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**A NARRATIVE**  
OF  
**A FEW WEEKS IN BRUSSELS**  
IN 1830.

In reading the history of a free people, whose rights have been invaded, we are interested in their cause. Our own feelings tell us how long they ought to have submitted, and at what moment it would have been treachery to themselves, not to have resisted. JUNIUS.

BY A RESIDENT.

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PUBLISHED BY PRATT AND BARRY  
AND  
DÉMENCEOT AND GOODMAN  
BRUSSELS.



**Robert Washington Gates**

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**BRUSSELS.**

RB.23. a. 1795



## INTRODUCTION.

The compiler of this brief narrative, trusts that it will be found faithful and impartial.

If it should pass into a second edition, he will give due notice, in order to receive the correction of any errors that may have crept into this, and to add such details as the progress of events may render interesting.





BRUXELLES.



*Lith. de J. J. Van der*

JEUDI 23 SEPTEMBRE 1830

# NARRATIVE

OF

## A FEW WEEKS IN BRUSSELS

DURING

### THE REVOLUTION OF 1830.

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THE great events detailed in the following pages are such as might have been anticipated by those who reflected on the extreme difficulty of preserving unity betwixt two countries differing in religion and manners, and regarding each other with increasing jealousies and hereditary antipathies. When to these causes is added that of an unbending monarch, refusing redress to the portion which had long and bitterly complained of an undue share of the public burthens, and of a lavish prodigality towards those among whom he was born and whose habits he mainly adopted—of his determined support of a minister who had rendered himself more lastingly odious than any minister on record—and his unwise countenance of an unprincipled editor, whose journal was supported from the taxes of the

people whom it daily insulted; no one can wonder at the sudden explosion which burst from these inflammable materials, coming in immediate contact with the late French Revolution.

To this state of things, the Press—that powerful representative of the people—opposed itself with amazing effect, astounding the minister, and menacing the security of his position. This system of annoyance was of course resisted. Gagging laws were enacted, prosecutions instituted, and condemnations pronounced and executed with that unrelenting severity, which, sooner or later, is sure to recoil on the administration. Of the martyrs to this system was Mr. De Potter, a gentleman of fortune and considerable talent, who, by his strong writings against the government of the Netherlands, soon became a great favourite of the Belgian people, and a marked victim of the minister of justice. In the early part of the spring, Mr. De Potter was arrested, and tried with five others on a charge of “having excited a plot, having for its object the change or destruction of the government of the kingdom of the Netherlands.” Mr. De Potter was condemned, with three others, after a lengthened trial, to a heavy fine and a long period of banishment. This severe sentence excited universal indignation; and from this period may be dated

that deep excitement which agitated, with tenfold vigour, the old claims of the right of trial by jury, responsibility of ministers, freedom of instruction, fair participation of offices, equality of taxation, etc. Petitions on these subjects were prepared from all quarters, and the elections exhibited in the Southern Provinces, a marked declension of the power of the government. It was during this state of excitement that the French Revolution burst forth, and communicated its influence to the Pays-Bas.

That some manifestation of revolt was apprehended on the 24th of August (the King's birth day) is clear, from the fact of the review of the garde communale having been deferred on account of the *uncertainty* of the weather, the truth being, that the military authorities were afraid of trusting citizen-soldiers with arms; and the counter-order for the intended illumination of the Park, for which preparations had been made on a scale of extraordinary magnificence. Notwithstanding these precautions, a number of people assembled in front of the Hotel de Belle-Vue, crying out *Vive De Potter!* etc.; but on that night, nothing serious occurred. In the course of the day, however, several inflammatory placards had been posted up, which were removed by the police.

On the evening of the 25th the opera of *La*

*Muette de Portici* was given at the great theatre, much against the wish of the censors who tried every means to evade the necessity of its performance. The house was crowded, and the most enthusiastic cheers greeted those airs which breathed the spirit of liberty. A crowd gathered together on the Place de la Monnaie, and the general impression was, that a riot must ensue. The Cafés and shops which were in the habit of remaining open until a late hour were closed sooner than usual, yet, strange to say, neither the civic nor military authorities took the least precaution against the possibility of an event for which every mind was prepared. At 10 o'clock, a crowd of young men rushed from the theatre, calling out *Vive la Liberté! Vive de Potter! à bas Van Maanen!* etc. They were joined from all points of the Place, and in a few minutes proceeded to the printing-office of the *National*, in the Rue Fossé-aux-Loups, the windows of which they quickly demolished, together with the types and printing materials: thence they hurried on with accumulating force to the house of Libry-Bagnano, proprietor of the obnoxious journal, in the Rue de la Madeleine, broke his doors and windows, effected an entrance, and threw every article of furniture, books, etc., into the street, which was now choked up by the

mob, among whom were discovered, under mean garbs, several Frenchmen of a respectable station, who were doubtless actively employed in giving a great political turn to the movement. A few mounted gendarmes and a company of grenadiers presented themselves at the scene of tumult, but either being unwilling to act, or fearful of the result, after the recent example of a Parisian resistance, they moved off without attempting to charge or fire upon the people. It is generally believed, that if the soldiers had acted with promptitude, the mob would have instantly dispersed, and that the horried scenes which have since been so rapidly witnessed in this beautiful city would have been averted till such time as the government, lessoned by the fate of that of France, into a more pliant system, would, in all probability, have recommended to the States-General partial, if not complete, measures of conciliation; the grand question of a separation not having been even dreamed of, at that early stage of the revolution.

From the Rue de la Madelaine, a portion of the mob, drunk with the wine from Bagnano's cellar, branched off to the discordant sound of kettles, etc., through the Rue de l'Empereur and the Rue de Paille, and broke the windows of the Court of Assizes, while another and larger division pro-

ceeded to the house of M. de Knyff, Director of Police, in the Rue de Berlaimont, which having completely sacked, they paused to concert plans of further devastation.

A loud cry of "Arms! Arms!" soon broke up the democratical council, and they immediately retraced their steps to the Rue de la Madeleine, where they broke open every shop likely to contain guns, swords, or ammunition; and in order that the paraphernalia of war might be complete, they forced open a music shop near the Palais de Justice, containing a plentiful supply of trumpets, drums, and bassoons, with which they made "sounds most unmusical the live-long night."—The commotion had now assumed an alarming height, and it became evident that the great Parisian drama was about to be acted on the minor political stage of this capital. The lamps in the main streets were broken, and the lights extinguished; a few which, having escaped attention, emitted a solitary glare, served only to give a more terrific appearance to the wild movements of an ungovernable mob, who brandished their weapons with menacing fury, and tore down, or effaced, every sign which bore the name or insignia of royalty. Towards eleven o'clock the Commandant of the town repaired to the Hotel de Ville, in

front of which a strong body of horse gendarmes were stationed, whilst others patrolled the street in small detachments, unmolested by the mob whose object was to gain them over to their side. On the Place Royale, a troop of horse and two companies of infantry were stationed. To these two points the people divided their attention. A large body moved up the Montagne de la Cour, bearing a flag formed from the window curtains of M. de Knyff. At the summit of the hill they made a halt in front of the military on the Place Royale, shouting "*Vive la Liberté! Vive la Belgique! Vive de Potter! à bas Van Maanen!* and occasionally *Vive Napoleon!* At one o'clock, a pistol was fired in the air, and the clamour of the crowd became incessant. The soldiers remained steadily under arms; a group of officers conversed together in front of the ranks, suffering the citizens to mix with them, and mildly exhorting them to abstain from any acts of violence. The crowd, however, pressed on; the officer in command stepped forward and enquired what they wished?—Liberty! and Justice! were heard in wild confusion. A soldier at the same moment stepped out of the ranks, and in a supplicating tone, entreated the people to retire, and not force them into the abhorrent duty of shedding Belgian blood: upon this, they passed off with loud

cheers, and turned the corner of the Café de l'Amitié, with the apparent intention of proceeding to the King's palace. The company of horse observing this movement, resolved to check it, and with this view rode off to the large space in front of the King's palace, and drew in line for its protection. Here, as on the Place Royale, the mob parlied with them, reminding them that they were Belgians and brothers, and importuning them to remain strictly passive. The military conducted themselves extremely well during this trying occasion, neither molesting the people nor flinching from their station. The crowd next moved off, firing their pieces in the air at intervals during the night, to the great alarm of the peaceable citizens.

Towards four o'clock in the morning of Thursday, the rioters proceeded in strong force to the house of M. Van Maanen, Minister of Justice, in the Place du Petit Sablon, facing the Prison des Petits Carmes. Deeply exasperated, they rushed in, uttering the most vengeful cries against that detested minister. The furniture and every thing in the house was destroyed: in vain did a military force present itself, and endeavour to restore order; the popular fury was not to be restrained; the soldiers were attacked, and compelled to retire. After this first explosion, the people appeared to delibe-

rate; they then set the house on fire, and placing themselves around it, formed the savage resolution of not retiring till it was burned to the ground. The flames rose with terrific grandeur, and being agitated by a strong wind, threatened to consume the adjacent buildings. No engines were allowed to approach, nor were the firemen permitted to use the slightest effort towards rescuing the edifice from total destruction. The populace were now up in every quarter of the city, and arming themselves in every possible manner, moved forward in open insurrection. It became time for the military force to make a greater display. At day-light a battalion of chasseurs and one of grenadiers paraded the streets in companies. The Place du Sablon was the point of highest excitement, and to this the military proceeded in greatest force. Several large trees had already been cut down to serve as barriers, and the two first companies of grenadiers which presented themselves were received with shouts of defiance. The troops fired platoon volleys, by which several were killed; but the insurgents refused to disperse, and falling *en masse* on the soldiers, compelled them to surrender their arms.

An incessant firing was now heard in various quarters of the city, especially in the Place du Grand Sablon, the Great Market Place, the Rue

de la Madelaine, and the Rue de Louvain, near the barracks. The inhabitants were seen hurrying to and fro in frightful disorder, uncertain whether to remain or to depart from the town. Those who adopted the latter alternative, found the utmost difficulty in executing their intentions: no diligence would set out, and the livery-stablekeepers were demanding the most exorbitant prices for vehicles and horses—as much as three hundred francs were given for only a pair to Antwerp.

The resistance of the troops, by exasperating the public mind, tended only to animate and prolong the struggle. The people continually cried out to the soldiers, « Withdraw, surrender, return to your barracks, and promise not to fire any more. » The hearts of the officers and soldiers recoiled at the idea of shedding the blood of their fellow-citizens, friends, and brothers. Listening to the repeated exhortations, they asked to be considered in a state of neutrality, on condition of abstaining from the contest. By degrees the firing ceased. At eight o'clock in the morning, many respectable inhabitants joined the officers of the communale guards in the barracks of the Annonciades : they asked and obtained arms, and in a short time patrols of the civic guards were organised, who paraded the streets, intervened between the combatants, and relieved the different



posts occupied by the *pompriers*, or by the troops of the garrison. Every hour witnessed the increase of this civic or burgher guard, to whom the capital owes its rescue from the horrors of a mob-dominion. At about eleven o'clock, the troops having discontinued hostilities, concentrated in front of the Palaces of the King and the Prince of Orange, permitting the guard to place sentinels round the latter building, as well as at every other post in the city hitherto guarded by the military, except the Palace of the King. These measures gave general satisfaction, and inspired confidence; and from this moment a good understanding seemed to subsist between the civic and military authorities. The former constituting the Regency of Brussels, issued a proclamation in the course of the morning, announcing the abolition of the *Mouture*, or tax on grinding, a municipal impost, which had long existed, to the great dissatisfaction of the inhabitants, especially the poorer classes, from whom it was sought by this measure of grace to remove a pretext for giving themselves up to plunder in the midst of the confusion inevitable during an insurrection. A second proclamation, posted by the Regency in the course of the day, engaged that the troops should remain in their barracks, confided the safety of the town to the armed inhabitants, and promised that the wishes of the public

should become the subject of serious consideration, with a view to immediate satisfaction. About three o'clock the old standard of Brabant, red, orange, and black, which recalls to the mind splendid periods of history, was raised on the Hotel de Ville, amidst the cheers of the people. All the armed men who were found in the street were compelled to enrol themselves in the burgher guard; this step was rendered the more necessary, on account of the many vagabonds and thieves who began to show themselves with the intention of taking advantage of the confusion to plunder the city.

These intentions being overawed by the firmness and activity of the citizens, the inhabitants of both sexes were seen walking out with as much confidence as on ordinary occasions: the churches were opened, but the shops still remained shut through precaution. In addition to the excesses which have been already mentioned, it was now observed that the multitude, enraged against Colonel Vauthier (the commanding officer who first ordered the troops to fire), had thrown every article of furniture out of his house into the square of the Grand Sablon, where they committed it to the flames, and that the hotel of the Governor of the Province, having been mis-

taken for the *seat of government*, had been consigned to a similar fate. The loss of the registers consequent on this unfortunate error is much to be deplored. The receiving lodges at the different gates had likewise been in part demolished.

Some excesses were inseparable from such events, but many of the workmen of Brussels displayed a courage, a decision, and a presence of mind above all praise—the disinterestedness of some was remarkable. Some men who were strangers to the town betrayed an evil disposition, but the lower classes of Brussels in general conducted themselves well; and workmen to whom money was offered, accepted only enough to procure refreshments. The night of Thursday passed without disturbance, although some apprehensions were entertained from threatening appearances in the course of the day.

The command of the civic guard, among whom was a corps of cavalry, was entrusted to Baron Vanderlinden d'Hoogvorst, a man of moderate patriotic principles, and possessed of the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens; but as this command did not devolve upon him until nine in the morning of Friday, the organization and distribution of this force was not completed before

noon. Meanwhile the rabble found their way into the park, and tearing down the frames erected for the illumination on the 24th, piled them together on the grass-plots, and set fire to them. The temporary building erected at Vauxhall, together with the coloured lamps, shared the common ruin. About two in the afternoon all was consumed; not a tree fortunately having been damaged by the fire. During this day and night the troops remained stationary before the King's palace, not interfering with any thing that passed around them. Generals Vauthier; d'Aubrémé, Oberson, and De Bylandt, were within the palace. Whilst these things were passing in the upper town, the lower part and centre of the city remained perfectly tranquil, the markets being supplied and attended as usual. Towards seven in the evening, however, the rioters evidently increased in number. Several parties of them were dispersed without any violence being employed; but on the Place Royale, opposite the Café de l'Amitié, one of the largest of these assemblies manifested a disposition to disarm the civic guards, and were actually proceeding to make the attempt, when two numerous patrols immediately came up, and used all their endeavours to stop them.

The crowd, however, rushed upon them, crying, "Down with your arms!" The citizens halted, and finding there was no alternative, they were formed into a line and ordered to fire. One general discharge dispersed the rioters, who had three of their party killed, and several more or less severely wounded. This display of energy and resolution produced a good effect. The crowds disappeared, and it was no doubt owing to this painful but indispensable act of severity that the night passed over in tranquillity. The night patrols were made with admirable order. The commandant-in-Chief, Baron d'Hoogvorst, and the second in command, Major Vandersmissen, a brave and distinguished officer of artillery, regularly visited the posts, and were every where received with enthusiasm. The inhabitants, acting under the advice of the Regency, illuminated their houses during this and many succeeding nights.

Deprived by these means of the power of doing mischief within the walls of the city, the rabble assembled at night outside of the lower town, and acting under the same senseless and brutal ideas against the use of machinery which once characterized the Luddites of Nottingham, proceeded at the instigation of some diabolically jealous

individuals who gave them money, to destroy four manufactories, the largest of which was one for bleaching, and calico-printing belonging to our countryman M. Wilson of Uccle : this with the immense stock it contained, was entirely consumed. (a)

It will be perceived from the foregoing details, that the first movements of this strange insurrection were produced by the poor without bread, whose feelings, from recent discussions and events, had gained a political tendency, and who traced their sufferings—not to inevitable causes operating on the state of trade, but—to the injustice and oppression of government and its agents. The upper ranks shared the political dissatisfaction of their distressed countrymen, but dreaded their disposition to pillage and violence. Their first care, therefore, was to mix with the mob in order to master it—to inculcate abstinence from plunder, to protect property, and to restore order. With the design of satisfying the lower rioters as far as lay in their power, the city authorities or regency announced the abolition of the only taxes at their disposal which pressed upon the poor—namely, the flour or bread tax, and the tax on meat, or the *abat-tage*.

Besides this, they gave them bread, and offered to those destitute of means, employment at the canal, and other public works. The next object was to disarm them, which was easily effected, by purchasing all the guns, and swords found in their possession.

Having thus disposed of a populace who had torn down the royal ensigns, and clamoured for a change of dynasty, without understanding the question on which they had so promptly decided, the higher actors commenced their career of political labours and difficulties.

They had never dreamed of a change in the dynasty as a thing possible, nor had their wishes represented it as a thing to be desired. With union and moderation, the *notables* of Brussels with the Burgomaster and the members of the city regency at their head, adopted the following address to the king :

“ Sire, the undersigned, your respectful and faithful subjects, take the liberty, under the difficult circumstances in which the city of Brussels is at this moment placed, as well as other cities of the kingdom, to depute to your Majesty five of its citizens, the Baron Joseph d’Hoogvorst, Counts Felix de Merode, Gendebien, Frederic de Secus, and Palmaert senior, to state, that ne-

ver at a similar crisis did the good people merit more the esteem of your Majesty, and public gratitude. They have, by their firmness and courage, calmed in three days the menacing effervescence, and put a stop to serious disorders.

