



Over dit boek

Dit is een digitale kopie van een boek dat al generaties lang op bibliotheekplanken heeft gestaan, maar nu zorgvuldig is gescand door Google. Dat doen we omdat we alle boeken ter wereld online beschikbaar willen maken.

Dit boek is zo oud dat het auteursrecht erop is verlopen, zodat het boek nu deel uitmaakt van het publieke domein. Een boek dat tot het publieke domein behoort, is een boek dat nooit onder het auteursrecht is gevallen, of waarvan de wettelijke auteursrechttermijn is verlopen. Het kan per land verschillen of een boek tot het publieke domein behoort. Boeken in het publieke domein zijn een stem uit het verleden. Ze vormen een bron van geschiedenis, cultuur en kennis die anders moeilijk te verkrijgen zou zijn.

Aantekeningen, opmerkingen en andere kanttekeningen die in het origineel stonden, worden weergegeven in dit bestand, als herinnering aan de lange reis die het boek heeft gemaakt van uitgever naar bibliotheek, en uiteindelijk naar u.

Richtlijnen voor gebruik

Google werkt samen met bibliotheken om materiaal uit het publieke domein te digitaliseren, zodat het voor iedereen beschikbaar wordt. Boeken uit het publieke domein behoren toe aan het publiek; wij bewaren ze alleen. Dit is echter een kostbaar proces. Om deze dienst te kunnen blijven leveren, hebben we maatregelen genomen om misbruik door commerciële partijen te voorkomen, zoals het plaatsen van technische beperkingen op automatisch zoeken.

Verder vragen we u het volgende:

- + *Gebruik de bestanden alleen voor niet-commerciële doeleinden* We hebben Zoeken naar boeken met Google ontworpen voor gebruik door individuen. We vragen u deze bestanden alleen te gebruiken voor persoonlijke en niet-commerciële doeleinden.
- + *Voer geen geautomatiseerde zoekopdrachten uit* Stuur geen geautomatiseerde zoekopdrachten naar het systeem van Google. Als u onderzoek doet naar computervertalingen, optische tekenherkenning of andere wetenschapsgebieden waarbij u toegang nodig heeft tot grote hoeveelheden tekst, kunt u contact met ons opnemen. We raden u aan hiervoor materiaal uit het publieke domein te gebruiken, en kunnen u misschien hiermee van dienst zijn.
- + *Laat de eigendomsverklaring staan* Het “watermerk” van Google dat u onder aan elk bestand ziet, dient om mensen informatie over het project te geven, en ze te helpen extra materiaal te vinden met Zoeken naar boeken met Google. Verwijder dit watermerk niet.
- + *Houd u aan de wet* Wat u ook doet, houd er rekening mee dat u er zelf verantwoordelijk voor bent dat alles wat u doet legaal is. U kunt er niet van uitgaan dat wanneer een werk beschikbaar lijkt te zijn voor het publieke domein in de Verenigde Staten, het ook publiek domein is voor gebruikers in andere landen. Of er nog auteursrecht op een boek rust, verschilt per land. We kunnen u niet vertellen wat u in uw geval met een bepaald boek mag doen. Neem niet zomaar aan dat u een boek overal ter wereld op allerlei manieren kunt gebruiken, wanneer het eenmaal in Zoeken naar boeken met Google staat. De wettelijke aansprakelijkheid voor auteursrechten is behoorlijk streng.

Informatie over Zoeken naar boeken met Google

Het doel van Google is om alle informatie wereldwijd toegankelijk en bruikbaar te maken. Zoeken naar boeken met Google helpt lezers boeken uit allerlei landen te ontdekken, en helpt auteurs en uitgevers om een nieuw leespubliek te bereiken. U kunt de volledige tekst van dit boek doorzoeken op het web via <http://books.google.com>

This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

Google™ books

<https://books.google.com>



The image shows the front cover of an old book. The cover is decorated with a marbled paper pattern, featuring large, dark, irregular shapes (possibly representing stones or organic forms) set against a lighter, yellowish-brown background. The marbling is dense and covers most of the front board. The spine, visible on the left, is bound in a dark, worn material, likely leather or cloth, showing signs of age and use. A small, rectangular, gold-bordered label is centered on the front cover, containing the word "ATHENÆUM." in a serif font. The label has a slightly raised, embossed appearance. The overall condition of the book suggests it is quite old, with some wear and discoloration visible on the spine and the edges of the cover.

ATHENÆUM.

47.

VIII. N. 6.

ms/
2247.

KONINKLIJKE BIBLIOTHEEK

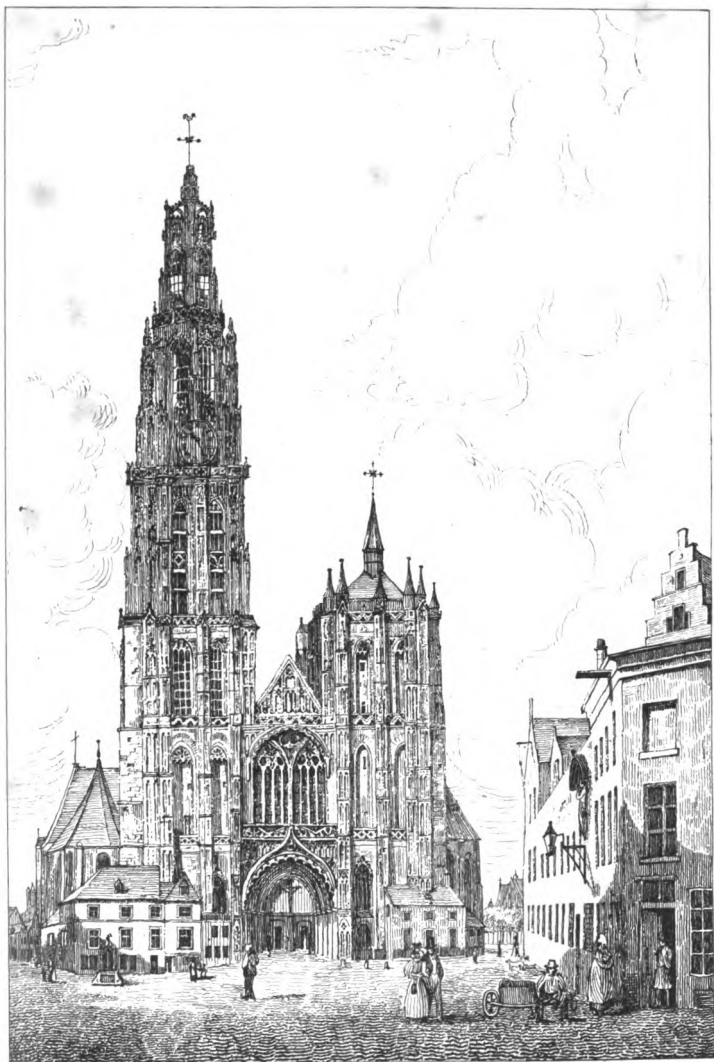


2153 3457

Digitized by Google

491 E 35

1732



J. Henderson.

S. Leath Lithog.

THE CATHEDRAL OF ANTWERP.

BELGIUM AND HOLLAND ;
WITH
A SKETCH OF THE REVOLUTION
IN THE YEAR 1830.

BY
PRYSE L. GORDON, Esq.

Author of "A Guide into Italy" and "Memoirs and Reminiscences of
Men and Manners, at Home and Abroad, during
the last Half Century."

"He's wide awake—and been among the people."

VOL. II.



LONDON :
SMITH, ELDER, & CO. CORNHILL.

MDCCCXXXIV.

	Page
Travelling in Holland,	99
Miscellaneous Remarks,	102
Introduction to the Belgian Revolution,	106
Popularity of the King,	107
Grievances,	111
Vindication of the Dutch,	117
Belgian Revolution,	120
Van Maanen,	125
Libri Bagnagno,	127
Banishment of De Potter,	129
Royal Birth-day,	133
Riots at the Theatre,	136
Riots in the Streets,	137
Demolition in the Parc,	146
The National Colours hoisted,	147
Conflagrations,	152
Entry of the Prince of Orange,	167
Conference at the Palace,	173
Departure of the Prince,	179
Proclamation of the Prince,	185
The Battle,	194
The Conflict,	202
A Dutch Detachment defeated,	209
Barricades,	212
Conflagration of a Depot,	215
Campaign of August, 1831,	243
Leopold,	245
Flight of the Army of the Meuse,	249
Postscript,	253
The Prince and Princess of Orange,	255
An Adventurer,	256
Vindication of the Prince,	259
Conclusion,	260
Appendix,	265
Abridged View of the Civil and Military Employments previous to the Revolution,	273

SKETCHES
OF
BELGIUM AND HOLLAND.

PASSAGE TO ROTTERDAM.

THERE are steamers daily from Antwerp to Rotterdam, by the Scheldt, and the Tourist, in his passage from Antwerp to Holland, may land at Dortrecht (or Dort, as it is called for brevity), four leagues from Rotterdam. It was built at the close of the tenth century, by Count Thiery III. and who first established a toll on the Meuse. It afterwards became the residence of the Counts of Holland.

The Hotel de Ville contains a few good pictures ; and the old Hotel of the Mint, the Exchange, and the Kloveniers Døelen, where the Synod of Dort was held, are the public buildings most worthy of seeing.

The vases, for the celebration of the Holy Supper, are of pure gold, and very massive ; they fortunately escaped the fangs of the French plunderers by the piety of a *Curé*, who, at the risk of his life, contrived to conceal them.

The view of the town is fine from the river, and has furnished, as well as the environs, subjects for many pictures. The population is about 20,000.



ROTTERDAM.

ROTTERDAM is the second commercial town in Holland, and rivals the capital in its trade. It affords, however, but little interest to the Tourist. There are no public buildings or churches worthy of notice. The Exchange is a handsome structure ; a quadrangle, with an open arcade, supported on columns of granite. On a market day, it is the depôt for butter, and the quantity brought for sale, three times a-week, during the season, is a proof of the richness of the meadows, and the good management of the dairies. The cleanliness and neat manner in which this great article of Dutch commerce is exhibited, is much more gratifying to the eye, than if the Exchange was filled with bearded Jews, trafficking in stocks and moneys.

The pictures of Teniers, Ostade, and other Dutch painters, have made the dress of the peasants of Holland familiar to every one ;

here they are to be seen unchanged for two centuries. The city is extremely clean, and, like Amsterdam, and other Dutch towns, intersected with canals, and planted with trees, affording a delightful shade. The Bompies is a noble quay, and is the residence of the principal merchants. It faces the river, and serves as a promenade to the *beau monde*.

Rotterdam being the birth-place of the learned Erasmus, the magistrates, in 1557, erected a statue in honour of him ; but, being of perishable stone, another of bronze replaced it in 1662. It stands on a bridge named the "Place of Erasmus," and is a well-executed figure in a doctor's gown. The citizens consider it the finest specimen of art in existence, not excepting the Apollo Belvidere !

