicians and the count de Damas, first gentleman of the chamber, dated at the Tuileries, September the 12th, at six in the morning. "The old and permanent infirmities of the king," said this bulletin, "having sensibly increased for some days past, his health has appeared exceedingly impaired, and has been the subject of more frequent consultations. The constitution of his majesty, and the attention which is paid him, have maintained for some days the hope of seeing his health restored to its usual state; but it cannot now be dissembled that his strength has considerably declined, and that the hope that was entertained must be also weakened." On the following day the danger became so imminent, that the king had the rites of the Catholic church administered to him; and at four o'clock of the morning of the 15th, he expired.

Louis XVIII. was succeeded in the throne by his brother, the comte d'Artois, under the title of Charles X., who, accompanied by the dauphin, the dauphiness, and the dutchess of Berri, immediately on receiving intelligence of the king's death, set out for St. Cloud; and there on the following day received numerous addresses. The members of the chambers of peers and of the deputies were presented to him, and in reply to their testimonies of condolence he made a suitable return. Four days after the funeral of his brother, the late king, the new monarch, Charles X., entered Paris in state. The prefect of the city presented him with the keys of the city of Paris; on which the monarch replied—"I leave the keys in your care, because I know that I cannot commit them to more faithful hands. Keep them, then, gentlemen, keep them. It is with sentiments of deep sorrow, and sincere joy, that I enter within these walls, in the midst of my good people—of joy, because I know well that I wish to occupy myself in consecrating my life, to my last hour, in securing and consolidating their happiness." And the first act of the reign of Charles X. was certainly of a popular description. On the 29th of September he published a decree, in which he declared that he did not judge it necessary to maintain any longer the measure which was adopted under different circumstances against the abuses of the liberty of the journals, and thus the censorship once more ceased in France.

As to the late king, it may suffice to say, that Louis was born on the 17th of November, 1755, and had been a widower since the year 1810, when he lost his wife, who was a princess of the house of Saxony. He possessed most of the qualities which, in private life, constitute an accomplished gentleman—an amiable temper—considerable powers of conversation—much acquired knowledge—and a keen relish of social enjoyments. In public life, he may be said to have somewhat justified the character which Napoleon passed upon the whole race of princes of the house of Bourbon, namely, that of "imbeciles"—for he can scarcely be said to have possessed the energy and talents which are required in situations of great and imminent danger; never-

theless, where prudence and management could avail, he was qualified to play his part with no mean dexterity. His situation on the throne of France "was certainly not a bed of roses," for he was encompassed with perplexing circumstances; and it must be allowed that he steered through the difficulties with no small skill. The day before his decease, he said to the present king, who stood beside his bed, "Judgment will soon be passed upon my reign; but whatever may be the prevailing opinion, I assure you, my brother, that every thing I have done has been the result of long deliberation. I may have been mistaken; but I have not been the sport, the slave of events; every thing has been conducted and argued by me."

Protected by the French armies, the king of Spain prosecuted a career of misgovernment which could not but disgust every friend to freedom and the rights of man. Adverting to this subject, in the British house of commons at the opening of the session of 1824, Mr. Brougham indignantly held him up, as an active agent for all the purposes of the holy alliance, insisting—and he defied any man to deny it—that he was more the object of contempt, disgust, and abhorrence of civilized Europe, than any other individual now living. "There he is," continued the learned gentleman, "a fit companion for the unholy band of kings who have restored him to the power which he has so often abused, in order to give him an opportunity of abusing it once more: there he is, with the blood of Riego yet dripping on his head, seeking fresh victims for the scaffold, and ready to proceed on the first summons to the torture of the helpless women and unoffending children whom fortune may have placed in his power." It is needless to specify the particulars of his impolitic course; let it suffice to say, that having submitted to the occupation of his fortresses by French troops, he was content to reign under the imposing authority of a foreign cabinet. His treasury was completely drained, inso-much that he was obliged to borrow money to defray the expenses of his journey from Madrid to Aranjuez. He affected to be placable and forgiving; but when he published an act of amnesty, it was clogged with so many exceptions that it was almost as much an edict of punishment as of pardon. If he made an ostensible change in his cabinet, and appointed men of moderate principles and upright intentions, he counteracted their measures by adopting the sinister advice of bigoted ecclesiastics or of blind and obstinate royalists. He still wished to reclaim his colonial subjects in America; but they derided his offer, proclaimed their independence, and promulgated a constitution evidently borrowed from that of the United States; and every prospect of his ever again recovering them vanished into thin air.

The close of the year, November 19th, 1824, was signalized by a hurricane that was almost unprecedented. It appeared to have originated on the coasts of England and Holland, from whence it swept along the North Sea, which was every where furiously agitated. There were dreadful shipwrecks on the coast of Jutland. It traversed Sweden, prostrating whole forests in its course. Gottenburg and Stockholm suffered much. The hurricane forced the waters of the Baltic into the gulf of Finland. At St. Petersburg there was an inundation of the Neva, such as was never before remembered. In some parts of the city, the waters rose to such a height and with so great rapidity, that the inhabitants had no time to save themselves, but men, women, and children indiscriminately perished. The storm was so violent as to roll up the sheet iron which covered the roofs of many houses; broke in doors and windows every where, and combining its force with that of the current, swept away some of the slightest habitations. The magazines of wine, sugar, and other merchandise, being principally in cellars underground, and in the lower parts of the city, damage to the amount of several millions was sustained by the merchants. On the following day the streets were crowded with the bodies of animals that had been drowned—with fire-wood, the stores of which had been broken up, and drifted away in all directions—with ships that had burst from their moorings. Whole villages in the neighbourhood of St. Petersburg were swept away! No food could be had