“ But, Sire, they cannot conceal from your Majesty that the discontent has taken deep root: everywhere are felt the consequences of a bad system, followed up by ministers who misunderstand our wishes and our wants. Now, nothing assures the good citizens of Brussels that, if the nation be not appeased, they will not themselves be the victims of their efforts. They therefore supplicate you, Sire, by all the generous sentiments which animate the heart of your Majesty, to listen to their voices, and to put a termination to their just grievances. Full of confidence in the goodness of your Majesty, and their own justice, they have only deputed to you their fellow citizens to acquire the desired certainty that all the evils of which they complain shall be repaired as soon as known.

“ The undersigned are convinced that one of the best modes of effecting so desirable an end will be the immediate convocation of the States General.

“ Brussels, this 28th August, 1830.

(Here follow a great number of signatures.)

Besides presenting the above address, the deputation was authorized to develop the wishes of the people of Brussels as follows.

1. The entire, frank, and sincere execution of the fundamental law, without restriction or interpretation in favour of the Government, either by decrees, ministerial circulars, or cabinet rescripts.

2. The removal from the Ministry, of the infamous and odious Van Maanen.

3. The provisional suspension of the *abattage*, until the assembling of the next session of the States General.

4. A new electoral system, established by a law, making the elections proceed more directly from the people.

5. The re-establishment of the jury.

6. A new law of judiciary organization.

7. The penal responsibility of Ministers, established by law.

8. A law fixing the seat of the High court in the southern provinces.

9. The cessation of intended prosecutions of liberal writers.

10. The abrogation of all sentences of condemnation for political offences.

11. That bread be distributed to all unfortunate workmen to supply their wants, until they are able to resume their labour.

The ancient University Cities of Liège and Louvain with others of minor consequence sent about the same time to the Hague deputations with demands of a similar nature. Those of Liège merit a notice here, as embracing the most ultra-objects of the malcontents.

“A complete change of the system followed up to the present moment : the frank execution of the fundamental law.

Dismissal of the unpopular Ministry, whose acts have specially offended Belgium.

Their substitution by men who know how to conciliate the interests of all the provinces of the kingdom,—who acknowledge, as ought to be the case under a representative Government, the full and entire responsibility of their acts, the only means of maintaining entire, the principle of the King’s inviolability.

The establishment of ministerial responsibility by a special law.

The complete and sincere repudiation of the system especially sanctioned by the fatal message of the 11th of December, 1829.

The institution of the jury to take cognizance of political offences, and in particular of all trials of the press, and other political matters—a guarantee of which we have been deprived under a provisional government.

The unlimited freedom of teaching, to be consecrated by a law.

The complete freedom of the press, and the repeal of the late law on this subject—a law, the first article of which has given occasion to a real crusade against that sacred freedom, and to interpretations contrary to the true spirit of our fundamental charter, because they tend to cover the hostile acts of the Ministry with the mantle of royal inviolability.

The establishment of the High Court in one of the southern towns, within the reach of all the clients of the kingdom.

The re-establishment of the patent duties in the electoral census, conformably to the regulations of the towns and to the fundamental law.

A law guaranteeing freedom of speech on all matters, administrative and judiciary.

The equal distribution of public employment between the natives of north and south.

The abolition of the bounty of 1,000,000 fl in favour of trade, the scandalous distribution of which has not a little tended to shackle it, and excite universal discontent among well disposed persons.

Lastly, to pray that the King will be pleased immediately to convoke the Chambers, the

session of which would not commence till October, in order that they may redress the wrongs of which we complain. »

The deputation, composed of persons remarkable for their moderation, good sense and honest designs, set out to the Hague with this address on the morning of Sunday 29th August. Previously to this, reinforcements of troops had entered the city, and many more were drawing around it. So great was the alarm amongst the inhabitants in consequence, that it was deemed prudent by the commandant of the civic guard to obtain from count de Bylandt commander in chief of the troops of the province of middle Brabant, a promise "that the soldiers who were marching to enter the town, would not enter, so long as the inhabitants respected all the civil authorities, and preserved good order" This promise was announced by proclamations from Baron Vanderlinden d'Hoogvorst, and Count Bylandt. This line of temporary neutrality on the part of the military, was successively adopted in the cities of Liége, Namur, Louvain, Bruges, and other places where the spirit of insurrection had burst forth. Various opinions prevailed at this period, as to the disposition of the troops; it was however generally supposed that in the event of

a struggle, they would remain with the people.

The interval between the departure and return of the deputation to the Hague, was one of intense anxiety. "What! " it was observed by the groups assembled in the cafés and public places, "will the king hesitate to dismiss a minister so obnoxious to his people? Will he still persist in his system of partiality to the Dutch? He has already, wept on hearing of the bloodshed of his subjects surely he will not hazard a repetition of the disaster, by refusing our petitions? " Separation, still less a change of dynasty, was an object never contemplated at this stage of the revolution. The prompt dismissal of the minister, and a gracious promise, to submit to the States-General the whole, or even part, of the remaining questions, would at this moment have appeased the Belgian people, and retained the monarch in possession of one of the richest countries on the surface of the globe. Alas! that the dark infatuation of kings should be impervious even to the awful light of recent events, and that the rod of despotism should be held by them with a stronger grasp, than the hallowed charter of free constitutions!

On Monday night, the Prince of Orange accompanied by his brother the Prince Frederick,

arrived at Vilvorde at the head of a large body of troops. On the following morning at eleven o'clock, Baron d'Hoogvorst having been invited to the head-quarters of the princes, proceeded thither accompanied by five others, whose names appear in the following proclamation, which will best shew the object and result of their conference. At five o'clock in the evening they returned, and at ten o'clock the following was given from the balcony of the Town Hall.

#### “ PROCLAMATION.

“ Fellow-citizens,—The Commander-in-Chief of the Civic Guard having been invited to the head-quarters of the Princes, proceeded thither, accompanied by MM. Baron Vandermissen, the Chevalier Hotton, Count Vanderburch, Rouppe, and Silvain Vander Weyer. After expressing to the Princes the wish that they should come alone within our walls, he obtained the assurance, that the troops would not be sent in until the subjoined propositions were answered. However, the Princes attached to their entrance into Brussels conditions to which the Commander and the other members of the Council who accompanied him did not consider themselves at liberty to concede, without previously consulting

the general wish by a publication, which was requested by the Princes themselves. The Commander therefore considers himself bound in the discharge of his duty to his fellow-citizens, to publish the following document signed by the two Princes :—

“ ‘ You may state to the brave Citizens of Brussels, that the Princes are at the gate of this royal residence, and open their arms to all who wish to come to them. They are prepared to enter the city surrounded by the citizens, and followed by the military force destined to relieve them from that painful service of guarding the town, which they have hitherto executed, as soon as the colours and standards which are not legal shall be laid aside, and deposited, and the insignia which a misled multitude have defaced, shall be restored.

“ ‘ WILLIAM, Prince of ORANGE.

“ ‘ FREDERICK, Prince of the NETHERLANDS.

“ It was resolved, that a certain number of members of the civic guard should be deputed to the Princes, to obtain changes in the preceding conditions, and that the sections should be immediately desired to repair to the head quarters,

by a deputation of twenty-five, at an hour to be communicated by them.

“ **BARON EM. VANDERLINDEN D’HOOGVORST.**

“ **Brussels, August 31.**”

The passages in this proclamation, relative to the colours and the entrance of troops, were received with loud disapprobation. The whole city was in motion, and groups of women standing at every door, saw with alarm the bustle of armed men, and listened with dismay to the noise caused by the unpaving of streets, and the hurried construction of barricades. The fate of the city rested on the success or failure of the second deputation consisting of Baron de Secus, Major Vandersmissen, the Prince de Ligne, M. Delfosse, and Teichman. This Deputation did not return to Brussels till midnight, and the members were obliged to climb over the numerous barricades which had been formed during their absence. Fortunately they were the bearers of other concessions. The particulars of the interview obtained by the two deputations with the Princes, are interesting.

The members of the first deputation, on arriving at the head quarters at Vilvorde, were immediately admitted to an audience. Two of them,

the General Commandant of the Civic Guard, and M. Rouppe, conversed first with the Princes. After speaking of the conduct of the Civic Guard in the most flattering terms, the Prince of Orange said to M. Rouppe — “ You, doubtless, know the penal code; you wear illegal colours in my headquarters, and I could \* \* \* “ M. Rouppe replied, that he wore the colours of the citizens whom he represented; that the Brabant colours had been assumed to prevent the hoisting the French tri-coloured flag every where, as it had already been in several quarters; and that the colours now mounted were not the ensigns of rebellion, but of patriotism; finally, that the deputation had come in full confidence to the Princes, and that as for the rest \* \* \*

After this separate conference, the Prince went to the other members of the deputation, and said, with an altered voice, and his eyes filled with tears, “ Gentlemen, I have stated to the gentlemen I have just left what my intention is. Here you have in writing the substance of my conversation and my conditions. Examine them; communicate them to your fellow-citizens, and may God bless you! “

The second deputation was at first received at Vilvorde with much coldness. The Princes ap-

peared little disposed to change their resolution. Warm altercations took place. Each of the deputies in succession addressed the Princes, pointed out to them the agitation which prevailed in Brussels, and conjured them not to drive to the last extremity a brave and determined population. The Prince de Ligne declared with much emotion, that if an entrance into Brussels by force were persisted in, it must be done by passing over his body. Another deputy said to the Prince that he would hold him personally responsible for the blood which might be spilt.

The Prince of Orange persisted; but at last, having had a private conference first with Prince Frederick, and afterwards with M. Van Gobelschroy, he decided on an answer which authorized the adoption of the measures announced in the following proclamation and order of the day.

**“PROCLAMATION.**—The Prince of Orange will come to day alone and without troops. He wishes the civic guard to come out to meet him. The Deputies have engaged to guarantee his person, and that he shall be at liberty to enter the town with his civic guard or to retire if he should think proper.”

**“ORDER OF THE DAY.**—The Chiefs of the Sections are requested to assemble to-day at ten precisely, each with the whole of his section *in arms*, and *in the best state*, in

the square of the Town-hall, where they will form in battle order, in two ranks, to proceed to meet his Royal Highness the Prince of Orange. A weak guard to be left at each post.

“C. A. VANDER MEERE, Major on duty.”

At eleven o'clock on Wednesday Sep. 1<sup>st</sup>, the civic guard assembled on the great square of the Hotel de Ville. It was a splendid sight. Eight thousand bayonets bristled in the glorious sunshine, and fifty banners floated over heads sternly devoted to the cause of constitutional liberty. The figure of Saint Michæl the tutelary patron of the City, and peculiarly that of battle, crowned the old Gothic pinnacle above them, and seemed on this great day to wave his flaming sword with an animated reality. The faded magnificence of this ancient square seemed to revive, and the forms of beauty which decked its noble balconies in the days of imperial grandeur, were seen renascent in the air of patriotic freedom.

At noon they moved onward, to meet the prince. On reaching the porte de Laeken, the head of the column defiled into three ranks, and in that order continued to advance along the Antwerp road to the place called La Perche, where the head of the column halted o await

the arrival of the Prince. The line of men thus drawn up three deep extended to the church of the Finisterre, a space of at least a mile. At one o'clock the Prince of Orange dressed in a General's uniform, and accompanied by only four of his officers, arrived at the Pont de Laeken, and soon reached the head of the column of the Civic Guards whose staff received him. His Royal Highness passed along the front of the line towards the City. The guards presented their arms to him, but not a single exclamation escaped from the ranks. Every feeling was as if by common accord, restrained by the desire of convincing the prince that the first and principal wish of the whole population was the redress of the national grievances.

The Prince, on seeing this compact mass of soldiers, collected together and organised as if by enchantment, and the streets partly unpaved, appeared surprised and astonished. But on observing the calmness and loyalty of the population which surrounded him, he could not avoid giving way to lively emotion.

In passing along the line of Guards, His Royal Highness appeared pale and agitated, but addressed a few words to several persons.

“ It is well my friends” he exclaimed, “ it is

well; your bravery has preserved the city!" He said to M. Michiels, Captain of the 8th section, who formed part of the second deputation to Vilvorde, and had forcibly described the resolution of the people of Brussels to defend their town against the attack of troops—"Well, M. Michiels, you see that I keep my word, and come and place myself in the midst of you!"

In the Place de la Monnaie cries of "Vive le Prince, vive la liberté! a bas Van Maanen!" were raised. In the neighbourhood of the Poultry market these cries became very frequent. "Yes, my friends, long live liberty, and liberty you shall have!" the Prince replied, and burst into tears.

His Royal Highness wished to go by the Rue de la Madaleine to his Palace, but as that way had been barricaded, the crowd exclaimed—"By the Town-hall!" The Prince crossed the Grand Place, and stopping for a minute opposite the Town-hall, spoke a few words to the people, and assured them that the King would never cause his faithful subjects to be attacked by troops.

From the Grand Place the Prince proceeded with much speed, accompanied only by his aides-de-camp, and some horsemen of the Civic Guard, to the square of the Palais de Justice. In

his passage he was often obliged to spur on his horse, in order to clear the barricades, and as his escort could not keep up with him, he arrived almost by himself at the Square of the Palais de Justice. The Civic Guard stationed there, not understanding the reason of this unexpected arrival, got under arms at the call of the sentinel; but the sergeant of the post soon recognized the Prince, and ordered the arms to be presented. The Prince advanced towards them with extended arms, exclaiming, "It is all right, my friends, it is all right," and continued his course to his Palace.

All the troops which had been stationed during a week opposite the park, had vacated that post, and concentrated themselves in the gardens and inner-courts of the palace.

It was about three o'clock in the afternoon when the Civic Guard reached the heart of the town. The staff went to the Prince, who requested to be guarded by a detachment of the Civic Guard. He again said, that no troops should enter the town, and in answer to an observation of an officer, replied, that he had not been deceived as to the disposition of the people of Brussels.

At half-past three o'clock the conference be-

tween the Prince and the staff ended, and orders were given to the Civic Guard to return to their quarters. The number of the guard which had been drawn up before the Prince was reckoned at 8,000 men.

In the course of the evening, the following proclamation appeared.

*Proclamation of the Prince of Orange in the King's name.*

“Inhabitants of Brussels,—I come with confidence among you; my security is complete, guaranteed as it is by your loyalty.

“It is to your prudence that the re-establishment of order is due. I am glad to acknowledge this, and I thank you in the King's name.

“Join with me in securing tranquillity, and no troops will then enter the town; and, in concert with your authorities, I will take the necessary measures for restoring calmness and confidence.

“A commission, composed of the Duke d'Ursel, President; Vander Fosse, Governor of the Province; d'Wellens, Burgomaster of Brussels; Emm. Vanderlinden d'Hoogvorst, Commander of the Civic Guard; Gen. d'Aubremé; Kockaert, Member of the Regency; the Duke d'Arenberg (who has agreed, at my wish, to co-operate in this commission), is charged to propose these measures to me.

“It will meet to-morrow, the 2d of September, at nine o'clock in the morning, at my Palace.

“Brussel, Sept. 1.

“WILLIAM, PRINCE OF ORANGE.”

To this commission were afterwards added, Messrs Rouppe and Van de Weyer.

On the following morning, the Prince of Orange was observed walking in the park, with no other escort than two aides-de-camp and the chevalier Hotton commander of the Civic Cavalry Guard. His Royal Highness often stopped in the course of his walk, to converse with many people whom he met; amongst others, to several Englishmen.

The painful suspense with which the people had awaited the return of the deputation to the Hague, was this evening removed. The members had returned, and lost no time in communicating to the public, through the Regency, the following Report, which was placarded in every quarter of the City, and read by groups of people with the deepest interest.

#### “ REPORT.

“ Gentlemen—Having arrived at the Hague on Monday, at one o'clock, we asked for an audience of his Majesty. Half an hour had scarcely passed when we received a favourable answer. On Tuesday at noon we went to the Palace. His Majesty received us with kindness, asked us for our powers, and did not object to the title by virtue of which we presented ourselves.

“ After we had read to him the address with which we

were intrusted, his Majesty told us that he was very happy at having been able to anticipate our wishes in convoking the States General for the 13th of September a legal and sure means of learning and satisfying the wishes of all parts of the kingdom, of doing justice to their complaints, and of discovering the means of remedying them. After some general observations, we proceeded to the exposition and then to the discussion of the several points which in your meeting of the 28th you charged us to communicate verbally to his Majesty.

“A discussion arose on the theories of Ministerial responsibility and of the *contre-seing*. The King said that the fundamental law did not authorize our theories. That they might be just and even useful, but that they could not be established except by a change in the fundamental law in concert with the States General, convoked with double the usual number of members. That as an extraordinary Session would be opened on the 13th of September there would be an opportunity either at his desire, or at the invitation of the Second Chamber, for a proposal on this point, as well as on all the others which we had discussed, and might be thought useful and advantageous to the country.

“To the demand of the dismissal of some Ministers, and especially M. Van Maanen, his Majesty did not say a word in their favour. He expressed no displeasure, and did not contradict the complaints which we enumerated at length against them. He observed that the fundamental law gave him the free choice of his Ministers; that, besides, he could not take any determination, so long as he should be constrained to it; that he set too much value on the honour of preserving the royal dignity to appear to yield like one to

whom a demand should be addressed with a pistol to his throat. He let us plainly see, as well as the deputies from Liege, that he might take our demand into consideration. (This question is actually before the Organic Commission formed by the Prince of Orange. We are happy to entertain the conviction that before the end of the day it will have taken a resolution which will satisfy our wishes.)

“With respect to the supreme tribunal, his Majesty said that it was upon mature deliberation that the place for its establishment had been chosen; that he would however consider of this request, and of the means of reconciling all interests.