The celebrated Bayle, on his exile from France, found an asylum in Rotterdam, where he died. The population is estimated at 50,000 (1830).

There are several diligences running at different hours to the Hague, or, if the traveller should prefer smoking his cigar in the treck-schuyt, he may embark on the canal of Schie, which skirts the post road, and he may be transported on the roof of the barque for 12 stivers. On each side are a succession of neat

fantastic villas, *loost huizes*, on the banks of the canals, which are crowded with punts.

Delft, about three leagues from Rotterdam, is a gloomy ancient town, containing 13,000 inhabitants. It was formerly celebrated for its potteries, but the manufacture is fallen into decay, and, indeed, almost annihilated.*

This town gave birth to Grotius, whose remains are deposited in the great church. His monument is simple and elegant—a medallion representing his profile, and a child leaning on an urn, with an inverted torch.

William I. Prince of Orange, has also a monument in this church. On a sarcophagus is the recumbent figure of the prince, with his favourite dog reposing at his feet. At the four corners are bronze statues of Liberty, Justice, Fortitude, and Religion, with various trophies and escutcheons of the Nassau family. Near the old church still stands the identical house in which the prince was assassinated.

In the wood near the Hague, is a royal summer residence, called “the House in the Wood.” It was erected by Amelia Solmns, widow of the Prince Frederic of Orange. The only thing

* Specimens of Delft ware, when in its best days, are to be found in the collections of the curious, and bear high prices.

principally about it is the tower, rising from a grand apartment with a most imposing effect. The walls are entirely covered with a series of historical pictures, painted by the *élèves* and followers of Rubens. They display the feats of the family of Nassau, and many are allegorical; and, although they are inferior to their great master, they are, in general, executed with a vigorous pencil, and rich in colour. The Chinese rooms are curious, and the whole establishment greatly resembles the residence of an old English baron. The grounds, which are laid out something resembling English gardens and shrubberies, are well kept, though gravel and the scythe are wanting, as in Belgium.

A piece of water has been lately added, and an attempt at a cascade, but the serpentising of the walks is overdone, and the zig-zags and curves have the appearance of labyrinths.

The wood is part of the ancient forest which formerly existed on the sea-coast of Holland, as large oak trees have been dug up in the peat-mosses in its neighbourhood. The remains of it are two miles long, and three-quarters broad.

A triple alley of fine timber conducts from the gate of Tolhek to the pretty marine village of Sheveningen, or Scheveling. It is almost entirely inhabited by fishermen. At its extre-

mity is a fine beach of hard sand, forming an admirable drive and promenade for pedestrians, with an extended view of the coast, where the queen has erected a pavilion.

A magnificent range of sea baths has been lately erected (1828), with a splendid hotel for the accommodation of the public. As there is no marsh miasma at Scheveling, there can be no doubt but it will become a fashionable resort to the *beau monde*, both for health and pleasure; but there is no speculation among the Dutchmen to erect small habitations for the bathers, as in the English watering-places; for, although the hotel is excellent, yet the price does not suit every one's purse, and, besides, invalids prefer the quiet of private apartments to the bustle and noise of a hotel. Living is much dearer in Holland than in Flanders; a franc will go as far in the latter, as a florin in the former, this we have ascertained from experience.

The procession of the fishmongers of Scheveling to the Hague, reminds one of the descriptions we have of the natives of Kamschatska. A vast number of little carts are seen every morning proceeding to the capital, drawn by two or three brace of huge mastiffs, perfectly trained. In the evening they return with the empty

baskets, laden with their ponderous masters, and are so kindly treated, that they seem to perform their labours *con amore*.

The gardens of Sorsvliet, a short distance from Scheveling, are worth seeing on account of the fine *orangerie*. The stranger ought to be on his guard to avoid the practical jokes which will otherwise be played on him, and ensure him a good ducking ! As he passes over a bridge, the key will be privately turned, when a numerous flow of little fountains, from capillary tubes, will spring up under his feet, and assail him on all sides, like a shower bath, before he can make his escape ; again, he will be invited to repose on a bank or a chair, and no sooner is he seated, than a *jet d'eau* falls on his head !

On the left of the walk leading to the village is the house which belonged to the celebrated Dutch poet, Jacob Cats. In the garden is a stone table, with an ink-stand sunk in it, used by the poet, when he composed the verses, so much admired by his countrymen.

The only running stream in this country comes from the *dunes*, near this classical habitation ; but from this digression, we return to the house in the wood. It affords a delightful shady walk to the citizens of the Hague. The

pruning knife being withheld, the trees are left to nature. The citizens regard them with an almost superstitious reverence.

After the disasters of the French army in Russia, the governor of the Hague (a French General), probably calculating that his reign would be short, ordered the venerable oaks to be put up to public sale, when they were actually purchased by a commissary of the "grand nation," and marked to be cut down ! Fortunately, however, a patriotic Dutchman (whose name, we regret, we are unable to record) bribed the purchaser to transfer his bargain to him, by which, the idol of the citizens of the Hague, and the pride of every Hollander, was saved from the axe. It is unnecessary to add that, on the restoration, this patriotic and spirited gentleman was reimbursed and rewarded.

The museum at the Hague contains a select and beautiful gallery of Dutch and Flemish pictures. The most celebrated is the *chef d'œuvre* of Paul Potter, "The Young Bull," the size of life, a most surprising imitation of nature. By P. P. Rubens are, a Venus and Adonis, with a landscape ; portraits of Catherine Brintis, his first, and Helene Forman, his second wife ; and his Confessor, also admir-

able.* There are nine pictures by P. Wouvernians. By Vandyke, a group of the Family of Huigens, containing six portraits, and eight other portraits of eminent persons, from his pencil. A splendid landscape, a view of Overveen, near Haerlem, by Ruysdal. The Stag Hunt, by Rubens and Snyders. The Return of William III. from England to Maafsluis. Three Landscapes by Berghem; two by Baoth; a view near Dortrecht, by Cuyp; and four historical subjects by Rembrandt, are the most worthy of the notice of the amateur.

Although the Hague is denominated a village, it yields to few cities of its size on the Continent in the beauty and cleanliness of its streets, the magnificence of many of the buildings, public and private, and the pleasantness of its situation, considering that the country is a dead flat.

The principal street is the Voorhout, a series of handsome houses, or hotels as they are called, forming an oblong square, planted in the centre with linden trees and walks.

The Vyverburg, however, is esteemed the most fashionable part of the Hague. On one side is the palace, with a piece of water (which

* See Postscript, vol. 1. "A Royal Theft."

ought to be filled up), and the other is planted with trees. The great drawback to this pretty town is its green and shallow canals, which often emit disagreeable odours.

Five miles below Leyden are the extraordinary works of Catwick. It is well known that the Rhine, after rolling its majestic stream so many hundred miles, was disgracefully lost in the sands, a few miles below this city, instead of pursuing its destined course to the sea. The country around, to a great extent, by imbibing such a volume of water, became an unproductive and pestilential morass. The great convulsion that arrested the progress of this magnificent river is said to have happened in the year 860, when a dreadful storm heaped vast mountains of sand on this ill-fated coast.

The inhabitants of the neighbouring districts early conceived the gigantic project of draining this swamp, and of conducting the waters of the Rhine to the ocean by a new passage ; but insuperable difficulties seemed to present themselves, and, for many centuries, the plan was deemed too romantic for execution, as the mouth of the canal would necessarily be many feet below the level of the sea at high water ; and it was thought impossible that any works could be constructed sufficiently strong

to resist the immense pressure of the ocean, especially, when agitated by the storms of winter. But the Hollanders, having already succeeded in stemming so many encroachments of the sea, at length ventured on this bold undertaking.

At Rynsberg the operations were commenced ; a canal was dug from the last branch of the Rhine to the sea, with a triple row of sluices, so solid and ingeniously contrived, as to bid defiance to every storm.

While the tide presses on them from without, they remain shut ; but, on the ebb, to a certain point, the external pressure being removed, the accumulated water of the canal forces them open. At the first sluice, a steam engine puts the water in motion ; near the sea, a second, with double gates, much stronger than the first ; and, on the shore, the third and last, moved by machinery, superior perhaps to any other of the kind ever constructed. On both sides are enormous masses of granite to protect it from storms.

This great national work was undertaken, and executed, under the reigns of King Louis and Bonaparte, from a plan designed by the engineer Conrard, who had not the good fortune to live to see it finished. His name is

placed on the principal gate, and to it might have been added the well-known motto—

“*Exegi monumentum ære perennius.*”

At Leyden, the Elzevirs first printed their admirable editions of Latin and French authors, in small form; which, for neatness, beauty of type, paper, and ink, have never been excelled, and seldom equalled. This city is the birth-place of Van Sureten the *élève* of Boerhaave. The Catholic religion, which he professed, prevented his succeeding to the chair of his master at Leyden. Forced to abandon his country, he established himself at Vienna, and became the first physician to Maria Theresa. At the request of this princess, he attended Frederick the Great.

The famous tailor, called John Bokebzoom, nicknamed John of Leyden, was also born here. Having associated with a baker of the name of John Matthieu, they became chiefs of the sect of Anabaptists. These two impostors, accompanied by a multitude of fanatics, who had embraced these religious principles, contrived to make themselves masters of the city of Munster, in 1533, where they committed every species of cruelty. The baker perished in a riot, and John assumed the title of “Great King of

Israel," and continued his murders and ravages ; but the Bishop, having taken Munster in 1536, seized on the royal monarch and his banditti, all of whom perished on the scaffold, after suffering horrid tortures.

The siege of Leyden in 1573 is remarkable. The women, animated by the example of Kennava, performed all the duties of soldiers. For seven weeks there was not a morsel of bread within the walls. The only food was the roots of herbs and weeds, and the flesh of horses and dogs, which was soon consumed, and the people were obliged to subsist on soup, made from the hides of the animals they had killed. To famine, pestilence succeeded, which, in a few weeks swept off many thousands of the inhabitants. Those who survived were scarcely able to perform the mournful office of burying the dead. At length, when in a state of complete exhaustion and despair, two carrier pigeons flew into the town, bearing under their wings the notice that relief was at hand ; these joyful tidings gave the besieged fresh courage. In the meantime, Baldez, who commanded the Spanish army, had got possession of all the avenues ; and, knowing the wretched state of the garrison, had erected sixty-two cannon, by which he hoped to bring it to submission, and had fixed

the hour when he was to commence the assault. He communicated the secret to a young lady, Mademoiselle Moons, with whom he was enamoured, and with whom he had dined on the day previous to the intended attack. "You are going," said his mistress, "to put to the sword my relations, and the companions of my youth. I cannot give my heart, or pledge my faith to such a barbarian." Baldez embraced the knees of his fair friend, vowing that no act of vengeance should be attempted on the besieged, as long as they were in a state of famine.