“To our application respecting the unequal distribution of officers of the great establishments and public departments, his Majesty seemed afflicted, and, without disputing the truth of the facts, he said that it was very difficult to divide the public offices, that it was still more difficult to please every body; that, however, he would attend to this subject as soon as good order should be re-established; that it was necessary, first of all, that the Princes, his sons, should enter Brussels at the head of his troops, and thus put an end to the apparent state of constraint to which he could not yield without giving a pernicious example to all the other towns of the kingdom.

“After long discussion on the inconveniences and the probable disasters which would ensue if the troops entered by force, and the advantages of a convention, and a proclamation for their entrance, maintaining the partial occupation of the posts of the city by the Burgher Guard, his Majesty desired us to see the Minister of the Interior, and present ourselves to the Princes on our return to Brussels

In conclusion, his Majesty expressed a desire that all might be calmed as soon as possible. He told us, with much emotion, and repeated several times, what a horror he felt for the shedding of blood.

“ After an audience of two hours, we took our leave of his Majesty, and went to the Minister of the Interior, who having to go to the King, appointed us to be with him at eight in the evening.

“ Similar discussions arose on the several points laid before his Majesty. All was done with a frankness and openness which gave us the greatest hopes.

“ M. De Lacoste proved to us he has the heart of a Belgian, and that he is actuated by the best intentions.

“ On the invitation of several of the members of the Staff of the Burgher Guard who assembled yesterday evening, and, conformably to the desire expressed by his Majesty, Messrs. Joseph D’Hoogvorst and Gendebien waited on the Prince of Orange. They communicated to him the result of their mission to the Hague and of the state of Brussels, which they painted to him such as it is, without dissembling any thing. He assured them that he hoped from the meeting of the Commission (which took place this morning) the most satisfactory results, which would be the best calculated to prove his desire and firm resolution to satisfy the wishes of the country. He commissioned us to tell you that he constituted himself the medium of communication between his Majesty and the inhabitants of the South, and that he would support our demands in such a manner as to obtain the most prompt and complete success.

“ We have positively learned this morning that the Commission which is sitting in the Palace of the Prince, is diligently engaged on the object of its mission, and that in

the course of the day resolutions will be transmitted to you respecting several parts of your demands.

“Brussels, Sept. 2.

(Signed)

“ JOSEPH D’HOOGVORST.

“ ALEXANDRE GENDEBIEN.

“ COUNT FELIX DE MERODE.

“ BARON FREDERIC DE SECUS, Jun.

“ PALMAERT, Sen.”

This report by no means answered the hopes that were formed of it by the people, who saw in it nothing but vague promises. It was not indeed calculated to calm the effervescence of a population under arms, and enthusiastically animated by a spirit of independence. Much agitation was consequently observed to prevail in the evening, and it was deemed prudent by the Commandant of the civic guard to repair to the head authorities and obtain a Proclamation to the following effect.

#### “PROCLAMATION.

“Inhabitants of Brussels—The report of your Deputies gives you the certainty that your desires and wishes are known by the Monarch. They have been stated to the Prince of Orange, and you have the well-founded hope that they will be complied with by his Majesty. In this state of things, full of confidence in the royal word, and in the support which his Royal Highness has promised you, you will patiently await the result. The maintenance of tran-

quillity and order require, however, the continuation of the service that the brave Burgher Guard has taken upon itself. For this purpose it was deemed desirable that the Burgher Guards should be regulated and assume a character of stability. The Commandant, Baron d'HOOGVORST is charged with this labour, in concert with his Staff, which must give you assurance that the troops will not enter the city. The Commission which is appointed, not to take resolutions, but to propose measures advantageous to the country, will make it its duty to continue to propose to his Royal Highness whatever may contribute to restore tranquillity and confidence.

The President of the Commission,

Duke d'URSEL.

The Secretary, P. I. STEVENS.

Seen and approved,

WILLIAM, Prince of Orange.

On the following day, the commission pursuing their labours with a view to a lasting remedy of the evils complained of, unanimously voted that the separation of Holland and Belgium was essentially necessary to a permanent adjustment of the causes of complaint.

This resolution being communicated to the Prince of Orange, his Royal Highness, declared at once his concurrence in it, assuring them at the same time, that he had frequently pointed out to his royal father, the advantages of a separation between the two countries. The Deputies to the

States-General then at Brussels, were summoned to the palace to give their opinion. This corresponded warmly with that of the Commission, and of the heir apparent to the throne, who promised to lay the result of their decision before his Majesty, and to support it by his personal influence. The general wish of the assembly was expressed, that the Prince of Orange might reside as vice-roy over the federative state of Belgium.

The staff of the Burgher Guard and Deputies from all the sections were then summoned to the Palace. The deputation of the city of Liege also went thither. There an affecting scene took place. The Prince again asked the assembly what were their wishes. All the assembly unani- mously demanded the separation of Belgium and Holland. M. Moyard, in the name of the Burgher Guard, demanded that the troops should be immediately withdrawn.

“The Prince—But then do you promise to remain faithful to the dynasty?”

“The Assembly, with enthusiasm. — We swear it.

“The Prince—If the French entered Belgium, would you join them?”

“The Assembly—No, no.

“The Prince—Will you march with me for our defence?

“The Assembly—Yes, yes, we will.

“The Prince—Will you say with me, ‘Vive le Roi?’

“The Assembly—Not till our wishes are attended to—but ‘Vive le Prince! Vive la liberté! Vive la Belgique!’

“The Prince burst into tears. The persons embraced each other in the midst of the general enthusiasm, and the old Generals could not suppress their emotion.

“From that moment the separation of Belgium and Holland was resolved upon. The Prince of Orange set out at two o'clock for the Hague, escorted by a detachment of the mounted Burgher Guard. Immediately afterwards, the troops, which had been for ten days under arms, left Brussels. The only protectors of that beautiful city, were now the civic guards.

It would be difficult to paint the satisfaction of the citizens at the happy turn which now seemed to be given to their affairs. A smile was on every countenance, congratulation on every lip. Peace, Plenty, Liberty, even Union, seemed by a strange paradox to be the certain fruit of Separation. It would remove all their grievances, and satisfy

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their most ardent wishes. All sober calculations of the probable decay of Flemish manufactures and the monopoly of commerce by the Dutch, were treated as idle theories, and were even regarded as indications of hostility to the cause. Ghent and Antwerp the two great representative cities of the manufacturing and mercantile interests of the country viewed a separation between the two countries as injurious to their trade, and accordingly prepared for the ensuing session of the States-General, petitions of an opposite nature (*b*).

On the morning of the 4th September, the Prince of Orange arrived at the Hague, and rendered to his anxious parent an account of his pacific mission to the Belgian capital. A cabinet council assembled, which appears to have entertained the idea of a separation without disfavour, declaring that the spirit of the treaty of London was not opposed to the project, so long as the two states remained under the dominion of the House of Orange, and in the evening, the Hague Gazette announced the tender and acceptance of M. Van Maanen's resignation of office as Minister of Justice. (*c*) — This was hailed in Belgium as the first step towards the restoration of peace and tranquillity. It was not indeed celebrated

as a triumph over a beaten minister, because under the new and determined conviction that a separation must take place, it mattered little who was minister at the Hague, but it was regarded as a sign of departure from that perverse and vicious system of misrule, to which the southern Provinces had been too long subjected.

At the same time, much uneasiness prevailed at Brussels on account of the presence at Vilvorde, of the Prince Frederick with a small army and artillery.

This was construed by the citizens of Brussels into a distrust of their engagement to preserve the peace of the city, and materially disturbed the repose and confidence which were necessary under existing negotiations. They remonstrated with Prince Frederick on the subject, and obtained the partial withdrawal of the troops from certain points, particularly from Terveuren, where their presence was considered an infraction of the treaty lately entered into with the Prince of Orange. Notwithstanding this yielding disposition manifested by the Prince Frederick, preparations of defence continued to be made; barricades were again formed of the trees cut down on the boulevards, and of other materials, trenches were dug, pikes manufactured, and deputations were received from various

towns with offers of men, money, and ammunition. During the alarming suspense consequent on this state of things, the following important, proclamation arrived from the Hague, and was posted and circulated in Brussels.

“PROCLAMATION.

“We, William, by the Grace of God, King of the Netherlands, Prince of Orange Nassau, Grand Duke of Luxemburg, etc., to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting;

“Divine Providence, which has deigned to accord to this kingdom fifteen years of peace with the whole of Europe, internal tranquillity and increasing prosperity, has just visited the two provinces with numberless calamities, and the quiet of many adjoining provinces has been either troubled or menaced. At the first news of these disasters we hastened to convoke an extraordinary meeting of the States-General, which, according to the terms of the fundamental law, represent the whole people of Belgium, in order to concert with the nobles, measures which the state of the nation and the present circumstances require.

“At the same time, our two beloved sons, the Prince of Orange and Prince Frederick of the Netherlands, were charged by us to proceed to those provinces, as well to protect by the forces placed at their disposition, persons and property, as to assure themselves of the real state of things, and to propose to us the measures the best calculated to calm the public mind. This mission, executed with a humanity and a generosity of sentiment which the nation will appreciate, has confirmed to us the assurance that even

when it is the most agitated, it will preserve and proclaim its attachment to our dynasty, and to the national independence; and however our heart may be afflicted by the circumstances which have come to our knowledge, we do not abandon the hope that, with the assistance of Divine Providence (whose succour we invoke upon this important and lamentable occasion), and the co-operation of every well-disposed man, and the good citizens in the different parts of the kingdom, we shall succeed in restoring order and re-establishing the agency of the legal powers and the dominion of the laws.

“ With this view we calculate upon the assistance of the States-General. We invite them to examine whether the evils of which the country so loudly complains, arise from any defect in the national institutions, and if it is possible to modify them; and particularly if the relations established by treaties and the fundamental law, between the two grand divisions of the kingdom, should, with a view to the common interest, be changed or modified.

“ We desire that these important questions should be examined with care and perfect freedom, and we shall think no sacrifice too great, when we have in view the fulfilment of the desires, and to ensure the happiness of the people, whose welfare has been the constant and assiduous object of our care.

“ But, disposed to concur with frankness and fidelity and by the most comprehensive and decisive measures, we are nevertheless resolved to maintain with firmness the legitimate rights of all the parts of the kingdom, without distinction, and only to proceed by regular methods, and conformably with the oath which we have taken and received.

“Belgians! inhabitants of the different divisions of this beautiful country—more than once rescued by Divine favour and the union of the citizens from the calamities to which it was delivered up—wait with calmness and confidence for the solution of the important questions which circumstances have raised—second the efforts of legal authority, to maintain internal tranquillity and the execution of the laws where they have not been disturbed, and to re-establish them where they have suffered any obstruction—lend your aid to the law, so that in turn the law may protect your property, your industry, and your personal safety. Let differences of opinion vanish before the growing dangers of the anarchy, which, in several districts, presents itself under the most hideous forms, and which, if it be not prevented or repressed by the means which the fundamental law places at the disposal of the Government, joined to those furnished by the zeal of the citizens, will strike irreparable blows at individual welfare and the national prosperity. Let the good citizens everywhere separate their cause from that of the agitators, and let their generous efforts for the re-establishment of the public tranquillity in those places where it is still menaced, at last put a period to evils so great, so that every trace of them may be effaced.

“The present shall be generally published and posted up in the usual way, and inserted in the official journal.

“Done at the Hague, the 5th of September, of the year 1830, and of the 17th of our reign.

(By the King)

“WILLIAM.”

“J. G. DE MEY DE STREEFKERK.”

An impartial person reading this proclamation, would pronounce it worthy of a constitutional monarch doing every thing within his prerogative, and promising to submit to the States-General whatever is not included within the Regal attributes, but belongs to the Legislative body. To such an observer of events, it would appear incontestible that an entire separation of the two grand divisions of the kingdom, the establishment of distinct Chambers, with distinct penal, civil, and commercial Codes; different criminal and civil Processes; two Chambers of Accounts; two different systems of Custom Duties; in short, two distinct general modes of government would be such decided alterations in the Constitution, and would so completely overturn the whole system, that it could not be effected without the concurrence of the three branches of the State.

The poorer classes had a guarantee in the abolition of the tax on flour, the duties on slaughtering, and the town duties on the entrance of Cattle and Provisions, that their other reasonable wishes would be further consulted, while all men possessed of property, commerce or industry, were clearly interested in preserving quiet, and patiently awaiting the discussion of their

grievances by the States-General which was so shortly to assemble. But it is seldom during a period of national excitement, that the minds of men are governed by the ordinary rules of prudence. The proclamation of the king was read by many with a fear of its containing any thing of a pacific nature, which would at once strip them of the pretext or power of agitation. These men discovered, or affected to discover nothing in the proclamation indicative of a favorable disposition towards their demands, whilst on the other hand they had every thing to apprehend from a delay in which the king would assuredly strengthen his resources, and from the increasing hostility of the Dutch people who about this period grossly insulted Baron de Stassart a Belgian Deputy, on the quay at Rotterdam. It was late in the evening of the 7th Sep., when the king's proclamation was posted on the walls. No sooner did it become publicly known, than the people tore it down wherever it was discovered, and burnt it in the great market place. A body of the citizens went to the Hotel de Ville, held a meeting with the Etat-Major of the civic guards, and called upon the Deputies to apply to Prince Frederick, at Vilvorde, for an explanation of the real state of things. Messrs. de

Brouckere, de Gerlache, de Langhe, le Hon, Huyman, d'Annecroix, Surlet de Chokier, Baron d'Hooghvorst, and Count d'Aerschot, set out accordingly at two o'clock for Vilvorde. They were immediately received by the Prince, and had a very long conference with him, in which several of the deputation very energetically impressed upon his Royal Highness the necessity of calming the minds of the people by prompt, loyal, and decisive measures. The separation of Belgium from Holland was urged with increased force, and the Prince was made to feel that the government would render itself responsible in the eyes of the whole universe, for the irritation, disorders, and general uneasiness, which an obstinate perseverance of the Cabinet would create in Belgium. The Prince listened to these remonstrances with great attention. He could not deny the gravity of existing circumstances; he spoke of the oaths of the monarch, of the necessity of respecting the fundamental laws of the country, and did not conceal his private opinion that the separation of the two parts of the kingdom would meet with more than one obstacle. He requested the deputation to give him in writing the observations they had made, and promised to send them instantly to the Hague. The

Deputation then took leave of his Royal Highness, and returned to Brussels.

Prince Frederick quitted his head-quarters for Malines, and the troops left Vilvorde, where they had bivouacked several days, for Malines, Duffel, Lierre, and other places. Meanwhile a body of volunteers from Liege 600 strong, with two pieces of cannon, and ammunition, entered Brussels in order to afford assistance if required. These were followed by detachments from Mons and other places. The villages through which they passed declared for the national cause, hoisted the Brabant flag, and professed themselves ready to march at a moment's notice.

On the 9th Sep., a Commission of Public Safety was formed, the object of whose labours was,

1st To secure the continuance of the present Dynasty.

2nd To maintain the principle of the separation of the Northern and Southern Provinces.

3rd To take the necessary measures for the interests of commerce, industry, and public order.

The members appointed to compose this commission, were Mess<sup>rs</sup> Rouppe, Gendebien, Count Felix de Mcrode, Fred. Meeus, Fred. de Secus

S. Van der Weyer, the Duc d'Ursel, and the Prince de Ligne. The two latter noblemen, and M. de Secus declined however taking any part in its proceedings.

Every day now became one of increasing alarm. Public credit was shaken to the very centre. The national Bank paid only a fourth part of its notes in specie, whilst most of the private banking houses and shops were completely closed during the greatest part of the day. To effect discounts, even upon the best securities, was next to impossible. The labouring classes deprived by this general stagnation of business, from the ordinary means of subsistence, listened eagerly to the mischievous instigators who infested the estaminets of the capital. They again began to assemble on the public places, and to parade the town, singing revolutionary airs, and evincing an eagerness for combat which no power of reasoning could restrain. Thousands of respectable families of different countries, terrified by the dreadful reports of immediate hostilities so incessantly propagated, fled to places of greater security. The houses in the best quarter of the city became thus nearly all deserted—not a private carriage was seen to roll over the streets—the theatres were closed. Brussels, which a few

weeks before engaged her happy thousands in the celebration of joyful festivities, arraying her hosts of beauty and fashion around the vast amphitheatre of the park, to listen to the harmony of twenty rival orchestras, and at night viewing her gay throng of dancers glide through the mazes of her illuminated gardens — Brussels, accustomed to the courtly sound of chariots and horses, and teeming with fashionable life, had now all at once become desolate, taking her sad similitude from those cities which the plague has visited with its silent malignity.

The Deputies of the southern provinces had now repaired to the Hague, wisely withstanding the counsel of a numerous class who besought them not to trust themselves among a people who had already shewed feelings of violence towards a Belgian senator. It was their post of duty, and there on the 13th september, they listened with eager expectation, to the following fatal speech of the King of the Netherlands.

“NOBLE AND MIGHTY LORDS,

“Your extraordinary Session, which I this day open, has been rendered necessary by deplorable and imperious circumstances.

“The State, at peace with all the nations of Europe, has just seen the war with the Colonies happily terminated. It

was flourishing in a happy tranquillity, by order, commerce, and industry. I was occupied in alleviating the burthens of the people, and introducing gradually into the administration of the interior all the amelioration dictated by experience. On a sudden an insurrection broke out at Brussels, and this example was imitated in other parts of the country. Fire and pillage have signalised these disorders, too deeply afflicting to my heart, to the nation and humanity, for me to attempt to present to this Assembly the melancholy picture of them.

“Previous to obtaining the concurrence of your High Mightinesses, the convocation of whom was my first thought, I lost no time in taking all the measures that depended on myself to arrest the progress of the evil, to protect the good citizens against the evil-disposed, and avert from the kingdom the scourge of civil war.

“To trace out the causes, and to examine with your High Mightinesses, the true character, the tendency, and probable consequences of what has taken place, is less urgent in the interests of the country, than to seek the means of restoring order, tranquillity, and the empire of the laws, not only for the moment, but so as to ensure their duration for the future.

“But in the midst of contending opinions, highly-excited passions, and clashing views and interests, I find it, Noble and Mighty Lords, a very difficult task to reconcile my wishes for the happiness of all my subjects, with the obligations I have entered into with the whole body, and which I have rendered sacred by my oath.

“I solicit then the exercise of all your wisdom, all your calmness, and all your firmness, to the end that, being fortified with the assent of the representatives of the

nation, I may, in concert with them, pursue such measures as the safety of the country requires.

“In more than one direction, an opinion has been expressed that in order to attain this end it is requisite to proceed to a revision of the fundamental law of the land and even to a separation of Provinces that Treaties and the Constitution have united.

“This question nevertheless can only be resolved in the forms prescribed by that fundamental law, which we have all solemnly sworn to observe.

“This will be the principal object of the deliberations of your High Mightinesses. I desire that your opinion may be formed and manifested with all the calm consideration and candour called for by a question of so elevated a nature. On my side, animated above every other sentiment with the desire of ensuring the happiness of the Belgians, whom Divine Providence has entrusted to my care, I am ready to concur with this assembly in any measures which may lead to that end.

“Another object of my calling you together, is to inform you that circumstances imperiously require that the militia should remain embodied beyond the time during which, according to the terms of the fundamental law, it should be annually trained to the use of arms.

“The means of providing for the expenses that will be the result of this measure and of many others, the baneful consequences of these disturbances, will be found for the present in the grants already made; their future regulation will be submitted to your consideration at the next ordinary Session.

“Noble and Mighty Lords, I rely upon your fidelity and your patriotism.

“Exposed in former days to the storms of revolutions, I shall never forget either the courage, attachment, and fidelity which shook off the yoke of the foreigner, re-established the national existence, and replaced the sceptre in my hands, or the valour which in the field of battle strengthened the throne, and consolidated the independence of the country.

“Fully disposed to satisfy every reasonable demand, I will grant nothing to the spirit of faction, nor will I ever consent to measures which would sacrifice the interests and prosperity of the country to passions or to violence.

“To conciliate, if it be possible, the interests of all, is the only wish of my heart.”

—After the speech, the two Chambers separated, and the Second Chamber having assembled in its usual place of meeting, the President delivered the following Royal Message:—

“NOBLE AND MIGHTY LORDS, — In consequence of what we had made known to you in opening our extraordinary session, and previously, to the nation, by our Proclamation of the 5th instant, we request you to take immediately into your serious consideration,

“1. Whether experience indicates the necessity of modifying the national institutions.

“2. Whether in this case it would be for the general welfare to change the relations established by treaties and the fundamental law between the two great divisions of the kingdom:

“It will be agreeable to us to receive, as early as the nature of things permits, the free and frank communication of the sentiments of the representatives of the people of the

United Netherlands upon these important questions, for the purpose of concerting with this assembly, under the actual circumstances, the measures which may lead to the accomplishment of their wishes.

“And we pray God to take you, Noble and Mighty Lords under his holy protection.

The Hague 13 september 1830.

WILLIAM.

It was not before the evening of Tuesday 14th Sep., that the Royal speech was received in Brussels. Although characterized by some as a calm, temperate and sensible address, it was denounced by the mass of the people, as hostile to the desired separation; as applying harsh terms towards men in arms for their just rights; and as obstinately withholding any expression of goodwill or conciliation.

It was accordingly consigned to the flames by a multitude of people collected on the square of the town-hall. The ferment in the city throughout the night was considerable, and every one foresaw that an evil crisis was near at hand. On the following morning a General Assembly composed of the Committee of public Safety, the Etat-Major, and 32 deputies selected from the Burgher-Guard, sat at the Town-Hall to consult on the best measures to be taken under present circumstances.

This general assembly met at 11, and was of unanimous opinion that the Speech from the Throne had made a painful impression, and produced an excitement which it was necessary to prevent from leading to unhappy consequences. It was then resolved that the Committee of Public Safety should prepare an Address to the Deputies of the Southern Provinces, protesting against the unfaithful statement of facts contained in the King's Speech, and reminding the Deputies of the duties they had to perform in the present state of affairs. The meeting was declared public. The draught of the Address was read. The Deputies from each section were then called upon to deliver their opinions in succession. One member proposed that the Address should contain a declaration of their intention to establish a Provisional Government, if justice was not promptly granted. Another member maintained that the Address was ill timed and inexpedient. A third Deputy was of opinion that no injunctions should be given to the members of the States-General, but that the Address should merely correct the misrepresentations made in the Speech from the Throne, and point out what measures were necessary for restoring the public tranquillity. The latter opi-

nion was after some discussion, adopted, and two persons of the assembly were appointed to proceed to the Hague with the Address to the Deputies of the Southern Provinces.

As this Address is rather long, the reader is presented with a second address more laconic and more explicit signed by about a hundred of the inhabitants of Brussels, Liege, Namur, Luxembourg, Louvaine, and other towns.

It embraces the substance of the other, and runs thus :

“ Considering the speech from the throne, and the hourly increasing danger of a civil war, the distress and constantly augmenting irritation of the trading and labouring classes, the undersigned implore the deputies to employ their utmost efforts to consecrate, without delay, in their address in answer to the speech from the throne, or any other act, the principle of the separation, of the North from the South, and to demand at the same time the immediate removal of the Dutch troops stationed in the Belgian provinces. If their efforts should not attain this end, which is the only one capable of maintaining peace in our provinces, the undersigned urgently request their deputies to return among them, as a great number expressed their intention of doing.. (Here follow the signatures.)

About this period, a club formed of persons professing the most violent opinions against the reigning family, and enforcing the necessity of immediate and energetic means for the redress of the national grievances, assembled daily in the Rue des Alexiens. Their sittings were open to the public, and became at length so crowded, that the members were obliged to remove to the Theatre du Parc. The influence, exercised by this association over the mass of the people was very powerful, and materially contributed to keep up their excitement.

At the Hague the proceedings of the States-General were marked by a shameful supineness, and exhibited at their very outset the preponderating influence of the Dutch party. M. Van Toulon a Hollander was nominated president of the Second Chamber, and on the following day a Committee of five members, four of whom were Dutch, was appointed to draw up an address in answer to the speech from the throne. Donker Curtius a strong adherent to Ministers reprobated the proceedings in Belgium, and appealed to arms as the only means of restoring legal order in the revolted provinces. Seven precious days were wasted in preliminary forms, and frivolous discussions, and it was not till the eighth, that

the Address was voted in answer to the Speech from the Throne! M. Van Maanen in the mean while was appointed President of the High Court of Justice! On the 18th Sep., M. de Stassart deputy for the province of Namur, who had long and systematically opposed the measures of Government, suddenly returned to Brussels, declaring in a letter to the Editors of the *Courrier de la Sambre*, that he had reluctantly consented to accompany his colleagues to the Hague, and further expressing his opinions in the following words extracted from his letter.

“ I flattered myself, or rather endeavoured to flatter myself, that the Government, becoming enlightened as to the real situation of our affairs, would have adopted the only proper measure, and would have presented to us a *projet* which the Belgians would have found agreeable to their wishes; a *projet* of a law which political foresight imperiously demands. But, vain hope! it has occupied itself solely with questions of the most vague and complicated nature, from which it is absolutely impossible that any satisfactory result can arise.

“ In this state of affairs, hopeless that my presence at the States General can be productive of the slightest utility, I have thought it my duty

to return to Brussels, and devote my attention to the health of my wife, whom I had left seriously indisposed.

“ I shall hasten to return to my post whenever the *projet* of a law, clear, precise, and positive, for the promotion of a separation between the two parts of the Kingdom, shall be brought forward for discussion. Till then, I see nothing which the Belgic deputies can really effect.

Baron de Stassart on his arrival in Brussels stated to the Commission of Public Safety, and to the leaders of the armed citizens assembled at the Town Hall, his conviction that Government was adverse to the proposed separation of Belgium and Holland, and was moreover resolved to try the chance of arms in order to reduce the *rebels* to obedience. This statement, together with the account of public feeling in Holland against the people of Belgium, given by Messrs Nicolai and Vleminck the two gentlemen who bore the address from Brussels to the Belgian Deputies at the Hague, served to increase the public agitation. A general opinion now prevailed that force must be met by force, and precautionary measures were accordingly adopted. The colliers from the district of Borain near Mons and Charleroi, and the peasants from

all the neighbouring villages were invited to hold themselves in readiness to fly to the aid of the capital in case of attack, and as fire-arms were difficult to be obtained even from Liege, 5000 pikes of a formidable description were ordered to be manufactured; these were to be distributed only to those in whom some degree of confidence could be placed, as the mob began now to assume so formidable an appearance, and the burgher guard on the other hand, became daily so reduced in numbers, that an indiscriminate distribution of arms was considered dangerous.

(z) The news which arrived at this time of the Governor of Namur, (acting under orders from the War department) having declared that city in a state of siege, and of the attempts of the military to prevent arms or ammunition from proceeding towards Brussels, were of too hostile a nature to permit that capital to remain longer quiet.

It was then that nearly all the members of the Regency deserted their post, (d) unwilling or fearful to take a conspicuous lead in a cause beset with so many perils, and in support of which, the respectable class of citizens had applied only a forced energy. The populace saw with bitter

disappointment, the desertion of their natural leaders, and despised the Burgher Guards who had taken up arms with a twofold view of preserving the peace of the capital, and of obtaining a redress of grievances, to neither of which objects they appeared competent. A circumstance occurred on the Sunday, to inflame the anger of the populace, and cause a violent burst of feeling. In the morning a body of volunteers having heard of the near approach of videttes to the city gates set out on the roads to Vilvorde and Terveuren as a corps of observation, but soon returned, having disarmed a few gendarmes and brought in their horses. This expedition not having been authorised by the Staff, a proclamation was posted up to disavow it, some expressions in which, gave offence to the people, and caused numerous crowds to assemble in the Grand Place, where in a state of excitement, they uttered cries and imprecations against several of the citizens. About six in the evening an Address, in form of a Protest, bearing a long string of signatures, was read from the steps of the Hotel de Ville, and received with loud applause by the multitude. It required, among other demands, that the Committee of Public Safety should come to some definitive resolution, and call into Brus-

sels the inhabitants of all the southern towns, who, at the commencement of the troubles, had tendered their aid. After the reading of this Protest, the agitation redoubled. The populace forced their way into a guard house and carried off some arms. Several parties paraded the town throughout the night, with drums beating. About one in the morning, the crowd, which had never quitted the Grande Place, attempted to disarm the Burgher Guards posted there, and these were at length forced to fire upon their assailants, three of whom were wounded. In the course of the night, the multitude were addressed by an influential person who intreated them to refrain from any act of pillage, and to punish with death any person whom they might find guilty of this disgraceful practice. This exhortation was received with loud cheers, the populace evincing forcibly, that their purpose was purely political.

On the following day 20th they forced their entry into several guard-houses, and disarmed such of the guard as shewed neutrality, or indifference of the state of things; the rest were allowed to remain on duty at their guard houses. In the Hotel de Ville were found a large quantity of fowling pieces and sabres, besides two chests of orange cockades which the people threw out

of the windows and trampled under their feet. The Burghers and Populace now became mingled in one strong and irresistible patriotic body, among whom were observed several military men, also a pupil of the polytechnic school of France named Parent who distinguished himself in the late revolution (*e*). He was decorated with the riband and medal of the Legion of Honour. Two or three corps of observation were this day sent out of the Portes Louvain and Laeken, the barricades at the gates were strengthened, and every necessary precaution was taken against the entrance of the force which was said to be strongly concentrated at Vilvorde, while other columns rested on Wavre and Assche. The news of the capture of the fort La Chartreuse at Liege by the citizens, inspired the hopes of the patriots in Brussels. About two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon a detachment of the Royal horse appeared upon the road to Scharbeck, within a few hundred yards of Brussels. As it was known in the morning that the troops of Prince Frederick had advanced to within three-quarters of a league of the town, the appearance of the dragoons caused some alarm to the inhabitants. The tocsin was immediately sounded at St. Gudule, the drums in the streets beat to arms, and in an instant the

people and the Burgher Guards marched towards the Scharbeck gate, where they drew up in battle-array with two pieces of artillery. The Louvain and Laeken gates were also watched by a strong body of citizens.

The Royal troops not making their appearance, a numerous body of volunteers, with some detachments of the Burgher Guards, went out of the town to reconnoitre the enemy.—At five o'clock the sharpshooters had an engagement with the advanced posts a little beyond Dieghem. By degrees the skirmishing became serious, and took place at several points at the same time. The Liege, and a great number of Brussels volunteers, intrepidly advanced towards the Dutch cavalry. Several of the latter were killed, and a few of their horses fell into the hands of the patriots, whose loss was only two men, one of whom a Liege volunteer having venture dinto the midst of the enemy's cavalry, was absolutely cut to pieces, and a few wounded.

Towards evening, the news of this engagement, and the report of a Proclamation by Prince Frederick, announcing his intention of marching upon Brussels, induced all the inhabitants to strengthen the barricades in the streets and to raise new ones. Women, children, and old men

displayed the greatest ardour. In less than two hours the town presented on all sides numerous and strong points of defence, and paving-stones were carried to the upper stories of the houses. The beginning of the night was tranquil. Count Vandermeeren, who directed the defence of the town, took the necessary measures to prevent a surprise. Towards one in the morning the scouts of the enemy were descried by the advanced posts. Immediately, the tocsin was sounded at all the churches, the drums beat to arms and the whole town was on the alert. It is impossible to describe the consternation of the female inhabitants at this sudden midnight alarm. The great bell of Saint Gudule which is never sounded but on extraordinary occasions tolled quick and incessantly amid the clangor of drums and trumpets, the hurried tread of men, and the occasional firing of alarm guns. At the close of an hour, the tocsin ceased sounding, and quiet was restored. The scouts who had been dispatched from the town on the first signal, returned, reporting that the troops were still a league distant from it.

On the following day, which was remarkably fine, the shops were entirely closed, and the boulevards, were crowded with persons listening to a continued fire of musketry at about a league distant in the direction of the Louvain and Ghent

roads. It proceeded from straggling bodies of volunteers who were engaged with advanced posts of the king's troops at Zelick beyond the Porte de Flandre, and at Deighem beyond that of Louvain. This skirmishing cost a few killed and wounded on both sides, but was of most advantage to the Patriots who returned magnifying their successes during the day, and stirring up hundreds to a spirit of active resistance. At evening appeared in the Gazette de Pays-Bas,

“—The following Proclamation, addressed to the inhabitants of Brussels, by Prince Frederick :—

“The King, our august father, is engaged, in concert with the representatives of the nation, and in the only manner that is compatible with their oath, in examining attentively the wishes expressed among you.

“In the meanwhile order is constantly disturbed within your walls; whilst with a zeal and an activity worthy of the highest praise you watch over the defence of public and private property, a small number of the factious, concealed in the midst of you, are exciting the populace to pillage, the people to rebellion, and the army to dishonour; the Royal intentions are misrepresented, the authorities are without force, and liberty is oppressed.

“In conformity to orders from the King, we are come to apply to this state of things, which ruins your city, and daily removes farther and farther from this royal residence the possibility of being the seat of the Monarch and of the heir to the crown, the only real and efficacious remedy, namely, the re-establishment of legal order. The national

legions are about to enter within your walls, in the name of the laws, and at the request of the worthiest citizens, to relieve them all from an arduous service, and to afford them aid and protection.

“These officers, these soldiers, united under the banner, of honour and of the country, are your fellow-citizens, your friends, your brethren. They do not bring you reaction or revenge, but order and repose. A generous oblivion will be extended over all the faults and irregular proceedings which circumstances have produced.

“The principal authors of acts, too criminal for them to hope to escape the severity of the laws, and strangers, who, abusing hospitality, have come to organise among you disorder, will be alone, and justly, smitten; their cause has nothing in common with yours.

“Consequently, we have ordained, and do ordain, as follows, in virtue of the powers entrusted to us: .

“Art. 1. The national troops shall enter Brussels.

“2. Every obstacle to their march shall be removed by the Municipal Authority, the Burgher Guards, the Committee of Public Safety, and all the good inhabitants.

“3 The posts of the Burgher Guards shall be given up in succession to the national troops. We shall hereafter decide on the mode of service of the said guards.

“4. Armed individuals, strangers to the town, shall withdraw without arms to their respective homes. Any armed force belonging to other places, which may proceed to Brussels, shall be invited to retire, and, if necessary, shall be dispersed by the public force.

“5. The colours adopted as distinct marks by a part of the Burgher Guards shall be laid aside. We reserve to

ourselves to fix the rallying signs which they shall be authorised to wear.

“6. The Municipal Administration, the Committee of Public Safety, and the Council and Chiefs of the Burgher Guards, shall watch over the execution of the foregoing provisions in what concerns them, as well as over the maintenance of order, until the troops shall have effected their entrance.

“7. The members of these corps are declared personally responsible, from the date of the notification of the present proclamation, for any resistance that may be offered to the public force, as likewise for the illegal employment of the public or municipal funds, arms and ammunition.

“8. The garrison shall be immediately put into barracks, or encamped so as not to become a burden to the inhabitants, and shall observe the strictest discipline. Any resistance shall be repelled by force of arms, and the individuals guilty of such resistance, who shall fall into the hands of the public force, shall be sent before a competent judge, to be prosecuted as criminals.