The States-general, filled with admiration at the heroic conduct of the Burghers of Leyden, yet unable to bring into the field a sufficient force to attack the Spaniards, formed the desperate resolution of laying almost the whole province under water, although the damage consequent on such an extensive inundation would be immense, and probably irreparable. Yet they preferred to desolate their native land altogether, rather than suffer the Spaniards to triumph.

The equinox now arrived, and one of those storms arose which they were wont to behold with terror. The wind blew, and the sea, no longer restrained by those stupendous mounds

that had kept it in subjection hitherto, rushed on the land, causing desolation and death. The forts of the besiegers were surrounded or covered with water, which continued to rise as the storm increased. The Spaniards fled from its fury, and found a watery grave.

It was now that the late wretched citizens of Leyden beheld, with delight, a little fleet of boats undauntedly and triumphantly advancing, and in safety reaching the gates. The pale and emaciated populace so greedily devoured the provisions which Providence, through the energy of their countrymen, had so unexpectedly furnished them, that what was intended for their relief proved to many immediate destruction.

To commemorate the courage and fidelity displayed by the inhabitants of Leyden in this memorable siege, the Prince of Orange gave them their option, either to be exempted for a certain time from taxes, or to have a university founded in their town. They nobly chose the latter. And never did any seat of learning proceed from a nobler cause, and, by the number of celebrated men it has produced, the lustre of its origin has not been tarnished.

This university, for a long period of years, was the favourite resort of youth from all parts

of Europe. It imposes no religious tests nor repulsive oaths. The examination for academical honours are extremely severe, and strictly impartial. But, during the Revolution, the establishment suffered greatly, though it is again recovering its original importance. The cleanliness of the town, the beauty of the surrounding country, the cheapness of provisions, and the decent, frugal manners of the inhabitants, the liberality of the institution, and the learning of the professors, are strong attractions; and the number of pupils now (1829) exceeds 300.

There are but few public buildings attached to the university of Leyden. It somewhat resembles those of Scotland. The professors live in private houses, and the students in lodgings. There is no academic dress for them. They must enter at the age of 15 or 16, and remain five years before they can become candidates for the lowest degree. The illustrious Boerhaave was medical professor, which added greatly to the reputation of the university. The present government (1826) is employed in rebuilding it in a style more worthy of its original design and utility.

The botanic garden occupies four acres. The museum contains a noble collection of anatomical preparations; and, in the library, besides

a large collection of books, there are many of the early prints, with valuable oriental MSS. and all those of the critics Scanlinger, Vossius, and Erpenius.

The cabinet of pictures which belonged to the late Catholic priest, M. de Leyde, is supposed to be one of the finest of any private individual in Holland. M. Gael has also a splendid collection of rare prints, and M. Burgman, a museum of natural history, which are open freely to the inspection of the amateur Tourist.

Diligences and treckschuyts ply daily from Leyden to all parts of Holland, and to the traveller who is not in a hurry, the latter will be found an easy and economical mode of transportation, provided always that he can smoke a pipe, and quaff schiedam.

Haerlem is the birth-place of Laurente Coster, the inventor of printing. He was a Bourgeois, and a man of great industry. His first attempt was to form letters in the bark of the beech tree, which he cut with his own hands, he then fashioned them in lead and tin, with which he printed several works from manuscripts in the libraries of his own and foreign countries. Faust, whom Coster honoured with his friendship and confidence, stole his types, and absconded with them to Mayence, where, in conjunction with a rogue like himself, Guttenburg,

he established a second press.* In the market-place at Haerlem, on the house in which the great inventor had lived, is the following inscription, in letters of gold :—

“*Memoriæ sacrum.*

“*Typographia ars artium omnium conservatrix, hic primum inventa, circa annum 1440.*”

It is, however, known that this date is erroneous ; for it was between the year 1420 and 1425 that the invention ought to be fixed. The *regence municipale*, not being able to ascertain the exact year, celebrated the fourth secular jubilee in 1823, with equal pomp and patriotism.

The medical college, in 1723, erected a monument to his memory, by a statue, which was placed in the botanic garden ; but the authorities of the town, with better taste, ordered it to be removed to the front of the modest dwelling where the father of the arts and sciences was born. The kingdom of the Netherlands can boast of giving birth to the inventors of the art of painting in oil, as well as of printing.†

* This tale, however, has since been called in question.

† Since the separation of the two countries, the Belgians will no longer admit this.

Haerlem may be called the Temple of Flora ; for every thing which nature offers in flowers and shrubs is cultivated there with the greatest care ; and perhaps no place in Europe can rival it in this respect. The citizens appear to be born with a taste for these delightful objects. No Bourgeois, whatever his means may be, can debar himself from the pleasure of cultivating roses, hyacinths, tulips, camelias, ranunculuses, geraniums, jonquils, carnations, and every flower that is beautiful to the eye or sweet to the smell. It was at Haerlem that hot-houses were first used to preserve their fruits and shrubs from all parts of the earth, and which have been adopted with so much success in England.

In 1634, a delirium seized the citizens of Haerlem and all Holland. The prices of tulips and hyacinths were brought to almost incredible sums. In 1637, an artisan ruined himself by buying tulips. For a single onion he paid 5,200 florins, named *Admiral Lulkens* ; 2,500, for the *Vice Roi* ; and, 4,500, for the *Semper Augustus*. A root of this last bulb, being profitably shared in the hands of certain amateurs, lost a part of its value when sold to others. This commerce, which employed 6,000,000 of florins, began to decline in 1639.

Few parts of Europe afford more beautiful en-

viros, than those of Haerlem, which are covered with these lovely flower gardens, filling the air with delicious perfumes. Tents of fine cloth are extended over large fields, to shelter the tulips, hyacinths, and other flowers from the sun, which would otherwise speedily destroy their brilliancy. All these fields are intersected by small limpid streamlets.

Beyond the western gate of the town is the country house, called the pavilion, belonging to the king. It was built by the late Mr. Hope of Amsterdam, who sold it to King Louis. This villa is in the Italian taste. The vestibule is adorned with a copy of the Laocoon, and there is a small collection of pictures.

The university of Utrecht was erected at the expense of the province, and possesses an observatory, a botanic garden, a cabinet of natural history, and a hall of anatomy. It has produced a great many learned men. The king has continued the establishment.

Utrecht contains many beautiful collections of pictures, the property of private individuals, who show them to strangers very readily; and many of them will greatly gratify the amateur.

The *Mail* is one of the most agreeable promenades that can be imagined. The centre is reserved for the game (so called), which was

played in England in the reign of Charles II. and probably introduced by that monarch; hence the name of our Pall Mall. The Dutch Mail is nearly a mile in length, and enclosed by beautiful trees.

Utrecht was the country of Adrian Florissen, who became the tutor of Charles V. and afterwards Pope, under the name of Adrian IV. He was the son of a carpet weaver, and born in 1459.

The situation of Utrecht is extremely pleasant, being in the middle of a country of extraordinary fertility, and in the neighbourhood of fifteen other towns. On the banks of the canal, leading to Amsterdam, are many pretty country houses, with fruit and flowers admirably kept, so that this district may be called the seat of Flora.

At Zeyst, a sweet village, two leagues from Utrecht, there is an establishment of Moravians, called *Hern Hunters*. These brethren are distinguished for their religious principles, their morality, and industry. Their meetings only last three quarters of an hour, when they chant hymns, and read a passage from the Bible.

The principal ornament of the females of this persuasion, at the age of twelve, is a red ribbon attached to their bonnets. From that time to

eighteen, it is a pale rose, and till their marriage, when a sky-blue is assumed. Widows change this emblem into white and blue. They are obliged by their laws to marry, the choice being left to drawing lots ; but the lady is not compelled to accept the husband, nor the man the wife, so that these *sortes-nuptialæ* appear to be nugatory.

Utrecht is one of the most ancient towns in Holland, on a confluence of the Rhine and the Vecht, eight leagues from Amsterdam, and eleven from Rotterdam. It existed in the time of the Romans, and was known by the name of "*Trajectum ad Rhenum.*"

Towards the year 630, Dagobert I. drove the Friezlanders from Utrecht, and demolished the castle of Wiltenburg, which they had erected. In 1672, Louis XIV. got possession of the town, into which he made a triumphal entry, levying contributions on the citizens to the amount of 45,000 *livres tournois*.

The well-known treaty of Utrecht was concluded in 1795, terminating a useless and expensive war of twelve years. Utrecht played an important part during the troubles that agitated the united provinces under the late Stadtholder. These troubles commenced by the intrigues of the court of Versailles in 1787, when

a Prussian army, under the command of the Duke of Brunswick, marched into Holland. The Prince of Orange having previously advanced a regiment of infantry with artillery to occupy Utrecht, a party of the Bourgeois, well armed, and commanded by M. d'Averoult, made a sudden and vigorous attack by a *sortie*, routed the troops at Waart and Jutpas, seizing on their artillery and colours, which they deposited as trophies in the Hotel de Ville; and the Rhingrave of Salm, commanding the patriots, established his head quarters in the town. French officers of engineers and artillery, disguised as citizens, with a few sergeants and soldiers, were sent from France to fortify and aid the defence of this place; but, from the high tower of the church, a telescope had been fitted up to watch the motions in the camp of the prince on the plain of Amersfort. The citizens having perceived that the Prussians were approaching, the Rhingrave abandoned his post; and the troops, by evacuating the place with his numerous garrison during the night, directed his march towards Amsterdam, while the Prussians took possession of Amersfort without firing a shot! Since that period the Rhingrave of Salm has disappeared from the political scene.

Half a century ago, Utrecht boasted of being the rival of Leyden in science, and the academy is still in great reputation. Previous to the French revolution, most of the students were Germans and Bohemians, and many came from Great Britain to study civil law, but physic has since been better established at Leyden, on account of the excellent botanic garden.

There is extant, an ancient chronicle of the Church of Utrecht, written by Beka in the 13th century. The greatest part of the cathedral still lies in ruins, and one aisle only remains, in which divine worship is performed. The cloisters are converted into apartments for the use of the university, and serve for halls, when the professors read public lectures to their pupils. The steeple is very handsome, and of such height, that the greatest part of the seven provinces may be seen from it. To the south-east, all the route to Cleves may be traced. It is asserted that fifty walled towns lie in a manner under the eye of the observer, and all within a short day's journey of Utrecht.

Adrian Florissen was a native of this city, and the house where he was born is still shown to strangers, and distinguished by an inscription. That learned and honest man, who was at the head of the Church about the beginning

of the reformation, and much inclined to do all for the good of Christianity in general, was taken off in the midst of his glorious design. He was the son of a carpet weaver, and born in 1459. His epitaph, dictated by himself, argues his humility, as well as his refusal to change his name, though born of mean parentage. It is this—"Adrianus Sextus, hic situs est, que nihil sibi infelicius in vita duxit, quam quod imperaret." Before he was elevated to the papal chair, he had been tutor to Charles V.