“Given at our head-quarters, at Antwerp, Sept. 21, 1830.

“FREDERICK, Prince of the Netherlands.”

Had the Prince proclaimed a general amnesty, marched at the head of his Belgian forces, and not attempted to force the Dutch soldiers into the city, he would not probably have been resisted. Many of the most opulent inhabitants were attached to the cause of the crown. They felt and appreciated the commercial advantages resulting from the royal residence at Brussels; they had experien-

ced the evils arising from several weeks' stagnation of business, were wearied of soldiering, and desirous to compromise on any reasonable terms. A party certainly was determined to attempt to achieve a revolution at all hazards; but their efforts would have been rendered abortive (had the Prince acted more consistently) by the men of property, who had much to lose and little to gain by a revolution, and by the disinclination of the lower class of inhabitants to continue the longer endurance of the great privations they had undergone, for several of the bourgeois soldiers were almost starving.

Thus stood matters on Wednesday evening.

**PART II.**

On Thursday morning Sept 23rd at 7 o' clock, Brussels appeared more tranquil than usual. There were but few armed citizens at the gates, and even these seemed placed there as a guard to watch the ingress and egress of individuals, rather than as a body of resistance to a hostile army. Even in their discharge of the former duty, there was a relaxation of that severity which was exercised at the gates on the preceding day. The compiler of this narrative, found no difficulty in passing through the gate of Scharbeek, beyond which he walked leisurely onward to a slight elevation between that gate and the Porte de Louvain. From hence, he was enabled to descry a large division of the king's infantry stationed in squares on the ridge near the English burial ground, but on the left of the Louvain road. A few hundred yards in advance of these, on a sloping ground, behind a brick field were posted a troop of cavalry so disposed as to mask a battery of five heavy guns in their rear. A few straggling persons were looking towards them, with a natural curiosity, and from these he learned that resistance would certainly be offered to the troops, and that the Garde Bourgeoise were ready in their barracks; success however, they observed, was almost hopeless. Passing onward through the gate

of Louvain, the same apathy was apparent as at the gate of Scharbeck. Not more than twenty armed men were seen at this gate. They were clustering round a Liege artilleryman who had just rode up to them, and were pointing out to him the position of the enemy whom he watched with a keen eye as they descended the hill; without speaking a single word, he rode hastily off. Behind the palace of the Prince of Orange, and at the end of the Rue Laterale du Parc were planted two pieces of artillery, each six-pounders. To the latter of these he advanced, and from a commanding situation looked at the troops forming on the range of hills beyond the faubourg of Jos-ten-Noode. There were not more than ten persons about the gun, and they were quarrelling with each other. "What a pity" exclaimed the man on horseback, that the leading men of Brussels have deserted the thousands of good hearts that burn to fight yon vile Hollanders! "you shall be our chief" replied those around him—, "Yes! willingly and I will stand with you to the last" was his answer, but his tone of expression was calculated to inspire only a faint hope of success. A loud cry was now heard from some men who ran towards the gun beckoning to the cannoniers to fire upon a corps of infantry which was descending the Louvain road into the town, at the distance of three quarters of a mile. When the troops had approached

a little nearer, the Burghers discharged their first gun : another from the same side soon succeeded; the cavalry on the opposite height, were observed to advance, and the five pieces of cannon which they had masked, opened a terrific fire upon the boulevard, and immediately descended towards the town. A sharp fire of musketry was at the same moment heard in the direction of the Porte Guillaume, and a few minutes afterwards, in the Faubourg de Louvain, and at the Porte de Scaerbeck. At the first of these gates, it was silenced by the citizens who had rushed forward to that point with amazing promptitude, and placing themselves behind the formidable barricades raised near the gate, as well as in the houses immediately adjoining, compelled about 500 infantry and a few hussars to retire, after a short and feeble opposition. At the two other gates, the affair was much more important. Near that of Louvain, is a large and lofty mass of buildings not yet completed, called the Observatory. Into this, a body of Liegers and Brusselers had thrown themselves at an early hour of the morning, and from thence opened a galling fire on the main body of the King's troops as they approached the gate, and annoyed them dreadfully during the whole day, notwithstanding the vigorous efforts of the troops to gain possession of it. At this point

the loss of lives was heavy on both sides. Beyond this, the military met with no serious resistance to their entry through the gate, but the populace emboldened by the sturdy fire which their companions were maintaining at the observatory, ran to the corners of the numerous streets that open into the rue de Louvain, occupied a number of houses, and barricades, and poured in during the whole day, a constant discharge of musketry on the infantry which endeavoured to force an entry through the street, and to gain the barrack. The cavalry almost useless in an affair of this description, took up a position along the boulevards, the cuirassiers and hussars being stationed between the gates Guillaume and Louvain, and the Lancers between the latter and that of Namur.

The principal point of attack however, was the gate of Scaerbeck, beyond which, Prince Frederick fixed his head-quarters. There, the military broke down a considerable portion of the wall beneath the boulevard, and dashed forward with great impetuosity bringing in several pieces of cannon, from which they poured a continual stream of grape shot up the Rue Royale. The houses opposite the Botanical Garden, were occupied by the citizens, and were well maintained during the whole of Thursday to the dreadful annoyance of the enemy. The main division of the King's troops pushed up the

Rue Royale securing possession of most of the houses in their way. (s) From several barriers, and particularly from the corners of the Rue de Louvain, they sustained opposition, but their progress to the park was speedily effected, and their immediate possession of it became a matter of course, as the Burghers totally unorganized, and without leaders, had omitted to secure that important hold. Every one now supposed that the troops already in possession of the Portes Namur, Louvain, Schaerbeck, the boulevards and park, would march into the Place Royale, without which, conquest would be incomplete. Never was an object of military movement so necessary, nor the means of carrying it into effect so easy, yet by some strange inexplicable cause, unless indeed we may attribute it to the cowardice or stupidity of the Dutch commanders, this square, upon which an armed man was not to be seen at 8 o'clock, was suffered to be traversed by straggling groups of persons who gradually entered the Hotel de Belle Vue, the Café de l'Amitié, & the old palace of the Prince Frederick, concealed themselves behind two covert corners, and even brought up two pieces of artillery, during a time when a company of horse, and a strong body of infantry with two or three pieces of cannon might have entered without the slightest loss, and defied the efforts of the citizens to regain it. Every minute however, strength-

ened the power of the latter. The tocsin sounded from every steeple, drums beat to arms, flags were every where unfurled as rallying points, leaders uncouth in their appearance, but of determined character began to direct the operations of the people, who aroused from their apathy, hurried on to the scene of combat. They were animated moreover, by the news now generally spread through the town, of the discomfiture of the enemy in another quarter. At about 7 o'clock, a strong detachment of Hussars, preceded by some infantry, presented themselves at the Flanders gate. The post of the Burgher Guards, established there, demanded whether they came as friends or enemies; they replied that they came to deliver the citizens from what they called the *canaille*. They penetrated without obstacle into the town, and began to throw down the barricades, and fill up the ditches; the people placed at the windows and in the lanes which run into the rue de Flandres, suffered them to advance as far as the Hog Market, where a man repeated the question addressed to them at the gate; the answer was, that they came as friends. "In that case, lay down your arms," was the universal shout. Upon this, the troops fired upon the citizens, who immediately returned it. At the same moment, paving stones, logs of wood, a stove, and many other missiles, were thrown on them from the windows; the defeat was decisive;

the soldiers threw away their arms and baggage, and most of them fled into the houses that were open, whilst others tumbled into the pits behind the barricades, which were filled up with quick lime. The Commandant of the Hussars had a horse killed under him, and was made prisoner; a small number only succeeded in reaching the gate; such of them as had kept their arms, threw them away in order to escape with more speed; the horsemen rode over the infantry; and as far as les Quatre Vents the road was covered with arms and baggage; it is generally thought that the remains of the troops would have surrendered at discretion, if a party of citizens had presented themselves in their rear; so great was their panic. One of their officers declared that he would not again venture to enter by the Flanders gate, even at the head of 10,000 men.

The lower part of the city being now free from the enemy, its inhabitants flew to the aid of their fellow-citizens who were engaged at different points from the Porte Namur to the Porte Scaerbeck. On the boulevard de Waterloo, a cannon belonging to them had been taken about 9 o'clock, by a detachment of lancers, who were soon afterwards compelled to abandon it to its former possessors, whose whole amount of artillery during the 4 day's contest did not exceed 4 or 5 pieces, whilst that of their opponents was sixteen. The roar of heavy guns and

of musketry became loud and continued, especially in the Park and its immediate vicinity.

A detachment of the Royal infantry soon made themselves masters of the King's Palace, which had been defended by only a small body of the Burghers.

Already had the new possessors piled up their arms in the garden of the palace, and begun to repose themselves in imagined security, when a sharp discharge of musketry reached them with destructive effect from a large corner house in the rue Verte, which with several adjoining ones the Burghers retained possession of, during the whole contest.

The two armies—for indeed the people might now be called an army—may be said to have taken up their positions and to have been fully engaged at 10 o'clock in the morning. That of the King under command of Prince Frederick, consisted of eight or nine thousand men within the walls, of whom more than two thirds were Dutch, and the remainder Swiss and Belgians. Around the higher suburbs were about a thousand more, who were employed to keep the faubourgs in subjection, and to intercept the arrival of armed auxiliaries from the neighbouring towns and villages. At Vilvorde, Alost, Malines, Wavre etc, were likewise stationed strong bodies of reserve. The manner in which the cavalry within the gates was disposed along the bou-

levards has been already noticed. The only charges which they attempted within the town, were that at the Flanders gate already related, another on the Boulevard de Waterloo, which as we have seen was momentarily successful, and a third from the Prince of Orange's palace towards the Place Royale, which was gallantly repulsed by the brisk fire of the burghers at the Hotel de Belle Vue, and the old palace of the Prince Frederick. The infantry occupied many houses in the rues Royale and Ducale, as well as in several streets in the vicinity of the Park, but were principally stationed behind the trees and the hollow grounds of the Park facing the rue de Belle Vue. On the verge of these dells they formed breast-works of benches, from which they kept up a fire during the four days on the burghers in the Hotel de Belle Vue, Café de l'Amitié, Place Royale, and the old palace & garden of Prince Frederick. Two pieces of artillery planted in the rue Royale, played during the greater part of the day on this latter strong hold of the burghers, whose destructive fire beneath which both men and horses fell, compelled them however to be totally abandoned. At evening they were spiked by a party of brave volunteers.—Another heavy piece of artillery played also on the same points, and occasionally down the Montagne du Parc from the centre of the Park. The roar of the ene-

my's cannon was also heard at the end of the rue de Namur, the rue de Louvain, the Porte de Scaerbeck and in other directions.

Two, and sometimes three pieces of artillery were brought upon the Place Royale, whence they poured their grape shot with amazing effect. They were served with an activity and perseverance truly surprising. Although horses and men fell with a frightful rapidity, the guns were never totally deserted. To supply the former, the messageries were broken open, and the latter were instantly replaced by the skilful and valiant cannonniers from Liege.(g) The loud and hearty cheers which followed every discharge of the guns served to excite the enthusiastic valour of the people, which was raised to a degree that may be somewhat estimated when we relate the fact that women scarcely screened from the spread of grape shot, and treading upon a pavement slippery with gore, were actually engaged with cans of beer in distributing drink to the combatants. Others employed themselves in making, and bringing up for their use, a constant supply of cartridges. It may be readily imagined that men at such a moment did not too nicely calculate the quantity of liquor necessary to allay thirst; and the effects of their imprudence were shewn in too many fatal instances of rash adventure. One man was seen to walk beyond a barricade in front of the enemy's fire, to brandish

his musket, and even to dance before them in derision, yet was not wounded! A drummer walked deliberately to within a few yards of the enemy, beating his drum and laughing at them; he too equally escaped, as did also with a slight wound, a flag-bearer named Binel who frequently waved his flag in a very exposed position of the Place Royale. Several persons armed with a sword and pistols and mounted on horseback, shewed themselves at different times in the front of battle, cheering on the people, and animating them by their brave example. One of these, although his horse was wounded and bleeding, kept his saddle, and directed the movements of the people till the animal sunk beneath him. A few minutes after, this brave man was fatally wounded near the barricade at the Place Royale. It was about the same time, that Ferdinand Leroux a Parisian, fell mortally wounded by a musket ball, after having boldly planted the Brabant flag on a broken barricade opposite the park gate. Towards one o'clock, the military gained possession of a great part of the Petite Belle Vue, and a house at the end of the Borgendael belonging to M. Couteaux a counsellor. From the windows of these new possessions, they were enabled to fire upon the Place Royale, and the palace of the sons of the Prince of Orange which the burghers occupied. A small company of Dutch chasseurs headed

by a spirited officer advanced up the Borgendael to the arched way that opens on the Place Royale. They fired in regular platoons and then retreated. Had they followed up this system of attack in larger bodies, and occupied the Hotel de Flandres and the church of Saint James from the back of these buildings, the square would have been their own, but they contented themselves with firing during the rest of the day from the windows. Towards five o'clock, a young Liege officer named Pourbaix left the Hotel de Ville with a flag of truce for the headquarters of Prince Frederick who had sent two flags in the morning to the Town-hall requesting an interview at his quarters with a delegate from the people. On endeavouring to pass through the park with his white flag, Pourbaix was fired upon, and obliged to return. Shortly afterward, the sound of cannon and musketry slackened, and at six o'clock altogether ceased as by mutual consent. (x) The great standard of Liege bearing the motto "Provisional Government, De Potter, Gendebien, etc," was hoisted on the top of the English Library in the Place Royale. During the night, strong detachments of Dutch troops reinforced those already stationed in the Park and the Palace, and occupied some houses immediately adjoining the Namur gate.

Early on Friday morning, groups of citizens were busied in carrying off their dead from the scene

of action. In this solemn office they were not molested by the enemy, who had buried their own during the night. At about eight o'clock the burghers having slept and breakfasted, strolled up the streets to the park and its vicinity, and renewed the engagement with their drowsy enemy who might easily have gained possession of the whole of the Belle-Vue and the Place Royale in the night during the ill-judged absence of the burghers. Numerous bodies of armed men arrived from Hal, Anderlecht, Braine-la-Leud, Waterloo, Genappe, Nivelles and other places, and proceeded at once, under their several leaders with drums beating and flags flying, to the various points of combat. The announcement of a victory gained by the inhabitants of Louvain over the Dutch troops, spread universal joy throughout the city, and redoubled the ardour of the people. This important news had been communicated by the Commander of the Burgher guards at Louvain, to Baron d'Hoogvorst, whose steady attachment to the patriotic cause at a moment when most of the leading men of the city had deserted it, gained him the love and confidence of his fellow citizens. The announcement was as follows.

“At seven o'clock yesterday morning the enemy attacked Louvain, near the Mechlin gate; they fired several howitzers, but we drove them back. About ten o'clock we received intelligence that part of the army at Tongres was marching upon Louvain in a strong body, and with

cannon. About eleven, these troops appeared before Louvain, and began the attack by the firing of cannon, followed by discharges of musketry. We sustained their attack, and made a sortie, which was completely successful; for, by two, the enemy's army was routed, and harassed by the country people as far as Tirlemont, where the discomfiture of the army was completed by the resistance of the inhabitants, who refused them a passage, and attacked them in their turn. We have made several prisoners, without losing any of our men. We shall hasten to your assistance immediately.

“ J. DE NEEF. ”

In order to stimulate still further, the efforts of the people, a proclamation appeared, bestowing a tribute of praise on their heroic conduct, and stating that two hour's *plunder* had been promised to the soldiers as their reward for the capture of the town, in the event of their being successful. The Proclamation also called upon the people to continue to raise barricades, and to carry up paving stones to the tops of the houses, to throw down upon the troops. Besides these, an important one was issued, announcing that baron Vanderlinden d'Hoogvoorst, of Brussels, M. Ch. Rogier, an advocate of Liege, and M. Jolly, formerly an officer in the engineer service, had, for the salvation of Belgium, taken upon themselves the functions of a Provisional Government. The efforts of the Burghers during this day, succeeded not only in checking the enemy by

their well sustained fire, but in dislodging him from all the houses which he had occupied in the Rue de Namur, and in making themselves masters of several others which commanded the Park. It was in the Rue de Namur, that a strong company of infantry were met by a detachment of Burghers. "Lay down your arms" was the prompt demand of the officer of infantry. "Never" exclaimed a Lieger who headed the Burghers "you have shed the blood of our comrades, and we will avenge it unto death" — "Advance" he called out to his men. They cheered, and rushed on, scattering their panic-stricken foes before their destructive fire.

The enemy enraged at the furious opposition which he met at all points, was driven to the cowardly resolution of throwing shells, some say, red hot balls (*h*) upon *an open town*. One of the former struck the Riding school, a large establishment in the Rue de Sol. It immediately took fire, at the same time with a large house in the new Rue Royale and several others on the Boulevard de Scharbeck. It was then dark : the flames rose with a menacing fury, casting an awful light upon the city. To thousands who gazed upon it, it was the portentous glare of a general destruction — these stood pale and trembling. To thousands of others it was a beacon light of freedom — these cherished an intenser flame within them ; it was that of unquenchable revenge.