The Dutch are believed to have possessed some of the ablest civilians in Europe, and it is certain that there is no university where the civil law has been taught with more dignity than at Leyden and Utrecht. Vennius and Voel, the first upon the Institutes, and the latter on the Pandects, have been considered as the standard of those laws. The generality of their law writers, however, are so prolix, that they overwhelm their readers with a deluge of words, and make them lose sight of the main point by the multiplicity of their explanations. A similar complaint has been made against the Dutch divines. They will make a volume of a good size on a Hebrew word, and another by way of supplement, on the root or pronunciation of it !

AMSTERDAM.

AMSTERDAM presents the form of a cross, the circumference being 12 miles. The soil is so marshy that almost all the houses are built on piles. It is intersected by shallow canals, which produce an abominable odour, that must be prejudicial to health ; this is in some measure remedied by sluices, which permit the stagnant waters to run into the sea occasionally. In such a situation, spring water could not be expected, and therefore large tanks are constructed for rain water. Louis Bonaparte attempted to introduce a supply for the city, of excellent water, from Utrecht ; but this project (which would have immortalized him had he succeeded) was not crowned with success, from the stupidity and obstinacy of an ignorant engineer.

Amsterdam contains 8 gates, 26,000 houses, and 280 bridges, almost entirely of stone. The

streets are spacious, and the sides of the canals, like Rotterdam, planted with trees. The public buildings of this city are splendid.

The Stadthouse (Hotel de Ville), at present the palace of the King, is considered by the Dutch superior to every royal residence in the world. It is an oblong square, completely isolated, standing on 13,659 piles, after a design of the architect Vancampen; is 282 feet long, and 235 wide, and 116 high. It has seven small porticos, answering to the seven united provinces. The want of a principal entrance is a great defect. The first stone was laid in 1648, and the building finished in 1655, at an expense of 30,000,000 of florins (£3,000,000 sterling). The Author of "*Le Voyage de Pays Bas*" thus describes it—"The interior of this palace," says he, "is '*le brillant séjour de beaux arts*,' and the triumph of our best artists, throughout the decorations, are rich and magnificent. The *salle* of the throne is of prodigious grandeur and elevation, ornamented with as much taste as simplicity. On the floor are two half globes, terrestrial and celestial, admirably inlaid. This hall was formerly named '*la salle de pas perdue*.' The cabinets of pictures contain the *chef d'œuvres* of all the great painters of the country.

The *friezes* * in *chiaro scuro* are so admirably executed that it is difficult to know them from sculpture.

The exchange was commenced in a memorable year of the States-general, during the negotiation of a truce, removed by the Arch-duke Albert and Isabella. The deputies were received by Prince Maurice, with these remarkable words—

“ You wish to treat with beggars,” &c.!

The edifice was finished in 1613. It is an oblong square of 250, by 140 feet, surrounded by open galleries, and 46 pillars, numbered to assist the merchants, every one having his fixed station, the brokers alone moving about. A bell announces the opening and shutting of the *bourse*. The river Amstel passes under it, supported on five arches. An inscription on the principal entrance attests that the Emperor Alexander visited it in 1814.

The corn exchange though much smaller, is well constructed, offering great facilities and accommodation to the speculators in grain.

Kattenburg, one of the divisions of Amsterdam, comprehends the north-east part of the

* Chiefly painted by Savage, a French artist.

city, and the Hotel of the Marine, being a parallelogram of 200 feet, entirely surrounded by water. The arsenal of the admiralty, the timber yards, and magazines for every material necessary to the equipment of ships of war and artillery, are placed near this building, and are well worth seeing.

The model-room belonging to the dockyard contains a great number of ingenious and interesting objects, particularly a model of the *cameau* (camel) for raising vessels over the shoals of the Zuyder Zee. A description of it is shown to strangers, but as it is in the Dutch language, we have procured a translation, though not *verbatim*.

“Two immense wooden vessels are constructed to contain the hull of a ship, connected by iron chains, and filled with water, the weight of which sinks them, so that the ship to be lifted over the sand bank is brought between them. The water being pumped up, floats it, until the required height to pass the shoal;” but, since the new grand canal has been cut, this process is no longer necessary, indeed, the *cameau* is an inconvenient machine, and by this time, doubtless, it is no longer used.

The East India Company had formerly large

deposits and warehouses, but they are now empty.

In the museum there is a noble collection of Dutch and Flemish pictures, but as catalogues can be purchased, we refrain entering into the detail of them. The amateur will be gratified with many splendid specimens from the pencils of Rubens, Rembrandt, Vandyke, Karil du Jardin, Wouvermans, Berchem, Vanderelst, Vanderveld, Van Ostade, Paul Potter, Cuyp, &c. The "Night Watch," and "Confederates," by Rembrandt, and the "Repast," by Vandyke, are *chef d'œuvres*. In the city also, are many cabinets of pictures in the possession of amateurs, particularly that of M. Van Winken, which the Emperor of Russia visited.

There are three theatres, Dutch, German, and French, the former is entirely constructed of wood, is handsome, and on a large scale ; the scenes and decorations are well painted by Pleffer. The French theatre is small, but it is very elegant, and has a *ballet*. At the German house, concerts are often given.

This city is seated on the conflux of the Amstel, and the river Y, of a semicircular form, 9 miles in circumference, surrounded by a *fossé* 80 feet wide, and containing 26,296 houses, and 205,000 inhabitants. The whole

stands on enormous piles, driven into the mud. The Amstel is divided into innumerable canals, forming 90 little islands, over which are 290 bridges, but only one worthy of notice, excepting that over the Amstel. However convenient these canals may be for commerce, they are the nuisances of Amsterdam, being entirely stagnant and encrusted with filth, which in summer fills the atmosphere with the most noisome and insupportable stench. The effect would render the place uninhabitable, if the canals were not occasionally cleaned out by mills, communicating motion to the water. Machinery is also constructed to cleanse the mouth of the river from the mud, which, but for this process, would soon choke it up.

The view of Amsterdam from the top of the Town-house is extremely striking, although from the dead level it is tame. A Dutchman, however, preferring a champaign country of rich meadows, thriving villages, towers, cupolas, windmills, and cultivated gardens, imagines that there is no such country on earth as Holland, and laughs in his sleeve at the picturesque !

The road from the capital to Utrecht is one continued line of villas, belonging to the wealthy merchants, which are kept so neatly,

that a stranger might suppose they were more for show than use. A Dutchman, indeed, seldom uses his best rooms for his own gratification, and they are only opened on particular occasions. If he has a carpet, it is rarely trod on, and his rich furniture, china, and plate, are only seen when they require airing.

In consequence of the nature of the soil on which the city is built, no wheel carriages are permitted within the gates, lest the vibration should injure the stability of the houses. As a substitute, the body of a carriage is placed on a sledge, and drawn by one horse (a Dutch *demi fortune*), a barrel of water is fixed over the front, from which is a constant dripping place, and you glide along the smooth brick pavement with great facility. The fare for a course within the gates is eight stivers, and the same sum to the coachman per hour.

The public promenades on the great canals are all bordered with trees, and on each side are noble houses with gardens. The bridge, called "*The Lovers*," is also a favourite walk. It is 660 feet long and 70 wide. The superb quay on the Y; the ramparts of the Plantagie, with its lofty trees, form a delightful shade and an agreeable promenade. A public garden, called the *Parc*, contains a Vauxhall, where

balls and concerts, terminating in fire-works, are frequently given.

The principal resorts out of the city are, the high dyke conducting to Zeeburg; an auberge; where crowds assemble to enjoy the fine view of the Zuyder Zee; and, the Diemermeer, where are many beautiful country houses, celebrated for collections of the rarest flowers, and farms admirably cultivated. Half a league further on is the famous sluice, through which ships from the sea of Haerlem pass.

The population of Amsterdam, by the last census (1826), amounted to 200,784. The proportions which the different sects in Holland bear to one another, may be judged of by the following table :—

Reformed Religion,	100,899
Roman Catholics,	43,212
Evangelical (or Lutherans),	22,623
Spanish and Portuguese Jews, German and Sclavonian,	21,498
Re-established Lutherans,	9,843
Mennonites, i. e. Tcleivbaptists (Doopgesinden),	1,946
Remonstrants (Armenians),	777
Episcopals,	237
Greeks, Armenians, Quakers, and other sects, ---	107

Total inhabitants, 200,784

There are two celebrated synagogues. The Jews boast that they are finer than those at

Venice or Rome. The Hebrews are, indeed, so numerous in Holland, that there is hardly a town without a place of worship. They are distinguished in all parts of Europe by the denominations of German and Portuguese Jews, of which the latter are the richest.

The prosperity of Amsterdam arose out of the ruin of Antwerp, as that of Antwerp did from the decline of Venice. Our limits do not permit a long detail of the Dutch "Tyre," as it has been frequently called; yet the following short sketch may not be unacceptable. It is from the pen of Guicciardini.

"In the year 1204, there was only one small building, called Amstel, from the name of the river that ran by it. Gilbert the Seigneur drew to it a few inhabitants, and made it a convenient retreat for fishermen, who at first lived in mud cabins covered with straw; but, in process of time, it became a considerable burgh, and Count Florent IV. gave them many additional privileges which other Counts increased. Before the year 1482, however, it only had one simple palisade, but was afterwards encircled with brick walls. In 1512, the Guelderlands besieged it; but were repulsed, after setting fire to all the vessels in the harbour."

In 1782, 2,000 ships were locked up in this

harbour by the ice. The author saw a memorandum stating that, "by the aid of planks, the people passed across the shipping to the distance of eight miles !"

Strangers entering Amsterdam by sea, remain sometimes several days without looking on the land side. It is difficult to form an idea of the extent of the fertile meadows which surround it, and the innumerable cattle up to their necks in the richest grass. The Dutch, however, freely admit, that the produce of their dairies is all for export. Profit is their great object. Water and fuel are expensive articles in Amsterdam. The former is brought in barrels and bottles from Utrecht ; but rain water is sometimes used by the lower orders. The turf, made of a bitumenous earth dug from pits, burns like coals ; and, they assert, with less smoke. Guicciardini observes that, in some places, this earth is so unctuous and sulphurous, that it formerly took fire in the province of Friesland, and could not be extinguished till it had burned two leagues in length, and as many in breadth. Becannus says that the like happened in Brabant in 1541, and in 1567, in the province of Utrecht. English and Scotch coals are now imported in considerable quantities for the use of brewers and blacksmiths.

The citizens of Amsterdam possess many advantages, with many defects. Want of spring water is not the least. The smells arising from the stagnant canals in autumn produce miasma; but their cleanliness and honesty cannot be too highly praised, and their industry has never been surpassed. But perhaps their truest and best encomium may be extracted from an ancient author, Hadrian, by applying to Amsterdam his description of Alexandria. "A rich and opulent city, abounding with every thing, and where every one renders to the State all the aid in his power. Some are employed in making paper, some glass, and others linen—all are busy in one thing or other. The lame have their employments, the blind their work, and even those who have the gout in their hands only, are not suffered to be absolutely idle."

It has been observed that in few parts of the world does the ocean retain precisely its original limits. It either encroaches with more or less rapidity on the land, or it yields its own bed to the operations of human industry. On the whole coast of Holland it has for many ages been making the most alarming encroachments.

On looking at the ancient maps of this country, it will be found that the river Yssel

once ran into an island lake, called *Flevo*, and from that lake, a river pursued its course for fifty miles before it reached the sea; but at present it forms a part of the ocean. All the intervening country has been swallowed up. A broad expanse of water, above seventy miles in length and forty in breadth, covers it; and the islands of the Texel, Vlieland, Shelling, and Ameland, are the only remains of the old continent. History is silent as to the period of this desolation; but it probably occurred during the dark ages.

The Scheldt originally formed a mere *Delta* at its mouth, divided by four or five moderate streams; but these are now widened into very considerable arms and creeks of the sea, and the continent is separated into the distant islands of Beverland, Walcheren, and Schoenen.

In the fifteenth century, a vast lake was suddenly formed to the south-east of Dortrecht, overwhelming seventy-two large villages with 100,000 inhabitants, who perished in the deluge. This constant encroachment of the sea, and these sudden devastations, threatened the inundation of the whole country. To avert this calamity, the people commenced, and brought to perfection, an undertaking which has filled Europe with astonishment. They began by

raising banks and mounds; and, though the work of many years was swept away in a short time, they persevered with all the characteristic steadiness which is so justly attributed to the Hollanders. Their banks slowly grew into enormous mounds, they became consolidated by time, the sea covered them with sand, and thus furnished them with a defence; and the Dutch can now boast that, when the raging ocean is in its wildest commotion, they have done all which human means can accomplish to stop its progress.

These dykes are of various heights and breadth according to their situation and the urgency of the case. They are formed sloping on each side, the base being so considerable, and many of them so wide on the top, that two carriages may go abreast. Although the sea has continued to rise, and some of their land is twenty feet below high water mark (some say double that), they consider themselves in perfect security.

The traveller experiences a sensation of mingled pleasure, astonishment, and apprehension, when he walks at the foot of some of the dykes and hears the surges dash above his head.

In the same manner they have built nu-

merous dykes on the banks of their rivers, and seem to have brought into complete subjection the vast body of water which runs through, or surrounds their country. These dykes are national works, and are maintained at incredible labour and expense.

The following lines from Goldsmith's Traveller, gives a lively picture of these extraordinary monuments of human industry. We cannot resist the temptation to quote them—

“Methinks her patient sons before me stand,
Where the broad ocean leans against the land,
And, sedulous to stop the coming tide,
Lift the tall rampart's artificial pride.
Onward, methinks, and diligently slow,
The firm connected bulwark seems to go ;
Spreads its long arms against the wat'ry roar,
Scoops out an empire, and usurps the shore :
While the spent ocean, rising o'er the pile,
Sees an amphibious world beneath him smile ;
The slow canal, the yellow-blossom'd vale,
The willow-tufted bank, the gliding sail,
The crowded mart, the cultivated plain,
A new creation wrested from his reign.
Thus, while around, the wave-subjected soil
Impels the native to repeated toil,
Industrious habits in each bosom reign,
And industry begets a love of gain.”

A canal is now cutting from the Amstel to join that at Appledorn, which will be a great improvement.

There is usually a second dyke within, and near to the first, so that, should the water burst or overflow the outer embankment, the second may prevent an inundation ; while the hollow between them serves as a canal or aqueduct to carry off any additional flood.

The side of the mound towards the sea is strengthened by a species of stout reed (*arundo arenaria*), which is carefully planted in the early part of summer and autumn ; this catching the sand which the flood-tide drives against the bank, is rapidly accumulated, and soon affords a thick covering for the original mound, defying the ravages of the most violent storms. At convenient distances are vast sluices, by which the country may be inundated at the shortest notice. Such means are a great defence to a country, in a military point of view, but can only be resorted to in desperate cases ; for, though the invaders might be checked or destroyed, the fields would be laid waste.

Having raised these immense bulwarks against the ravages of the ocean, the inhabitants most diligently employed themselves in draining the morasses ; they even attacked and succeeded in recovering many immense tracts of land which the sea had covered. In Wales, twenty years ago, an attempt of a similar kind

was made by Mr. William Maddocks of Tremaddock, to throw a dyke across an isthmus, which would have rescued 4000 acres of rich land, had it been judiciously executed; but, unhappily, this enterprising gentleman employed an ignorant engineer, who, instead of commencing the dyke at one extremity, he worked at both. The consequence of this blunder was that, when the work was nearly completed, the current increased as it narrowed, and, after a labour of twelve years, and an expense of £70,000, the dyke gave way, and tumbled into the sea, leaving not a vestige behind!

To enumerate the canals of Holland would fill a volume. The Tourist crosses one every ten minutes; but the natives prefer travelling on them, and, if the stranger can submit to the slow progress of the treckschuyt, he will find this mode of conveyance both cheap and agreeable.

The Palace of Loo, situated between Harderwyk and Deventer, was formerly a hunting seat of the Dukes of Gueldre.

William III., King of England, entirely rebuilt this chateau, which he greatly embellished. It is situated in a wood of great antiquity, and the park which surrounds it, containing 160 acres, is distributed into charming drives

and walks. The gardens produce excellent fruit ; and her majesty takes great delight in the cultivation of flowers. The grottos, basins, cascades, and lawns, render this summer palace a delicious residence. Near it is the pretty little village of Appledorn, in the church of which is the mausoleum of the illustrious family.

A league and a half from Amersfort is the chateau of Soesdyk, erected, like Tervueren, as a monument of national gratitude from the States to the hereditary prince for his bravery at the Battles of Waterloo and Quatre Bras, and is the summer residence of the prince.

In an apartment named "Quatre Bras," is a picture, representing the battle, by Penneman, which does not contain a single English soldier ! When the Duke of Wellington went to see it at Brussels, during its *exposition* to the public, his Grace observed to the artist, "I recommend you, Monsieur, to stick a red coat or two into your battle, by way of effect, as I understand Ostade always painted a man with a red cap, in order to keep his groups in harmony." "C'est vrai, Milor, vous avez raison, mais c'est une episode," * replied the painter.

* "You are in the right, my Lord, but it is an episode."

NORTH HOLLAND.

NORTH HOLLAND, though the most interesting part of the United Provinces, is but seldom visited by Tourists, probably from apprehension of the marsh miasma, which prevails in many districts during the autumnal months. And this fear is not without reason; for, at Groninghen, during the year 1826-7, nearly one-half of the inhabitants were swept off by an epidemic, supposed to proceed from *malaria*, in consequence of the inundations of 1825 having left a quantity of stagnant water in a country already subject to fevers and agues. Fortunately, however, the disease has been checked in its progress within the last six months (1828).

From Rotterdam, the Tourist proceeds by Delft, the Hague, Leyden, and Haerlem, to Amsterdam. In a country, where whatever is undertaken is well done, no expense has been spared in forming this route, which is admir-

ably paved with small hard bricks. But the cross roads are totally neglected, and the moment you quit the *chaussée*, they are almost impassable ; and you are up to your neck in sand.

In this country every thing is artificial, and hence the saying, that “the Dutch have built Holland.” They convert their soil into pavements ; they build the walls and the roofs of their houses with it. Their statues are also of *terra cotta* ; not to mention the incredible number of clay pipes. A native stone is not to be seen in Holland. The rocks of Norway form their dykes, and, from the quarries of Italy, an enormous quantity of marble is brought to adorn their houses.

The whole of this route is bordered with very pretty pleasure houses. Their aspect is singular, but none merits any particular description. They are generally of a dazzling white, and their roofs are covered with brown varnished tiles. The neatness and order in which they are kept, are worthy of the reputation the Dutch have justly acquired for cleanliness. Clumps and avenues of trees are planted round them, but all so mangled by the axe, that there is no ramification left, or picturesque beauty, as in the shady groves of England. A little lawn is always in front, devoured by the sun, notwith-

standing the natural humidity of the soil ; these are planted with flowers in baskets, and the outer stairs, and vestibules within, are garnished with vases containing flowers, and producing a pleasing effect. Between the lawn and the high road is the *eternal* hexagonal pavilion, where Mynheer smokes his pipe, and where the family sip their coffee, and gaze on the passing multitude.

To complete the character of the Dutch villas, there are never wanting two small iron gates shutting the bridges, and on which are traced, in letters of gold, the names of the retreats, and these are often quite classical ; such as the “ Dulce Domum ;” “ Il Paradiso ;” “ El Toboso ;” “ Hope and Repose ;” “ Very Content,” &c. In a country, however, as flat as the water which surrounds it, there is no point of view beyond the next field, except in the environs of Haerlem, which presents a beautiful panorama. A league from that city, to the north-east, you discover the splendid ruins of an ancient fortress standing in the middle of a green field—this is “ Broderode.”

It is sufficient to know something of the famous revolt in the Pays Bas, to give an interest to this name. The House of Broderode, one of the most illustrious in the country, and de-

scended from the ancient Counts of Holland, put its chief at the head of a party of *gueux* (mendicants). "He was handsome," says a cotemporary, "brilliant, dissipated, with a bad head, and, although a conspirator of *eclat*, had but little force to support him in such an enterprise, and he played a part not unlike that of the Duke de Beaufort in the *Fronde*, and went to die, as he did, without glory, in a foreign country" !

On beholding these enormous chimneys still bearing the marks of so much service, and recalling the feasts which blackened them, and, on mounting the stairs, worn by so many feet, you think of the *rebel elegant* limbs of the dames who trod them in the sixteenth century. The environs are still kept with great care, and are the favourite promenade of the citizens and belles of Haerlem.

On quitting this interesting spot, you advance, by a sandy road, towards that district where nothing but sand is to be seen. You mount the small cabin of an amateur of the picturesque, as well as you can, up to your knees in sand, and you are on the *dunes* (sand hills), when the view of a magnificent champagne country opens before you on all sides, of great richness and variety. The river Y, the

Wykerneer, and the Lake of Haerlem—these interior seas threatening to destroy every beauty. While the white sails, glittering in the sun, and spreading their whiteness among the green fields and trees ; the richness of the numerous villages ; the thousands of windmills at Saandam, forming a moving landscape ; the superb pastures ; the woods which surround every habitation ; Haerlem, with its enormous cathedral ; the wide Spare, and the buildings which cover it, also intermixed with masts and sails ; the mass of ruins near the city, transmitting to posterity the remembrance of the execrable Spaniards, whose cruelties, during the memorable siege, filled the city with blood. This bird's-eye view, in a champaign country, is highly imposing. But, when the eye only rests on the *regione deserta*, the ocean of aridity, and the sand hills, nothing can be more *triste* than this desolation. It is Death by the side of Health ; and the effect is heightened by the contrast.