In this spirit, they renewed the battle on Saturday morning. A deep indignation now influenced all classes against the Dutch, from whose cowardly conduct they had reason to apprehend a bombardment. In those parts of the town most exposed to the firing, women and children had already taken refuge in the cellars; this subterraneous mode of existence now became more general, whilst indeed many families terrified at the idea of this most destructive system of warfare, fled altogether from the place, and left their houses and property to the mercy of providence. A plan of attack now began to be organized, and the popular leaders were summoned to the Town-hall at noon, to consult together on the subject. Besides M. Parent a pupil of the Polytechnical school of France, who had throughout distinguished himself, M. Melinet the commandant of the artillery, and several other individuals under whom the citizens had spontaneously placed themselves, Col. Juan Van Halen, (*n*) a Spaniard, though of Belgic origin, and formerly aide-camp of general Mina, offered his services and was entrusted by the authorities with the chief command of the armed people.

The day having become too far advanced to carry the plan of attack determined on, into effect, the bodies which held themselves in readiness on

the upper part of the city were ordered to retire. The town-artillery had however done great execution during the day, and with the aid of the riflemen, had forced the enemy to retire with much loss into the palace of the States-General and the most sheltered parts of the park. The successes at the rues Scharbeck and Louvain were equally encouraging, especially at the gate of the latter, where a quantity of powder was seized from the troops. Many deserters came over from them, and several prisoners among whom were two officers were taken. A proclamation appeared in the course of the morning assigning the place St Michel as a cemetery for the brave citizens who fell in the struggle; promising that a monument should be erected to their memory; and ordaining that their widows and orphans should be taken under the protection of the country. (*i*)

Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> September will be ever memorable as the day on which the brave Brusselers crowned their glorious efforts with victory. The desultory firing commenced on the side of the Burghers, at the same hour as on the preceding days, but was kept up with much less vigour until about eleven o' clock. By that hour, large bodies of armed people reinforced from the neighbourhood of Charleroy and Mons, had ascended to the top of

the Montagne de la Cour, rue Louvain, and the Montagne du Parc. There was much more organization in their movements than had hitherto been observed. The head commander Juan Van Halen rode from post to post with indefatigable zeal, whilst his aide de camp Major Paelmart, M. Parent, Mellinet etc, collected and arrayed their respective corps, and encouraged them on to the intended assault on the Park. At the same time, the Royal grenadiers formed in companies flanked by artillery, advanced with the evident intention of forcing the Place Royale and Place Louvain. In the former of these movements, the enemy shewed himself very determined, and accompanied it by a tremendous fire from his heavy guns. The Burghers however had brought one of their cannons into the Hotel d'Arconati near the rue de la Regence, whence, masked by the Porte Cochère they directed a fire upon the Royal troops which enfiladed their whole line and disabled one of their guns. They fled in confusion towards the Palace of the States-General, to gain which, they were obliged to cross the wide open alley that conducts to it. This necessity was anticipated by M. Parent, who instantly brought a gun from the iron bridge to the middle of the place Royale whence it played with such dreadful effect, in concert with two others, that the enemy

were compelled to retreat among the thick trees near the Wauxhall, and into the hollows of the park opposite the King's palace and the Hotel de Belle-Vue. Into the court yard of this hotel, the Burghers introduced one of their pieces, which at half-musket shot from the enemy, was so placed as to reach him in the hollow, and gall him most severely with grape. A small gun was also stationed behind the garden wall of Prince Frederick's old palace, which served in some degree to check the fire of a battery planted by the enemy in front of the Prince of Orange's palace.

To the great service rendered by the artillery, the burghers in the hotel de Belle Vue, Prince Frederick's old palace etc, corresponded by a brisk discharge from the roofs and upper windows.

It now became an object with the people to drive the troops from the few houses which they still occupied in the Rue Royale. Captain Bouchez an old officer in the French army took upon himself the command of this arduous duty, in which he was assisted by a body of brave volunteers. Having entered one of the neighbouring houses, they climbed along the roofs of others till they reached those possessed by the military in and near the rue Bibliothèque. The interior of several houses actually became the scene of combat between the two parties.

The Hollanders however were every where expelled, and many of them in their attempt to escape across to their comrades, were shot by the skilful marksmen from the country, who engaged *en amateurs* in this day's struggle, even wearing their shooting gear and habits. This species of warfare was not to be withstood. The military again threw themselves into the palaces of the King and the Prince Frederick. (k) From this latter structure, they kept up a galling fire on the people whenever they sallied forth to charge on the park. A piece of artillery was therefore rapidly moved to the back of the palaces which materially contributed to their subsequent evacuation by the soldiers.

To the left of the Park, the attack was directed by Count Vander Meeren on the States-General, which the burghers had been obliged to give up in the morning, and some other houses. These were soon cleared of the enemy, and the hotel of the minister of finance was committed to the flames; but the palace of the States-General remained during the day in their possession.

In the afternoon Baron Fellner gallantly leading on an attack from the Montagne du Parc to dislodge the enemy from the *Bois de Madeleine*, fell beneath their fire. He was an aide-de-camp of general Van Halen, who deeply deplored the loss of his services.

At six o'clock in the evening, the houses belonging to Mr. Lousada and Captain Garbett, adjoining the royal palaces were set on fire by the burghers, who would doubtless have committed the palaces to the flames if the troops had not evacuated them, which they did instantly, at a great sacrifice of life, being exposed to a warm fire from the burghers as they crossed over to the park. The firing now ceased on both sides, and a universal stillness prevailed, while the terrible conflagration of the houses near the palace, illuminated the upper quarter of the city to a late hour of the night.

This day's conflict had made it evident that the Royal troops could not without considerable reinforcements, maintain their position, much less carry their ultimate object with regard to Brussels. The soldiers had become fatigued and dispirited by this unequal contest, and the murmurs even of the officers began to reach the head-quarters of the Prince General, who seeing the imprudence of hazarding further attempts, gave orders to withdraw the troops from the city. At midnight, his Royal Highness, mounted a horse and accompanied by his staff left the house of Mr. Hermans, and proceeded towards Malines. It is needless to observe that the tale of his escape being effected in the disguise of a miller, is unfounded. By four o'clock on Monday morning, not a Dutch soldier remained in Brussels.

The army effected its retreat over a temporary wooden bridge thrown across the long wall between the Louvain and Namur gates, carrying off all their wounded, and having buried nearly all their dead. They took with them their artillery, ammunition, and baggage. The loss in killed and wounded on both sides during the four day's struggle, has been variously computed.

Judging from the incessant discharge of cannon and musketry, it would be supposed incalculably great, but when we remember that the battle was nearly throughout, contested under the protection of trees and houses, it is astonishing that the loss should be so severe as it really was. The official accounts from the Royal army published at the Hague (*l*), state it to be nearly nine hundred in killed, wounded and missing; but under the humiliating results of the expedition which were such as to exasperate the Dutch people in a high degree, it is scarcely to be expected that a full statement of their disasters would be given to them. Nearly all the officers of the Royal army concur in stating their loss to be much more considerable. Large mounds of their dead were discovered in the park, and beyond the boulevards, and the hospitals of Malines, Alost, and Antwerp were crowded with their wounded. Persons whose judgement and veracity can be relied on, have estimated it at from

1500 to 1600 men killed and wounded, whilst that of the citizens is accurately ascertained to be 650 killed and 1000 wounded, of whom a large proportion have since died in the hospitals (*m*). That the number of Dutch prisoners exceeded that of the burghers is certain, from the fact of the Provisional Government having refused the proposition of Prince Frederick to exchange prisoners *en masse*, stipulating that they would exchange only on an equitable footing.

At day break on Monday, the inhabitants learnt with glad astonishment that the Dutch had quitted the town, and an immense crowd repaired to the park and the places abandoned by them. They presented nothing to the eye but scenes of desolation and carnage. The avenues of the Park were drenched with blood; several dead bodies, horribly mutilated and stripped, were left behind by the enemy. Branches of trees, pieces of iron railings, and fragments of statues, destroyed by the cannon balls, lay scattered on the walks. The carcasses of six dead horses of the enemy's artillery, were placed by them as a redoubt at the Park gate opposite the Rue Bibliothèque. Part of the King's palace, the Hotel de Belle Vue, the Café de l'Amitié and the Hotel de l'Europe were dreadfully battered by the balls and bullets, and the neighbouring houses which were burnt on the previous night, lay a heap of smoking

ruins. The square of the Place Royale was strewed with grape shot, pieces of shell, and broken glass from the windows, and at intervals were discovered in the vicinity of the park, a few dead bodies, which the citizens had not yet removed. In the midst of this afflicting scene, a ludicrous relief was presented by men, boys, and women, decking themselves with trophies left by the enemy. Knapsacks were buckled on to women's backs, grenadier's caps tottered on heads too feeble to bear them, and chasseur's caps jackets, gaiters etc were distributed in a fashion of drollery impossible to describe.

The Rues Royale, Louvain, Namur, and Scaerbeck exhibited a disastrous scene of havoc, scarcely a house in these having escaped the calamities of the contest. On the boulevard de Scaerbeck opposite the Botanical Garden, 12 new houses exhibited the black ruins of recent conflagration. The wooden bridge over the Senne was entirely burnt, no vestige of it remaining, except the huge black timbers which had fallen into the stream, and impeded its ordinary course. Upon the boulevards, were found several dead bodies yet unburied, and beyond the gates several dead horses. But the most afflicting sight of all, was a large and splendid mansion in flames at the corner of the new Rue Royale, together with its elegant furniture and two or three carriages. This was the property of M. Ferdinand Meeus a gentle-

man of moderate views, and much respected, who in the early stage of the insurrection had espoused the popular cause. Unfortunately, by one of those strange caprices of the people so difficult to be accounted for in revolutionary movements, he became the object of their suspicion, and was accused of having been one of those who invited the Prince to Brussels, and of having arms concealed in his house which ought to have been distributed to the citizens. Mr. M. was fortunately absent, or his life would in all probability have paid the penalty of these false accusations. In a deep well dug in his garden, were found several hundred thousand gallons of oil which the mob took away in pails and tubs, and sold at a tithe of its value.

But the interior of many houses, presented a still more distressing appearance than that which was witnessed from without. Many of these which had been entered by the Royal troops were now entirely deserted. Of the furniture, scarcely a piece, whether of costly mirrors, curtains, carpets, tables or chairs, escaped the wanton vengeance of the infuriated occupants. Every portable article of value, even body linen, was taken away by them, and several soldiers who were afterwards discovered in the houses, dead or wounded, were possessed of jewels and trinkets to a considerable amount. (o)

These acts, so dishonorable to a civilized army, and

so shameful to the leaders who could connive at them, are not to be justified, and scarcely to be palliated under the plea of exasperation at the obstinate resistance experienced from a people whom they came to bombard into a love of Dutch dominion. A soldier ought in the common career of duty, to expect resistance : he is paid to meet it. By the least act of plunder, he becomes a thief. Connivance is one of the means by which a man becomes participator in another's crime. Did any Dutch officers connive? If not, where were they? During four days, did no complaint reach head-quarters on the subject? If they did not, what must we think of the demoralization of the army—if they did, what must be our opinion of the Prince-General? It would scarce be reasonable to expect that men so conducting themselves, should be exempt from those ultrasuspicious which the vulgar immediately adopted and circulated with all the venom of inveterate hostility. (*r*) Rapes, roastings, crucifixions, tattooings, and all the storied tortures of the inquisition were alleged against them, but although the rude insults which they offered to many females, and the unnecessary harshness exercised over their prisoners, are facts indisputably proved, it is but justice to shield the degraded wretches from the horrid calumnies which would fix a more indelible brand upon them than that which the charges of theft, cowardice, and

cruelty have already inflicted. Justice still further demands an eulogium on most of the officers and a proportion of the troops, who in several quarters conducted themselves with much steadiness and civility. Candour too, obliges us to admit that the Burghers have in several instances, tarnished the honour of their victory, by plundering the houses of those who admitted them for the purpose of firing on the enemy.

It would be difficult to describe the joy of the inhabitants on the beautiful sunny morning on which they rose from their dark caves and recesses, to sally forth and congratulate each other on their glorious success. Confidence was so completely restored, that even children were seen playing in the streets, and the church bells were summoning to prayer as in times of tranquillity. Whence this sudden calm and security? Was it a dream! that a handful of undisciplined burghers without a voice to command them, had checked the serried legions of Holland, and wondering at their own deeds, had aroused the apathy of their townsmen into a strong and invincible spirit of resistance which terminated in the expulsion of their invaders? Victories in which the interposition of Providence has been less marked, have been characterized as miracles; and history will undoubtedly record this as one of those astonishing events which arise from time to time in the

annals of the world, to shew how weak are all the engines of despotic power, against the offended pride of Patriotic Liberty.

The arrival of Mr De Potter in Brussels. — the extension of the Provisional Gouvernement. — the various committees formed for the defence of the capital, and the organization of the army, etc. — the operations pursued against the Dutch forces — the evacuation or surrender of all the fortresses in the Netherlands in favour of the national cause, except Antwerp and Maestricht — the proclamation of Belgian independence — the delegated authority of the Prince of Orange by his Royal Father, and the denial of it by the Provisional Government — together with the state of parties and their proceedings, are subjects beyond the original limits of this small work, and may possibly form a sequel to it, in which the state of things in the Netherlands would be carefully investigated. The present condition of this country is critical for Europe, and will probably give rise to events which the greatest historians may find worthy of their attention.

*The following interesting account of a three day's sojourn in the Hotel de Belle Vue during the conflict, is from the pen of a British officer.*

Of all cities on the continent, Brussels perhaps has been the most favorite resort of the English, since the conclusion of the war in 1815, a circumstance which may be easily and satisfactorily accounted for, whether we consider the great solicitude evinced by the inhabitants for the success of our arms during the eventful campaign of that year, the good feeling which they have since shewn towards us, or the beauty and salubrity of the place, its handsome streets and palaces, its park with avenues and vistas disclosing to the eye at every turn a pleasing and uniform style of architecture, rendered still more striking from the contrast afforded by the vivid green of a foliage disposed and arranged with the best taste and most picturesque effect. Alas! fair Brussels, can it be that the abettors of oppression and the enemies of national liberty and the just rights of man, calling themselves the fellow countrymen of thy brave and generous sons, have dared to deface thy beauty, and to inflict on thy children cruelties and horrors which none but fiends and savages could contemplate! Shame, Shame, and eternal disgrace be upon them, but thy revenge has been sweet and thy triumph nobly achieved. Thou also hast given a terrible lesson to the despot and oppressor, and instilled new life and ardour into those unconquerable spirits that pant to be freed from their ignominious bondage.

It is not my intention to enter into a detail of the glorious struggle for the independence of Bel-

gium which took place in Brussels on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of Sep<sup>r</sup>. the main features of which are now well known, but having been the eye-witness of the sufferings and miraculous escape of some English families then at the Hotel de Belle Vue, one of the principal points against which the Dutch troops directed their attack, shall endeavour to interest the reader by a recital of them.

When the King's troops commenced the attack on Brussels on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. the English in the Hotel de Belle Vue, consisted of Lady Charles Bentinck, niece to the Duke of Wellington and two daughters, the eldest about thirteen, Mr. and Mrs. George Harley Drummond, Mrs and Miss Wolseley (an interesting girl) Captains Dent and Sibbourn and their respective servants. The cannonading had scarcely begun near the Scharbeck gate, when Captains Dent and Sibbourn hurried to the boulevards behind the palace of the Prince of Orange, to observe if possible the advance of the troops, and to see a nine-pounder belonging to the bourgeois pointed and served. In a few minutes however, they heard the grape shot rattling in the trees over their heads, which induced them to return to the hotel, when just as they were turning the corner of the house, a shell burst within a few yards of them. This sufficed to shew that on the part of the troops the most hostile dispositions had been determined on. Shells and grape shot were thrown in abundance from the rising ground outside the gate of Schaerbeck along the Rue Royale towards the Place Royale. From the hotel, we had a good view of the advance of the troops, who were,

received by a brisk fire from the Bourgeois who occupied the houses on each side of the street, and who made great havoc amongst the military; but the latter by dint of superior numbers, were not long in reaching the Park, which the Bourgeois had most unfortunately for themselves, and most unaccountably, neglected to occupy. They rushed through the Park, and took possession of the King's palace which was also unoccupied. Rapid however as was this success, they were never able during the four day's fighting to proceed in this direction, and all their attempts to gain the Place Royale, proved fruitless, notwithstanding the very brisk fire they incessantly kept up against the Burghers. It is a curious fact that not more than about 200 of the latter were upon the Place Royale, when repeated attacks were made upon it by the military, but they had three or four nine-pounders remarkably well served. With a view to take possession of these guns, a party of not more than forty Lanecers advanced along that part of the Hotel de belle Vue facing the Park, but they had scarcely reached the corner, and got into fire, when they faced about and hastily retreated as far as the king's palace. A sharp fire of both cannon and small arms now commenced, which continued without interruption until the final retreat of the troops. The situation of the English ladies in the Hotel de Belle Vue became very critical at this moment. We had all removed to a room on the second floor facing the Place Royale, but some of the Burghers having entered the house, commenced firing from the roof, which naturally drew upon the building the fire

from the troops. The rapid succession of shots from and against the hotel, and the constant fire of artillery close to its gates, with the shouting of the people, were enough to intimidate the stoutest female heart. We found it absolutely necessary to take the ladies to a lower part of the house more under cover, tho' in descending the great staircase, they became exposed to a sharp fire of musketry. However, we succeeded in getting them safe down. The place of refuge was the Cook's Garde-Manger, a sort of cellar, on a line with, but a few steps lower than the Kitchen. Being vaulted and under ground, we remained there in comparative safety until the afternoon of Saturday the 25th. The ladies gradually became accustomed to the noise of the fire over their heads, and as two of them were naturally of a very lively turn of mind, the cellar presented occasionally a scene of hilarity, fun, and good humour, which strongly contrasted with the more frequent one of alarm, fear, and despondency. It must not be supposed that the ladies were confined prisoners during the whole time in the cellar; curiosity prevailed even at the risk of life, and there was many a creep up stairs to gain a peep at the scene without. At the same time, it would be unjust to attribute this motive to one lady Mrs D.....d whose kind heart and genuine philanthropy induced her to visit the wounded whom they were constantly bringing into the hall, and to render every assistance in her power to those brave fellows who though in agony, silently but significantly expressed their gratitude.