The improvement of these downs is, however, of much importance to Holland, but the obstacles to contend with, even all the patient industry of the inhabitants cannot always overcome, the soil sometimes not admitting of vege-

tation, and, from the violence of the wind, often shifting.

The proprietor of Ellswood has, by perseverance, saved from a state of savage nature many thousand acres, which have proved of the greatest utility.

If Beverwyk could be called a village, it is one of the most beautiful imaginable. It is not enclosed by walls, as the Dutch towns generally are ; and, being chiefly inhabited by agriculturists, the rose-coloured windows, the neat and clean pavements, with the number of rustic equipages constantly passing, give it an air of liveliness altogether novel.

Alkmaar may be called the capital of North Holland ; a province that shows, above all others, the triumph of industry over nature. In the centre of a small country entirely surrounded with water, its population is a mixture of agriculturists and merchants ; many are employed in cultivating tulips, and others, in selling cheese, which is reckoned the best in Holland. There is a weekly fair for the sale of it, on a fixed day, when the immense population is to be seen. A thousand boats arrive, charged with this precious commodity, and as many are ready to transport it to all parts of the world ;

for it preserves better than any other in sea voyages, and warm climates.

The dress of the women of Alkmaar is altogether white, and the head gear quite national. A large *bandeau* of lace is placed across the front, while a bracelet of gold fastens the hair tightly behind the head, in a half circle, terminating at each temple by a sort of spring. It is often ornamented with gems and precious stones, and always elaborately worked, forming a kind of diadem. If we might be permitted to compare a lady's ornament to a horse shoe, it very much resembles one, with two cramps at the extremities !

Below this *bandeau* and many other *broderies* (which, though extremely desirous to gratify our fair readers, we do not attempt to describe) is a lace cap, terminated by artificial hair, more like a beard than curls, floating gracefully on the neck. Some allege that this *coiffure* is a tasteful head dress ; while others affirm that it is only becoming to a pretty face. Be this as it may, the young girls of Alkmaar, who are seen at the windows, or whirling in cabriolets, are striking, and *piquantes* objects to the eye of a stranger. Many of these embellishments cost several hundred guildres ; and the shops, especially on market days, being filled with



**HEAD DRESS OF A YOUNG WOMAN OF
ALKMAAR.**

jewellery, the rich farmers and peasants exchange the produce of their dairies and flocks for these baubles.

The great attraction, however, for the Tourist to Alkmaar, is the new canal, a gigantic work, which promises to change the face of the country, the commerce of Amsterdam, and the political and military existence of the kingdom.

Situated between the Zuyder Zee and the Y, Amsterdam has hitherto offered an excellent haven to vessels after arrival ; but the passage between the Marsdeep and Pampus, from the numerous sand banks, was both tedious and difficult, and ships often encountered great delays. Ships of the line never attempted this navigation, but remained at the Helder. Others of less burden were compelled to land part of their cargoes, and to transport them on machines, constructed for the purpose, to the city.

On these accounts, a new canal has been cut from the Helder to Amsterdam, and this magnificent work, which would be extraordinary in any country, appears more so in one surrounded by seas. This canal, begun in 1819, and finished in 1825, cost £1,000,000 sterling. It is $50\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, $124\frac{1}{2}$ feet broad at the surface, 36 feet at bottom, and 20 feet 9 inches deep ; its level is that of the highest sea tides, from which

it is supplied. The only locks it requires are two at the extremities; but there are two sluices, with flood gates. It has eighteen bridges in its whole length. The locks and sluices are double, that is to say, two in the breadth of the canal, and, from the report of an eminent English engineer, their construction is excellent, being built of bricks for economy; but bands of limestone are interspersed at intervals, and they project an inch beyond the bricks, for protection from the vessels. There is a broad towing path on both sides, and sufficient space to permit one frigate to pass another. At the harbour of Nieudiep there is a steam-engine for supplying the canal with water during the neap tides. The time occupied in towing a vessel from the Helder to Amsterdam is eighteen hours. The expense is very considerable; but there is a great saving in time, besides risk, when compared with the old passage, and no doubt can remain as to the immense public utility of this wonderful undertaking, which does much honour to the country that projected and achieved a work of such magnitude in so short a time. The king,* distinguished beyond all other monarchs of modern

* This was written during his popularity in 1824.

days, not only took a lively interest in this splendid national work, but assisted in its direction.

On quitting Alkmaar, the brick pavement ceases ; but the roads are good, resembling those of Switzerland and the south of France, a *chemin ferré* (iron bound), *Anglice* Macadamised. The villages are numerous, and the horizon boundless. The canal, however, soon makes its appearance again, parallel with the highway. Mountains of sand, dug up from it, are piled in fantastic forms and pyramids, and pits filled with black clay and ferruginous matter of various colours, offer to the geologist an interesting study. On these artificial mounds, or in the hollows between them, were erected villages of miserable cabins for the accommodation of the hordes of labourers employed in forming the canal. Now in ruins, they add to the desolation, resembling a country that has been destroyed by an earthquake.

The grand dyke of the Helder is 2 leagues in length, and 40 feet wide. On its summit is an excellent road, descending to the sea for the last 200 feet, by an inclined plane of 40 degrees. The highest tides are far from approaching the top. At certain distances are enormous buttresses, advancing into the sea many hun-

dred *toises*, and quite gigantic ; they are entirely constructed of huge blocks of granite, brought from Norway, and chiselled with great dexterity. There cannot, probably, be found in Europe a work of such solidity and magnitude, the breakwater at Plymouth excepted, where the masses of rock which compose it are still greater ; but they are found on the premises.

Immortalized by an extraordinary circumstance, Saandham, among foreigners, has unaccountably changed its name to Saardham, probably in compliment to the Czar carpenter ! The aspect it offers, when approached by Beverwyck, is as singular as the fact which made it so renowned. On a space of less than two leagues, without trees or hills, are crowded 2,000 mills, some of which are of a prodigious height. In casting the eye over this moving forest, you behold, at short distances, small standards and flags of different colours, fixed on the tops of houses, with garlands of flowers and ribbands interlaced on the wings of the mills, whirling in their circuit, while crowns of the most brilliant hues, suspended at the extremities of their sails, describe still larger circles. This is the way by which the Saandhamites announce their marriages ; each flag

indicates a nuptial, and every mill belonging to the families of the *nouveaux mariés* carries the same trophies. The aristocratic miller, by this means, exhibits his wealth, and attracts his clients and friends. On the same horizon, and in the middle of this general joy, the fixed wings of other mills show the deaths of their proprietors.

These mills are employed for many different purposes besides that of draining the land; the three principal uses are, the manufacture of rape oil, paper, and sawing deals.

Every Tourist who visits Saandham examines the cabin of Peter the Great, and, if he publishes his travels, the description of it is never omitted. On this account, we shall only mention the simple inscription ordered by the late Emperor Alexander to be engraved on a marble block, to commemorate his having visited this humble abode of his predecessor in 1817.

“ Petro Primo, Alexander Primus.”

But, in addition to this laconism, the governors and civic officers who were in his suite, thought it necessary to attach a long list of their names and titles.

Besides these 2,000 mills and this singular relic, Saandham has other claims to excite

interest. The village contains 15,000 inhabitants, who, in the embellishment of their houses and gardens, spare no expense. These are their luxuries. The village has the appearance of being situated on the banks of a river, but in such a country a running stream cannot be expected ; yet, in the late improvements in the wood of the Hague, a cascade has been constructed, which runs a certain time, affording to the Hollander a novel object—the movement and murmur of water !

From Saandham the traveller may proceed to Brock, after passing two leagues of sand hills ; a striking contrast to this puppet-show village and bijou of bad taste.

Madame Genlis, in her “ *Adele et Theodore*,” has given a charming description of this singular retreat, and contrived to make it more absurd than it really is ; leaving, however, on the minds of her juvenile readers a similar impression with the perusal of the “ *Thousand and one Nights*,” and may be equally accredited.

Before arriving at the village, you discover an extensive piece of water, bordered by pavilions and kiosks, highly adorned. At a middling sort of inn, beyond the precincts of this sanctuary, the traveller descends, and he must consider it no small favour to procure a guide

to conduct him into the interior of this elysium.

It is said that both the law and the usage forbid carriages from entering the street. Besides, there is a more forcible reason, which cannot be disputed, viz. there is no street; for the little lanes which separate the domains are so narrow, that they are only practicable to pedestrians, who rarely tread on the pretty paved bricks, arranged in a sort of Mosaic work, with pebbles and shells; and a dog or a cat is seldom seen to intrude on them. It is also alleged that a law formerly existed which obliged passengers to take off their shoes before entering the street. In summer the alleys are covered with fine sand, disposed in compartments which are frequently not disturbed for a whole day, the inhabitants having but little intercourse with each other, preferring a promenade in their gardens; and when visits are paid they have access to their neighbours by the rear of their houses.

A suite of toys, one more ornamented than another, fairy canals and bridges intersecting them at every ten yards, and serpentising in a truly cockney taste. At every step you see a new luxury. Here a house in the form of a temple, with a superstructure of painted deal,

crowned with clay busts and wigs ; in another dwells a retired Burgomaster, who retains a painter by the year to revarnish his walls daily ; a third has an iron gate to his garden, which cost 10,000 florins, and ugly in proportion ; in his neighbourhood a Bourgeois of Amsterdam has erected two columns of Carrara marble in front of a brick building on a quay, at an expense of 20,000 florins. His garden exhibits three ponds, greener than his lawn, with every possible specimen of bridge. In a wooden-painted pavilion is a priest in costume, with legs crossed and spectacles on nose, reading his Breviary, while a fishing-rod and line, suspended into the pond at his side, wait for a gudgeon. On a bare and peaked rock, a shepherd of the Alps blows his horn, without prevailing on a cow in the act of crossing a bridge, to advance one step. At the bottom of a massive grove, a villager endeavours to obtain the favours of a coy nymph, who does not appear at all moved by his addresses. A *chasseur* has been planted for twenty years, waiting orders to shoot a wild duck, stationed a few yards from the muzzle of his gun, while a group of swans regard the enemy with the utmost *sang froid* ! Another amateur has varied the manner of showing his taste, and, imitating

nature, he has planted a number of yews; and, as they grow up, they are converted into chairs, ladders, wild boars, &c. It is difficult to retain your gravity in passing through this chaos of absurdity; especially when you are informed by the pompous proprietor that his garden is quite in the English style!

To sum up the account of this arsenal of villanous taste: It is appreciated at its true value; for no one, but a citizen of Brock, has any other feeling in viewing it, but as a mass of bad taste and absurdity. In no other part of the world has so much money been expended so foolishly, yet it deserves to be seen and to be praised; for the sums daily expended in cleaning the canals, repairing the bridges and the alleys, employ a multitude of labourers. A large board is fixed on a trellis, in the most public place, containing the names of the proprietors who have neglected to make the necessary repairs; so that the defaulters are kept on the alert to avoid this species of pillory, by seldom omitting to restore any deficiency.

Among the many curious equipages in Holland, the stranger will be struck with a Dutch dennet, the base of which is so narrow, that great management is required to stow away the feet of two persons sitting in one; and the

centre of gravity has the appearance of being beyond the body of the machine. The pannels are painted with landscapes and figures, in the gaudiest colours, and in the taste of the seventeenth century. This is the national cabriolet, which seems very ill adapted to the ponderous and grave subjects of Holland. An enormously fat and heavy horse is yoked to this buggy, with a copious and flowing mane and tail, the last indignantly cut at the root.* These steeds are called *haard dravers* (fast trotters), and if, by a skilful process in stowing away your legs, you put yourself alongside of a Dutch Mynheer, into one of these machines, you will be transported over the hard bricks by a *haard draver*, with the velocity of a comet.

The prison at Leeuwarden is one of the most remarkable objects in Holland. It is filled with convicts of the most hardened character, almost all having been branded (*flettri*) by public exposure. Among these occupying three of the night-rooms (in 1826), twenty-seven were pointed out, whose united punishment, from the complication of their offences, had amounted to 550 years of imprisonment. †

* To this stump is added a huge false tail.

† About thirty years to each.

The number of prisoners at present (1829) is 560. The proportion of women to men is as one to four and a-half. The manufacture of the prison is woollen cloths, for which the fleeces are received in the raw state, and every operation, except the fulling, is carried on in it. About 500 pieces are produced per annum, most of which are employed for the army and navy. The most abandoned of the criminals are employed in spinning, of whom sixty-six were in one day-room, under the eye of one inspector, armed with a sabre, and clothed in a military dress, whose superintendence was found sufficient. In the other rooms of labour the number of prisoners varied from 30 to 100. They are engaged in spinning, weaving, carding, pressing, packing, &c. The proportion of sick among the men was six per cent.; among the women thirteen; but no diseases of an alarming character.

On a vague calculation, the keeper said, "that two-thirds knew how to read and write." They are fed twice a-day, their allowance being 1 lb. of bread, a basin of soup, in the morning, and potatoes, with gravy (a mess of beef and mutton fat), at four o'clock. In the prison is a shop, where the prisoners are allowed to spend a part of their earnings by labour, in the pur-

chase of such luxuries as bread, cheese, butter, spirits (once a-day only), tobacco, &c. The mode of payment is in counters, and in which the convicts are paid a proportion of the calculated value of their industry, of which seven-tenths go to the prison accounts, where the cases are of long imprisonment; six-tenths, where it is seclusive; and, five-tenths, where it is deemed correctional. The profit put on the articles sold in the prison does not exceed 15 per cent. ; and the cost to the government per man daily, is less than 3d. sterling.

The following details are official :—Of the 445 males, 341 were confined for the first time ; of the females, 68 ; of the latter, 25 were imprisoned for theft, 2 for murder, one of these for poisoning her husband, but such is the repugnance of the king to capital punishment, that her sentence had been commuted to eight years' imprisonment, 1 for forgery, 1 for perjury, and 1 for coining. Of these 100, 51 were condemned to seclusion, and 49 to hard labour. Of the male prisoners, 189 were sentenced to seclusion, and 269 to hard labour. Their crimes are as follows :—Theft, 387 ; forgery, 19 ; cutting and maiming, 15 ; refractoriness, 11 ; offences against decency, 5 ; rapes, 5 ; arson, 4 ; perjury, 3 ; fraudulent bankruptcy,

2 ; bigamy, 1 ; wounding a parent, 1 ; destruction of property, 1 ; murder, 1. Of the whole number of prisoners, 284 know how to read and write, and many of them admirably well. Clerks for the details of accounts are chosen from among them, and to those a somewhat greater proportion of liberty is allowed.

The Rasp, or House of Correction, is worthy of being visited by the inquisitive traveller. The government of these penitential prisons is admirably conducted, while every attention is paid to the comfort of its inmates, but they are not permitted to be idle or dissolute. If by their crimes they had offended the laws of their country, they are compelled to contribute to its revenues by their industry ; and the habits of orderly behaviour which they acquire in the Rasp House, are often retained through life. The Tourist will probably be surprised at the immense number of criminals in this dépôt of grave Dutchmen, whom they only see trafficking and plodding when they visit other countries ; but he must not attribute this to any deterioration of morals of the Dutch, or suppose that crimes are more common than in other parts of Europe. The truth is, that the government is wisely and humanely sparing of the lives of its subjects ; crimes of the greatest

atrocities being alone punished with death. The robber, the housebreaker, the forger, and the coiner, are condemned to 5, 10, and 15 years' imprisonment at hard labour ; or, in extreme cases, for life. The policy of this we are not called upon to defend, although that defence would not be difficult ; we only mention the fact, to account for the great number of convicts that fill every *maison de force* throughout the kingdom. In one corner of the courtyard of the Rasp House is a cell used for the punishment of the incorrigible idler ; a pump is on one side, and a stream on the other ; if the prisoner does not for a certain time incessantly work at the pump, he must inevitably be drowned.

The Work-house, which is partly correctional and partly charitable, has no parallel in Europe, or perhaps in the world ; and while it affords a comfortable refuge for the destitute, it is an admirable school for the reformation of offenders. The correctional part is confined to those who have been guilty of slight misdemeanors, many of which would not be recognised by the laws of England. Husbands for example, who have wives addicted to drunkenness, may, on proof, send them to receive the discipline of the house, and husbands guilty

of the same bad habits are equally liable to the same punishment. In one part of the building young ladies of the first families are imprisoned and fed on a spare diet, for undutiful behaviour towards their parents, or for any other domestic irregularity. This we confess, appears to be extremely injudicious, and, if it still exists, it ought to be abolished, for who would choose to select a wife from a Rasp House? Such a mode of discipline is quite outrageous, and unworthy of any nation pretending to civilization.

SOCIETY AND MANNERS OF THE DUTCH.

THE first striking characteristic of a Dutchman is industry, in which he somewhat resembles the Scotch, but he carries his frugality to a much higher point. His industry is peculiarly his own, and would scarce deserve that name in any other country, though its effects in Holland are astonishing. The strenuous exertions and actual hard labour by which the peasants in Great Britain and other countries procure their living, are in Holland unknown. No porter is met tottering under a load (as is seen on the wharfs in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin), that every moment threatens to crush him. At Amsterdam, and other cities of traffic in Holland, a chest of half a hundred weight is not moved without a horse and sledge ; but, if the Dutchman does not work hard, he perseveres in what he undertakes. He has no fickleness nor whims, and often, by patience, accomplishes

objects which his more vigorous and active neighbours would not often effect. Connected with steady application, he is strictly frugal, and always lives within his income. He has no speculation, and bankruptcies are therefore rare.

It is reckoned almost as disgraceful in a Hollander to wind up the year without adding something to his income or his stock, as it would be in the inhabitant of any other country to have dissipated his whole means. Before the Revolution, the spices of India, and silks of China were to be found in great abundance ; but the use of these luxuries was unknown to the people. They exported their fine Leyden cloths, and wore themselves the coarsest Yorkshires. They brought from Ireland the worst sort of butter and cheese, while they sold, in return, the best productions of their dairies !

The following anecdote is historical, and will exhibit the character of the nation :—"As the Spanish ambassadors were travelling to the Hague, in 1608, to negotiate a truce, they saw several persons step out of a little boat, and, seating themselves on the grass, each took from a wallet (which he carried behind him) a packet of bread and cheese, and beer. The *hidalgos*, accidentally inquiring who these persons were,

found them to be the Deputies of the States—the sovereign lords and masters of Holland” !

A love of money is the predominant passion in a Dutchman, we will not call it avarice. It is a love altogether indigenous to the soil. It leads to no dangerous speculations, however flattering, if it does not carry with it the absolute certainty of gain.

The Dutchman can calculate his profits to the nicest fraction. His expenditure is equally scrupulously arranged, which rarely exceeds the half of his profits ; thus, every year finds him richer, and the silent progress of accumulation and interest at length swells his property to incredible sums. The Dutchman’s creed is —“That more fortunes are made by prudence and economy, with small gains and little risk, than by bold and uncertain speculations.”

A ludicrous instance of his never losing sight of an opportunity of gain occurred, it is said, in the war of the Revolution, though we do not profess to believe it. In an obstinate engagement between the fleets of the Republic and Great Britain, during a cessation of the battle for the mutual accommodation of repairing, the officers of the Dutch ships offered their opponents a supply of gunpowder at an extravagant

price, understanding that two or three ships had nearly exhausted their ammunition.

“*Si non è vero è ben trovato*,” but this tale is too improbable to give it the colour of truth. By relating it as we got it, we do not mean thereby to affix or insinuate any stigma of dishonesty or discredit on the commercial character of the nation ; on the contrary, we believe that none can be more honourable in their dealings.

Since the new era, however, a spirit of frugality has gradually declined among certain classes, and many of the nobility, the magistrates, and rich merchants, now rival those of other parts of the Continent, in the style, expense, and luxury of their tables, houses, furniture, and equipages ; but the features of the old Dutch character still predominate.

If a foreigner has a letter of introduction to a merchant, he is received politely ; but Mynheer’s countenance is clouded should his visitor prolong his stay beyond a quarter of an hour. Perhaps he may be invited on the morrow to dinner. He goes after the hour of exchange ; he is treated with cordiality, and is presented with a handsome, if not a luxurious repast ; but, at four o’clock, his host rises from the table without ceremony, and retreats to his

counting-house, the *frau* to her nursery, and the stranger is left to amuse himself as he pleases.

Mynheer, at the close of his daily occupations, either repairs to the coffee-room, where he passes the evening enveloped in smoke, or to the *société*, to pore over the publications of the day. Sometimes he retires with his family to one of the many pleasant gardens and summer-houses that surround every Dutch town. He betakes himself to his constant companion—the pipe; the females sip their tea, and diligently employ themselves in needle-work, not, indeed, in unbroken silence; but that pretty pleasing member, the tongue, is not employed with quite so much activity as in the female society of most other countries.

The accounts which travellers have given of the insensibility and phlegm of the Dutch, are abundantly overcharged. The characters of men, their employments and amusements, are not dissimilar in all the large cities of Europe; but the Hollander is the most phlegmatic of all. He is more industrious, and his time is more constantly employed in business; but, when this is over, he will often enter into the amusements and dissipations of life with the keenest relish.