“ Oh Woman in our hours of ease,  
Uncertain, coy, and hard to please,

And variable as the shade  
 By the light quivering aspen made,  
 When pain and anguish wring the brow  
 A ministering Angel Thou. »

Mrs D—d had a wonderful escape. Before she quitted her apartments at the commencement of the attack upon the town, shots passed through them, and in a few minutes afterwards they were filled with all kinds of projectiles : one ball in particular lodged itself on the fair Lady's pillow. In the afternoon of the second day of the battle, a Belgic gentleman and his family entered the cellar where they made good their quarters, having been previously staying in another part of the hotel nearer the King's Palace. There was something in this man's appearance so disagreeable, that none of us felt disposed to give him a very cordial reception, and the result proved that we were by no means unworthy disciples of Lavater. About the middle of Saturday (the third day) a Liegeois chief came into the cellar evidently with a view to reconnoitre the party, when Mrs D—d by one of those sudden impulses which seem to belong more to the secret workings of an all-directing providence, than to spring solely from human foresight, extended her hand to him, and begged him to embrace her, intimating at the same time that she trusted to him for protection. The chief nobly replied that with his life he would defend her, and shortly afterwards left the cellar. The kiss thus bestowed upon the cheek of this man dirty and black as he was from the thick of the fight, was indeed a most lucky one for us, as it was certainly the means of saving the lives of the whole of our party both ladies and gentlemen. In three or four hours afterwards,

there was more than usual bustle and noise in the house, in consequence of the burghers having occupied it in still greater force, and brought one of their guns into the yard, ready upon the opening of a gate to pour grape shot upon the troops immediately opposite in the Park. It was at this moment also, that the Belgic gentleman hastily entered the cellar, and desired his family to follow him as quick as possible. He had scarcely reached the front gate, when the same Liegeois chief above-mentioned seized him as his prisoner. In fact he was a traitor, and had been strongly suspected by the burghers of giving provisions during the night to some officers of the Royal troops through one of the gates facing the Park. Certainly many circumstances which it is needless to detail, tended to convince us that these suspicions were but too well founded. Had the burghers rushed into the cellar, there can be no doubt considering the highly exasperated state they were in, that we should all have fallen victims to their rage. Another Liegeois chief has since told me that having taken compassion upon this Belgic family, he used every exertion to restrain the fury of the Burghers, and succeeded in conducting them to the Hotel de Ville : still they were very roughly handled, and the mother and daughter (a beautiful girl of 17) were completely covered with mud which had been thrown at them. There were now many indications of a most desperate conflict in and about the Hotel, and as our staying any longer there, seemed to subject us to the imminent risk of being massacred by the infuriated Dutch should they gain possession of the building, or of being buried in its ruins, should it be battered down, or set on

fire, it became necessary to take some decided steps. The master of the hotel appeared to be much agitated. He had become a marked man from his having casually harboured the traitor and from other circumstances. I shall never forget the style in which Lady Ch. B.—k addressed him at this moment. She seemed to be fired with the spirit and decision of her illustrious uncle, and insisted upon the master giving his true opinion whether it was safer to quit, or to remain in the house—he declined for some time to give an opinion either way, but at last told her she had better go. Lady B instantly decided upon leaving, and the whole party agreed to follow her example. When in the act of preparing to depart, 5 or 6 armed burghers entered the cellar and offered to escort us to a place of greater safety. They had evidently been sent by the Liegeois chief. The party now left the cellar: arrived at the gate, some little hesitation being shewn, the Liegeois chief whispered to Mrs D—d “*vite, vite, Madame*”. We sallied out, Lady B with her daughters leading the way Cap<sup>n</sup> S with Mrs W—y on one side and Miss W—y on the other were the next; behind them were Cap. D and Mrs D—d followed by Mr D—d and his little boy, the whole party being escorted by six burghers. The latter having conducted us along the Place Royale as far as the church, desired us to cross the Place with them as quickly as possible, as we had now to pass through a very heavy fire of grape shot and musketry. It was a most trying moment for the poor women, who could distinctly hear the shots whizzing past them. When we had got into the most exposed part of the Place, Mrs W—y fell down, and it was quite impossible for Cap<sup>n</sup> S—n

to get her on, as the daughter on his other arm was on the point of fainting at the sight of her mother on the ground. But two or three of the brave burghers thinking the poor lady was wounded, ran forward from the cover under which they were firing and carried her on their shoulders. It was quite a miracle that not one of the party was touched by a shot. The burghers having thus got us through the principal danger, conducted us by bye ways and back lanes to a house of great safety where we remained until the next morning, when we were obliged to go still further off, and to break up the party by securing such apartments as we could obtain in different hotels lower down in the town.

These brave fellows would not take any thing for the services which they had rendered us, and actually returned several times to the hotel (at the hazard of their lives) for the purpose of bringing away our baggage, which with few exceptions arising from the hurry and confusion of the moment, was safely delivered to us.

On the following day, the battle was terminated by the troops being driven from their position in the park, and forced to a hasty retreat from the town which now presented the appearance of a fête, every body going about, men women and children to view those spots which had been the scenes of the glorious and successful struggle made by the burghers for their liberty and independence. The English families named in this paper cannot sufficiently express either their gratitude to the good Belgians, or their admiration of their courage in battle and moderation in victory displayed in this noble and sacred cause.

**APPENDIX.**

(a) (From the *Belge*): — “ We can pledge ourselves for the authenticity of the following details of the attack and destruction of the manufactory of Mr. Thomas Wilson, at Uccle : On Thursday the 26th, at eight in the evening, about 120 of the populace of Brussels arrived, and declared to Mr. Wilson that they were come to destroy his machinery. All his remonstrances were vain, and as resistance was impossible, the commune being without arms of any description, and the inhabitants shut up in their houses through alarm, Mr. Wilson offered immediately to give them 300 florins if they would retire without executing their purpose. These conditions were accepted, and the crowd withdrew on receiving the stipulated sum. Shortly after, a second assemblage, among whom were some of the workmen belonging to the manufactory, appeared at the gate of Mr. Wilson’s country house, into which they rushed, and entirely destroyed all the furniture. From thence they went to the manufactory, to which they set fire in different places. This was partly, however, got under, and several portions of the buildings were saved ; but the principal building, in which were the drying house, fitted up with cast-iron flues, the warehouse for the packers, and the storehouses, filled with cotton goods and other merchandise, was entirely consumed; the bare walls alone remained standing, and these have since fallen down. Several very costly machines were destroyed, and other buildings of less importance also fell a prey to the flames. Mr. Wilson has posted up notices in every part of the commune, that, notwithstanding the im-

mense losses he has sustained, and the suspension of work, he will continue to pay his workmen their wages if they are orderly, and return to their homes at night-fall; but that those who conduct themselves ill, shall never again be admitted into his establishment. ”

“(b) Belgium has been long the Ireland of Holland; the relation to the dominant power has been in almost every respect that of ‘the Sister Island’ to England, with this intolerable addition, that while Ireland had by far the lesser population, Belgium had by far the greater; that Belgium paid much more than her proportion of the taxes, while Ireland paid much less; that Ireland often sent her inhabitants to share in the distribution of places, pensions, and honours, while such a distribution among the Belgians was extremely rare.

“Then, again, there were constant interferences with her language, her habits, and her religion. The administration of the laws had not the security of publicity; the trial by jury was destroyed by the King; persecutions of the press followed one after another, and the trials of De Potter and others showed a system of police of the most abominable character; the violation of letters from wife to husband, and from friend to friend. That the union between Holland and Belgium was most unnatural—that its results have been the constant sacrifice of the southern to the northern provinces—that the power of the Dutch has been weakened, not strengthened, by the addition of three millions of malcontents, has been long obvious; that the Belgians, groaning under a very unfair apportionment

of the public burthens — excluded, not by law, but in fact, from almost every situation of high trust and honour — vexed by repeated persecutions of their public writers — and, in a word, treated rather like a dependency than an integral part of the monarchy — that the Belgians, should have broken out into acts of violence, and have taken into their own hands the redress of their own grievances, was naturally to be expected.

The following reasons advanced *against* the principle of separation, are contained in a very clever paper, the *Journal d'Anvers* and ought to be fairly weighed.

#### THE PROJECT OF SEPARATION.

“ Ever since some parts of our southern provinces have unfurled the banner of insurrection, all business has ceased. Circulation has been interrupted, and several establishments, which required the employment of great capital and afforded the means of subsistence to numerous families, have been destroyed and burned. Public tranquillity disturbed in every manner; men, the most peaceable and a short time ago happy in the bosom of their families, prospering under the protection of order and the laws, now forcibly torn from their homes to perform military service of which they are ignorant, and which they dislike, their property every day exposed and ready to become the prey of an unbridled populace, — a state of anarchy which will end by creating parties who will shortly lacerate each other; and lastly, a most forbidding future preparing for them. Such is a faint picture of the evils

which a rebellious and unconstitutional rising has already produced. But all that has hitherto been witnessed is in no wise to be compared to the consequences which must result from an unseasonable separation, which has been demanded with a levity which no man of sense can comprehend.

“ It is true, that among the men who figure as the authors and supporters of a separation, there are to be observed no manufacturers : and, indeed, what manufacturer, what merchant, what agriculturist even, could fall into such an error ?

“ You cry out for a separation, and would fain persuade yourselves that it would be all in your favour. With similar levity you take upon yourselves to dictate the conditions of a separation. This shows but little foresight.

“ The northern part of the kingdom has taken up the gauntlet, which you so imprudently threw down. Hear one of their organs, and consider the consequences which must, and ought to ensue to Belgium when once isolated and abandoned to itself.

“ The following is the reply of the Dutch to your challenge : —

“ ‘ We are glad, ’ say they, that the proposal for a divorce has been made by you. Let it take place, and the cloud which has darkened the horizon of our country will be dissipated. A glorious sun will then soon shine upon it. Soon will the decadence of Amsterdam and its causes cease, and the separation will give it the life and activity which it lost by the union.

“ ‘ But let us examine what will be the result of this divorce to the northern provinces ?

“ ‘ Relieved from an odious manufacturing system, we shall be able to establish our customs on a perfectly commercial system : Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Dordt, Middelburgh, will become so many free ports, into which moderate duties, exempt from vexatious modes of collection, will bring back our old commerce in all its force. The duties at present imposed upon sugar, coffee, and other articles of trade, will be revoked.

“ ‘ The inhabitants will purchase fuel, clothing stuffs, and all the commodities which trade, manufacture, and the necessities of a people require, in England, and wherever they can produce them upon better terms than in the southern provinces, where all these articles will be loaded with duties and restrictions, and will be therefore dearer.

“ ‘ Our country will again become the centre and mart of all the productions and riches of the world which are destined for and consumed in Germany and the provinces of France bordering on the Rhine, as well as in many other places which now escape us.

“ ‘ The products of our colonies will be no longer carried except to our own ports, to the exclusion of all others, and they will be freed from all the duties and charges with which they are at present burdened, and which our Sovereign has established for the advantage of the Belgians alone. Thus not only the mother country, but the colonies also, will enjoy the advantage of the separation. The duty of 25 per cent. established at Java in favour of the Belgians will be abolished, and it is thus that, wherever the standard of Holland shall be displayed, liberty, prosperity, and public happiness will prevail; and let no one present to you as a burdensome set-off the debt which will remain to our charge.

“ ‘ Let us first deduct from the entire sum, those parts which, when the separation takes place, must be placed to the charge of the southern provinces, and which consist first of the Austro-Belgic, and Russian debt; 2nd, the half of the levies made since 1815 : 3rd, what has been advanced for the southern manufactories; 4th, and last, all the millions which have been expended on the fortifications made and constructed in the aforesaid southern provinces. With these deductions the debt which will remain to our charge will not be a very heavy burden.

“ ‘ Besides, although it is not for us to look after, and state what will be the consequences of the separation to the southern provinces, it still does appear that Liege and Hainault will lose those favourable markets which they found in Holland for their raw materials and manufactured articles. The two Flanders and the province of Antwerp will no longer have the means of sending to Java their manufactures, and competing with the English; and thus they will see their manufactories ruined, and the city of Antwerp, which will always be in contact with a tariff of high duties in favour of the Belgic trade, will soon see its port deserted, without hope of recovery; and its commerce, now so prosperous, will return to the provinces of the north, which are free from all shackles. ”

(z) The following official article had previously appeared in the *Staats-Courant* and tended in no small degree to increase the dissatisfaction in the southern provinces.

“ ‘ The King having learned with indignation the dura-

tion of the insurrection, and of the revolt against the legal authority in some places in the provinces of South Brabant and of Liege, finds himself obliged, in expectation of the result of the deliberations of the States-General convoked for the 13th of this month, to hinder this rebellion from being propagated to those places where order and tranquillity have been preserved by the good spirit of the inhabitants, as well as to the fortresses of the Netherlands, and to take the most energetic measures in order to protect the inhabitants and the bulwarks of the kingdom against the seditious. For this purpose, strict instructions have been sent to the commanding officers of the army and the fortresses, to neglect no precautions or measures which may tend to maintain tranquillity. They have been directed to repel violence by arms.

“The Governors of the provinces have likewise received instructions to oppose the rioters, if with criminal intentions they should attempt to interrupt the happiness of the good and peaceable citizens. All well-disposed men, all true and faithful friends of the laws and of order, may be assured that their property will be protected, and that their rights and their interests shall not become the prey of violence or malevolence.

(d) The interior of the Hotel de Ville presented a strange scene during the sad interregnum which lasted for a few days after this period. Nearly all the offices were deserted and closed. The grand saloons of the regency were accessible to very one who chose to enter, and in one of them sate a junta, dirty and democratical, who listened to appeals which they did not understand, and received petitions which they could scarcely read, with all the mock dignity of legal authority. In the lower part of the building, particularly in the cellars, the populace were busied in ransacking every corner for arms which they fancied were still concealed from them.

To baron d'Hoogvorst, Messrs Rogier, Jolly, Nicolai, etc., is Brussels mainly indebted for the restoration of order at the seat of municipal government, during that critical period.

(e) M. Parent is of middling stature, and about 25 years of age : he distinguished himself particularly in Paris, during the " glorious days ". At the head of 250 citizens he rushed into the palace of the Thueries and planted the tri-coloured flag on the summit. At Brussels, he was always foremost at the post of danger, and on the third day of the conflict hung out the Brabant flag from the Belfry of St.-Jamés church, amidst a shower of the enemy's balls. He was also in the affairs at Dicghem and Campenhout. Fighting is so much his delight, that he declares he will go over to England should a revolution take place there.

(f) Prince Frederick fixed his head-quarters at the house of Mr. Hermans the Burgomaster, at about 200 yards beyond the Schaerbeck gate on the left of the road. His Royal Highness was sufficiently cool and collected, and preserved a cheerful demeanour towards his staff, and others around him on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and visited the wounded with much kindness; but on the subsequent days he was observed to be pale and agitated. He felt, or professed to feel, bitterly disappointed at the resistance offered to his entry, and expressed to an English gentleman whom he met on the Boulevard de Louvain on the 25<sup>th</sup>, his abhorrence at the treachery of the inhabitants of Brussels who had invited him in, under promise of cooperation.

" Acting under this assurance " said His Royal Highness, " we entered, ill-prepared for resistance,

and behold the deplorable situation to which we are reduced! ” — The Prince however ought to have ascertained the disposition of the inhabitants more correctly, before hazarding his army to the casualties of street-fighting, especially as Mr. Ducpetiaux and his colleague had on the preceding night intimated a hostile intent on the part of the people.

Allowing that a vast proportion of the high and middle classes of society in the capital, wished for the presence of the royal troops in order to restore tranquillity, the Prince should have reflected that he was merely whispered into the town, by a party who dared neither to call aloud for his interference, nor solicit it by any public document in face of the armed multitudes of the capital. The Prince ought to have suspected the nature of a proposition arising out of a momentary fear of insecurity, but totally unsupported by any political feeling in favour of the Government. He ought to have known that the armed populace of Brussels hated the Hollanders, and were under no restraint, and to have foreseen the obvious consequence. Prince Frederick's excuse can be regarded only as a subterfuge from the dilemma into which his own bad generalship, and the disgraceful cowardice of his troops had cast him.

(c) Van Maanen is by birth a Hollander, and has filled the important post of Minister of Justice with little intermission during the last thirty years. When the Dutch Republic was erected, he was one of those who signed the act of expulsion of the Nassau family. In 1813 Mr. Van Maanen was chiefly instrumental in restoring that unfortunate family to the throne of the Netherlands. The man who could retain office under all vicissitudes during

the ascendancies of the Dutch Republic, Louis Buonaparte, and King William, must be allowed to be possessed of no small share of talent. He is however an unfit minister for a constitutional king; cold, stern, obstinate, despotic, listening to no reason, and warmed by no sympathising emotions.

(g) One of the cannoniers who obtained a just celebrity during the "great days" was a person named Charlier, a shoemaker at Liege. This man had served in the artillery under Napoleon, and had lost a leg, from which circumstance he has obtained the appellation of *Jambe de Bois*.

By his brave and skilful conduct in the management of the guns, he has formed an exception to the well-known maxim. "Ne sutor ultra crepidam etc."

(h) It is much doubted whether hot balls were fired into Brussels. Prince Frederick has positively denied it. It is quite certain however, that several rockets and shells were sent into the town even on the first day of the conflict.

(k) Prince Frederick's old palace adjoined the Café de l'Amitié, and was once known as the Café de l'Empereur. In this Hotel, and the adjoining garden which was confined by a strong wall surmounted by stone balustrades, the burghers possessed an admirable position. His Royal Highness lately occupied a wing of the King's Palace.

(m) The following will be found a tolerably correct guide for ascertaining the number of killed and wounded on the side of the defenders of Brussels.

DIED in the hospital of St-John up to Oct 24.	. .	150
Lay wounded	»	185
Sent away cured	»	50
DIED in the hospital of St-Peter	»	15
Lay wounded	»	56
Sent away cured	»	20
DIED in the various temporary hospitals	»	140
Lay wounded	»	400
Sent away cured	»	105
DIED, and lay wounded in private houses	. .	130
Killed in combat (about)	»	400
Total.		1651

The amount of killed as given in this narrative, is to be understood as comprising those who survived only a *short* time in the hospitals.

Nothing could exceed the humane and generous sympathy bestowed on the wounded by the ladies of Brussels, many of whom were seen personally attending at the hospitals, and dressing the wounds of the brave patriots. The females of the neighbouring towns and villages forwarded bales of blankets linen etc., as well as sums of money to be applied to the service of the hospitals.

The Sisters of Charity, members of that noble community whose mild and benevolent rule is ever exercised with a sublime daring, whether the City of the Plague calls them as at Barcelona, or the inflexible Reign of Terror frowns on them as at Paris, were seen at the different hospitals of Brussels particularly at their own, diligently attending to the wants of their distressed patients, or watching with anxious solicitude the last moments of the dying. Let no one who reflects on these noble pat-

terns of self-devotion, pursue them through their elevated sphere, with the opprobrious epithets of "idle, bigoted, and superstitious".

(w) At eleven o'clock on the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup> M. Edward Dupétioux and another gentleman repaired to the headquarters of Prince Frederick, to report to His Royal Highness the true state of things in Brussels, and particularly to impress upon him the necessity of removing the exceptions from the amnesty contained in the proclamation if he would enter the city without bloodshed. Mr D was however placed under arrest, and conveyed a prisoner to Antwerp.

(x) The answer to this flag arrived from the Prince at the Town Hall, about 8 o'clock on Thursday evening. Baron d'Hoogvorst, M. Jolly, Baron de Coppin, and several others who had hastily formed themselves into a provisional commission of order, received it;

"I came by order of the king my august father, to bear to you the words of peace, and relied fully on your cooperation for the maintenance of tranquillity. I have been deeply afflicted by the events of this day: they have wounded my heart which is however still open to you. Let the Garde Bourgeoise unite with his Majesty's troops, and I will extend a generous oblivion over every thing that has occurred.

*Signed, FREDERICK.*

Dated Brussels Sep 23<sup>rd</sup>.

This piece was not published; the members of the new commission actuated by a wish of preventing the further effusion of blood, voted an address to the prince Frederick containing the following points.

1<sup>st</sup> That the troops should retire six leagues from Brussels, and should cease from every act of hostility as well against that city, as against every town or commune of the Southern Provinces.

2<sup>nd</sup> A general oblivion of the past, without reserve, and an immediate exchange of prisoners and hostages.

3<sup>rd</sup> The ordinary session of the States-General to be held in a town of the Southern Provinces, Ghent and Antwerp excepted.

A deputation consisting of Messrs d'Hoogvorst, Pourbaix, Coppin, Delfosse and Palmaert was dispatched to the prince with the address. They set out at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 at night. Towards 4 on the following morning, when the rest of the commission had become uneasy as to the safety of the deputation, a messenger arrived, stating that it had been favorably received by the prince, who appeared to be deeply moved by the events of the day, and bearing a verbal order to prevent if possible, the renewal of hostilities, lest the negotiations just commenced, might be broken off. At this moment, the tocsin sounded from all the churches. The committee dispatched M. Lippens an officer with orders to suspend awhile this signal of alarm, and to cause the drums to cease beating. This was a dangerous mission among people who regarded as a traitor every one who sought to moderate their excitement. Meanwhile, the deputation returned with an answer which precluded all hope of an amicable settlement.

1<sup>st</sup>. A General Amnesty for the past without any restriction, and an immediate exchange of all prisoners and hostages.

2<sup>nd</sup>. The city guard shall be reorganized, and do duty in the town, in conjunction with the national troops; the heads of sections shall name a Town-Regency subject to our approval; all strangers in Brussels shall immediately return to their own homes after having laid down their arms, and I will use all my influence with my august father to obtain his consent that the States-General shall hold their meeting in Brussels, as soon as quiet shall be perfectly restored there.

Signed FREDERICK.





This answer was such as could not be presented to the people in a proclamation, the main point, the withdrawal of the troops not having been accorded. The order to sound the tocsin at the various churches was renewed, the drums beat again to arms, and the attack was vigorously recommenced.

(j) Several Englishmen took a part in the conflict, especially during the two last days. A young gentleman in a naval jacket, particularly distinguished himself at the head of a volunteer corps which entered the park on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> near the palace of the States-General. A Mr. E...ds was severely wounded.

A man named Pinkers from Liege, took an aide-de-camp of Prince Frederick, prisoner, at the Porte de Schaerbeck on Thursday. Having conducted him to the Amigo, he returned to the scene of action and was wounded; in spite of this however, he again returned. On Sunday morning, this person planted the flag on the towers of St-Gudule.

An individual called Pelerin, a native of Luxembourg, killed an officer in the Park, stripped him, and took his standard, his sword and his schako which he deposited at the Hotel de Ville. These objects are now exhibited on the trophy placed in the Council-chamber of the Provisional Government.

M. Levallant of Grammont, formerly of the French army, conducted himself bravely during these memorable days. Although wounded in the hand at an early stage of the combat, he was never absent from the post of honour. On Sunday he placed himself behind the garden wall of the Caf e de l'Empereur, and thence with the aid of several

persons who loaded muskets for him, picked out the enemy with so true an aim, as actually to silence a gun that was planted near the King's palace. He was the first to enter the Park on the preceding evening.

Jean Croquet of the Rue de Schaerbeck, exhibited an amusing specimen of cool courage. Having received a wound in his leg at the Montagne du Parc, he bound it up with a handkerchief, and procuring a chair from a neighbouring house, *sat* down at the corner of the barricade, and in that posture continued to fire on the enemy.

A detachment of volunteers from Namur, composed principally of the young members of very respectable families, rendered great assistance: one of them alone, named Gillain, shot eight of the enemy on the first day of the engagements, a fact which is supported by many creditable witnesses. Another of them named Druard now in the hospital, received seven wounds on one day, in the attack on the Park. His coat pierced with balls was sent to his native city to be hung up in a public place, in commemoration of his valour.

The corps from Nivelles was very strong, and conducted itself valiantly.

Two women from the commune of Nivelles have been placed by the Brusselers on the list of Fame with Joan of Arc and the Maid of Saragossa. They were armed with hay-forks which they carried through the streets with a very heavy, stupid air. In London they would have been taken up under the vagrant act. They have no claim indeed to any notice whatever.

A man named Thibaut landlord of an estaminet dashed into the park sword in hand, three distinct times on the first day, and brought out three Dutch grenadiers, prisoners. He was only slightly wounded.

Numberless are the instances recorded of individual valour during these glorious days, and the Hopitals are fertile in interesting details of the fortitude and cheerfulness with which the wounded bore their sufferings.

On Saturday morning, M. Eugene Dupré an advocate from Liege and captain of the garde communale, led on by his gallant example, one hundred burghers to the corner of the old Hotel de Galle, from whence he rushed into the Park followed only by seven others, one of whom was instantly killed, and another had his thigh broken. M. Dupré bore off the wounded man on his shoulders to the Rue Royale, amidst a shower of balls from the palace of the States-General and the Park.

(s) It was during the progress of the troops up the Rue Royale, that Major Gen. Lord Blantyre received a wound from a musket ball which proved fatal to his Lordship as he was looking out of one of the upper windows of his hotel. Lord Blantyre has been much engaged in active military service and was universally beloved. His Lordship left a widow and a numerous family of children.

(i) Upwards of three hundred bodies were buried in this cemetery before the 10th Oct, and many who are dying of their wounds, will be added to

the melancholy number. The consecration of the ground by the vicar of the parish, attended by a numerous body of the clergy, and the grand requiem performed a few days after, in the cathedral, were deeply impressive.

(*l*) OFFICIAL REPORT OF OFFICERS KILLED, WOUNDED,  
AND MISSING.

Killed—Major C. F. Kramer Bichin, and Lieut A. Berkhoff.

Wounded—Baron J. V. de Constant, Lieut.-General; A. Schnurman, Major-General; J. C. de Normandie Jacob; J. W. Schmetz; L. N. Perot; F. Hardy; A. L. Akersbol Van Honten; R. Sandberg; J. A. de Schepper; A. J. Van Slingelandt; A. Daelman; M. A. Capraumont; F. L. Dammar.

Missing—Lieut.-Colonel Gumceus, Lieut.-Colonel Schenoffski, Major F. Van Borsule, Lieutenants G. Van Gorkum and Doffignies, Adjutant W. A. Van Uchelen, J. J. Arderch, M. Bergers, H. J. Testas, P. P. Morre, J. P. L. Tessot Van Palot, W. de Ravallet, K. H. Wimmen, Major C. J. E. de Thiary, P. Kemens, Major L. J. Gaurtoris, J. C. Van Ryneveldt.

With respect to the number of killed and wounded soldiers, no accurate lists have yet been received; from the reports it seems that it may be reckoned at nearly 900.

(*n*) Van Halen's history is a very curious one. He is of Belgian origin—but a Spaniard by birth. He is Quiroga's brother-in-law, and after the overthrow of the constitution of Spain, entered the Russian service, and served in the Georgian

campaign. He is in the prime of life, — a life, perhaps, of more change than has befallen any other man of his rank now living.

(o) Among the principal sufferers from the Royal troops from pillage, were M<sup>rs</sup> Shubrick and family, and D<sup>r</sup> Griffith who were torn away with menacing rudeness from their residence in the new Rue Royale and conducted beyond the Scaerbeck gate as prisoners. On their return, they found their house stripped of furniture, plate and jewels to the amount of at least 5000 L. — Mr Britten and family who lived in the same street, were also forced away as prisoners, and their house was robbed to a considerable extent.

Mrs. Lowe's house in the Rue Royale, which was occupied by the troops, presented a scene of desolation and pillage difficult to be described. Every lock, whether of rooms, bureaux or boxes, was broken or fired open. Several trunk heads were beaten in with the butt end of muskets, and the most valuable contents, such as jewels, plate, and linen taken, away, whilst letters and papers were confusedly scattered over the rooms and on the stairs. On a wounded Dutch soldier, a considerable portion of M<sup>rs</sup> L's jewels was afterwards discovered. In the houses of M<sup>r</sup> Searle, M<sup>r</sup> Weston, M<sup>r</sup> Cockerill, M<sup>r</sup> Simoneau, M<sup>r</sup> Dubos, etc, the same wanton and wicked system of plunder was carried on. Mirrors were shivered to pieces, curtains torn to shreds, and valuable furniture of every description destroyed, apparently with no other purpose than that of gratifying an infuriated vengeance.

(n) The usual cry of the troops on entering the houses in the rue Royale was "Mort aux Brigands" accompanied by presenting one, sometimes several muskets to the person opening the door. Mr and Mrs Vantrompen and their niece were assailed in this manner at their house n° 65 rue Royale. Mr V. an old gentleman of 75 was dragged beyond the Scharbeck gate: on the road he was robbed of his papers and 2000 florins: even his ear rings were taken from him. During this forced absence of her husband, Mrs V, and her niece had sought shelter in the cellar whence they were dragged by ten or twelve soldiers who struck them with their bayonets and obliged them to give up all the money and diamonds they possessed, and then conducted them as prisoners beyond the porte de Schaerbeck. Their house was afterwards entirely plundered by the villains. Many other families, particularly Mr Britten's and Mr Calder's, were subjected to the same abominable treatment.

The truth of the following horrid facts may be strictly relied on; they go far towards justifying the reports generally circulated against the Dutch troops.

Immediately after entering on the rue Ducale about 20 of the Dutch presented themselves at the *Imprimerie Romantique*, vociferously demanding money, wine, clothes and provisions; they next proceeded like wild beasts to the *Jambon*, estaminet, and there, after stealing every thing they could find, seized a lad named *Cornelis*, who served in the public house, bound him, and

killed him with their bayonets; they then took his body under the window in the street, wrapped it in straw, and placing round it a quantity of gunpowder, consumed the corpse.

Two persons living near the Scharbeck gate, one named Hauregard and the other Folien, both married men, were cruelly recompensed for the humanity with which they treated in their house some wounded officers of the 10th regiment and some grenadiers. A musket being fired from the next house, these two unfortunate men were instantly seized, and conducted into a potato field near the *Cercle*, estaminet, where they were barbarously shot, and afterwards thrown mutilated into a ditch.

The army committed terrible excesses in Scharbeck and its neighbourhood. Several houses were sacked and pillaged, and their ruined inmates sent away prisoners, or murdered. The women were shamefully insulted, and their ear-rings were snatched away from all who were seen to wear them.

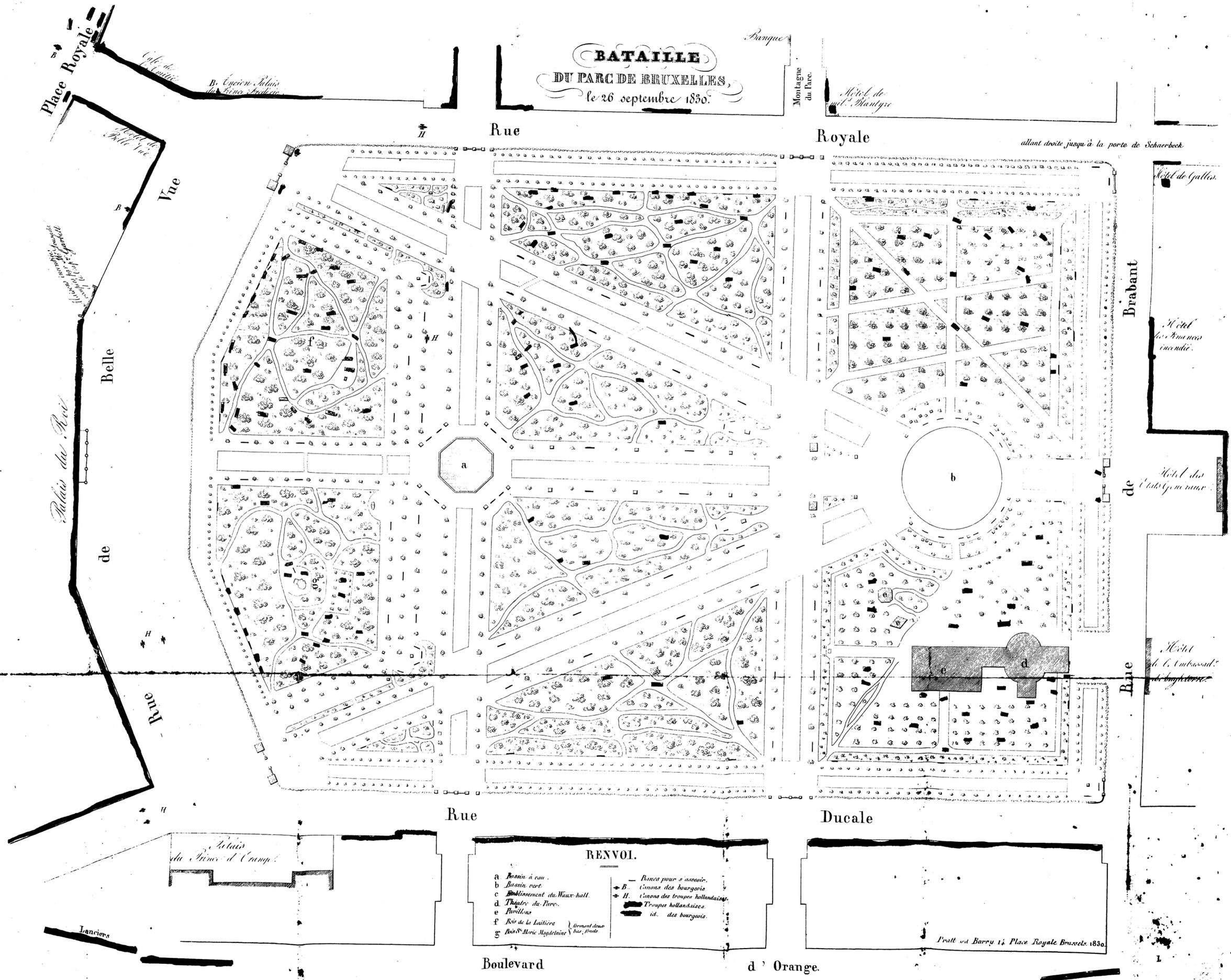
The cry against the military, for the committal of horrid violations has been loud and general; with the exception of one or two instances in the faubourgs, the charge seems to be unfounded. It must however, be remembered, that the subject is one of extremely delicate, and of course difficult inquiry.

FINIS.



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le 26 septembre 1830.



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d Théâtre de l'Arc.	■ Troupes hollandaises.
e Pavillons	■ id. des bourgeois.
f Rue de la Laiterie	
g Rue S <sup>te</sup> Marie Magdelaine	

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