The ancient national dress of the lower orders of the Dutch still remains unchanged, particularly the fishermen and their wives. The same mighty mass of nether garments which we see caricatured, and which may be observed in the pictures of the old Dutch masters; this gives to his naturally ponderous form, peculiar bulk and solidity. The women wear close jackets with long flaps and short plaited coloured petticoats, sometimes consisting of a score of yards of baise or flannel, making an admirable *pendant* to the husband's costume! The petticoat reaches but a little below the knee, and usually exhibits a neat and well turned leg, covered with a light blue stocking, and a scarlet cloak; a yellow slipper without quarters, defends the foot, with large and broad silver buckles projecting over each side; this is universal even among the Bourgeois. The head dress is a skull cap, exactly fitting the head and carefully concealing the hair, excepting a dangling ringlet on each temple, where it is ornamented with gold and silver clasps, often *filagrée*; a sort of muslin or lace drapery hanging over the neck, on this is an immense hat gaudily lined, forming a ludicrous contrast to the cropped, flatless beavers of the men. These dresses are among the lower ranks frequently

hereditary, and the grandfather, the father, and the son, have, in regular succession, appeared at the altar in the same *nuptial habiliments* ! This singular costume is, however, now only found in the sea-ports, and some of the villages. In the large cities the dress differs but little from that of England, except its being composed of coarser materials, and that there is less change of fashion.

In the little town of Vlaarding, the ancient habit is preserved with such fidelity, that an inhabitant would be hooted, were he to attempt the smallest innovation, by wearing any thing modern.

We cannot refrain from mentioning a few trifling but characteristic customs. The stranger will seldom walk far in a Dutch town without meeting a man in a long black gown, and a low cocked hat, with a black crape depending behind. This is a public officer—the *Clansprecher*. His office is, on the death of any person, to inform all the friends and acquaintances of the melancholy event. The funeral of a Dutchman is expensive, according to the time of the day. If the interment is after two o'clock, the charge is 25 florins ; after three, 100 florins ; and, if later, double that sum.

The cause of this singular custom we have not been able to learn.

Every person who could claim the slightest acquaintance with the deceased, follows him to the grave. The ceremony being over, the mourners pay their compliments to the widow or nearest relation, who provides liquor, and the glass circulates three or four times ; all then depart, except the near relations and particular friends of the family, who are especially invited to a feast. The nearest akin to the defunct takes the direction of it ; bumpers are drank to the memory of their departed friend, and prosperity to those he has left behind him, until their grief is completely drowned in wine or schiedam. Songs then succeed ; the musicians are called in ; the widow leads off the first dance, and the festivities continue until daylight separates the merry mourners ! These strange festivities were carried to such excess, that they were expressly forbid in the province of Oveyssel.

When a person is sick, instead of tying up his *rapper*, as in England, a small board is placed before the door, containing, on a written paper, a daily *bulletin* of the state of the invalid. When there is an *accouchement*, the placard is tastefully ornamented with lace. By

these ingenious expedients the anxious inquiries of the friends of the families are satisfied, while the sick person is not disturbed, nor the domestics harassed by the continual racket of the knocker, or ringing of the bell ; some have a refinement on this mode, by placing a box to the board, into which inquirers throw their names.

On the celebration of a marriage, instead of the bride-cake which is distributed in England, it is customary for the newly-married couple to send to their particular friends two bottles of wine, generally the best old hock, spiced and sugared, and decorated with a profusion of ribbons in true lovers' knots !

In most of the towns in Holland, the tower of the principal church contains from 50 to 100 small bells, accurately tuned. These *carillons* are struck by hammers, connected with a set of keys something resembling those of an organ, while pedals communicate with the great bells, on which the performer (*carillonneur*) strikes sharply, having the edge of his hand guarded with thick leather, and thus is enabled to execute the most difficult pieces of music. In large towns, this person has a salary, and his sole employment is to amuse the citizens a couple of hours every day ; but the fatigue is

so great, that he is frequently obliged to take short respites from his labour, and generally to go to bed after his daily performances. [We recommend this exercise to any gentleman who may be overburthened with a redundancy of flesh, or whose digestion is not perfect.] One improvement is wanted to this instrument—a muffler to each bell, to prevent the vibration of the notes running into one another. It was after hearing one of these Dutch concerts, that Voltaire penned his bitter and well-known epigram—

“Adieu ! cannaux, canards, carillons, et canaille !”

The Dutchmen are generally short and stout, the women comparatively taller than the men, and not destitute of personal grace and beauty. They have fair and transparent skins, with light hair, often bordering on a sandy tint, but their features are often void of expression.

“The white and fishy face,” as some ill-natured travellers have called the Dutch countenance, proceeds, perhaps, from the preposterous treatment of their infants, who are shut up in closed rooms, and never breathing a pure atmosphere, until they are nearly a year old ! This deadly white is certainly prevalent in the sex in Holland, from whatever cause it arises ;

but neatness, modesty, civility, and kindness, must not be denied to them. The stranger will find them reserved in their manners, which it is not easy to remove. They have not the vivacity either of the French, or of their neighbours in Flanders; but if there is an opportunity of beholding a well-educated Dutch female in her domestic circle, she will be found endowed with pleasing qualities, and amiable dispositions. The general use of a *chauffe-pié* (foot-stove), heated under the garments in cold weather, must be detrimental to the skin as well as to health.

The farms in North Holland are, in general, from 30 to 40 *hectares*, the greatest part in pasture. On these rich meadows are nourished from 15 to 25 cows, and 200 sheep, so succulent is the grass. One of these cows, taken at hazard, will measure four feet high at the shoulder; they milk them three times a-day, and they will yield from 15 to 20 quarts per day. The cheese from these dairies is of such unequal qualities, that the price varies from 2d. to 8d. per lb. .

The great part of the cattle in this country is brought annually from Jutland. The cows are kept in stalls from the 15th November to the 15th April, the rest of the year they are pas-

tured. The greatest care is taken to keep them warm when housed, and much attention is paid to their cleanliness, being washed and curried ; and, as they repose on an inclined plane, they are always dry, and their evacuations preserved in dépôts.

For every head of cattle a tax, called *Horn-geld*, is paid, which will appear an unwise measure in the eye of an English farmer. The fields, or rather little islands, in which the cows are enclosed and milked, are surrounded by canals, and called *milk plaats*. The dairy women are much dirtier than their cows ; and, though many of them are rosy and well looking, nothing can be more disgusting than the filthy exterior of these nymphs, especially when contrasted with the brightness of their shining pails and utensils of brass, and varnished oak, painted in the gayest and most brilliant colours.

Among the peasants of Guelderland are still found customs of ancient date. On the feast of *Pentecôte* (Whitsuntide), they assemble at day-break, in great numbers, to drink new milk. But little quarrels and petty jealousies often occur at these meetings. If the swain finds his mistress coy, or coquettish, or capricious, there appears at the gate of her *milk plaat* a *mannequin* (scare-crow) equipped in tatters,

instead of her expected lover ; but, when all goes well, she will find her favourite cow crowned with flowers and ribbons.

The North Hollanders consider their wool the finest in the kingdom, especially that of Beemster. The sheep bred there are of great size, and extremely handsome ; a fleece will often weigh 16 lbs. It is detached from the animal quite entire, preserving its form, and, when the operation is performed, the poor sheep escapes from the hand of the *tondeur*, and seems ashamed of its state of nudity ; to accomplish this process, there must be no small degree of patience and good temper in both parties. A lock of the wool will measure often a foot in length. It is said that the ewes produce 3, 4, and sometimes 5 lambs ; they are milked twice a-day, yielding a quart at each milking. Such are the Dutchman's modest reports—of “the wool,” says he, “it is distinguished beyond all others for its cleanness, fine quality, whiteness, and length.”

A Dutch farm house is a great curiosity. In front, a large door always open during the day ; beyond it, in the passage, is a half door, narrow, barred, and always closed. Behind this entrenchment sits the *frau*. This apartment is generally one of parade, and a pro-

vision of small shining slippers are ranged on both sides of the door, which are put on previous to entering ; a precaution never omitted. The floor is composed of varnished bricks of all colours ; the chairs of willow and horse hair, also of various hues ; the walls equally gaudy, to keep the picture in harmony. In many, they are covered with daubings, representing cows, horses, pigs, &c. "imitating nature most abominably," and exhibiting the decline of the arts in Holland.

The tables are plated with copper and painted oil-cloth ; the chimneys are lined with tiles, and often with enamelled plates of porcelain, which no smoke can ever soil, for they are not used as fire places, the grate being adorned with festoons of gummed paper, the mirrors on the walls having similar ornaments. A profusion of superb Japan china is on the mantelpieces, and in glazed cabinets. Here the stranger is passed on to another apartment, where he hopes to find something that is likely to be in actual use by the family ; but he will be disappointed—there is the same parade, silence and immobility. The furniture looks as if it had not been used or disturbed for a century ; it is, however, in this chamber where the family sleep, in *niches* or *armoires*, concealed in the walls, like the cabins of ships,

one above another ; these are masked by pannels, highly varnished and painted ; and a peep within exhibits a space of two feet wide, by five in length, adorned with festoons of lace, resembling the *niche* of a saint more than the bed of a fat Dutch peasant. If there is a third room, it is garnished with rich India cabinets, serving as a common hall, a larder, a dairy, and for all the purposes of the *menage*. You find as many glasses, curtains, and varnish, as in the other apartments ; and though the cooking vessels are in daily use, they look as if they were placed in ranges, only to be admired for their brilliancy.

Although the Belgians are excellent cultivators of all sorts of vegetables, they are excelled by the Dutch, who may be pronounced the best gardeners in Europe. The environs of their towns resemble a botanic garden ; for every cabbage, turnip, onion, &c. is in exact lines, as if they were planted more for ornament than use. Their soil is very favourable for their growth, being, like Flanders, alluvial, but still richer by manure and high dressing. The Dutch force their fruits more than their neighbours ; and it is surprising the perfection to which they bring grapes, peaches, apricots, melons, &c. considering the humidity and severe frosts of the climate. There is, however,

no race of people poorer than the gardeners, both in Belgium and Holland, from the great number that seek a living by the spade, especially the Brusselois ; so that vegetables are a mere drug hardly affording these industrious men the means of subsistence. The quantity brought to market, both in that city and at Amsterdam, a stranger would imagine to be sufficient for the population of Westminster, and the stalls are so neatly arranged and garnished with gay flowers and shrubs that it is quite a treat to visit them on a market day. The inhabitants of both countries lay in a provision in autumn for winter consumption. Cabbages are kept in dry cellars, carrots in sand, potatoes well protected from frost by straw. French beans, which are a favourite dish, are cut up and put into jars when green, and their beans (*haricots*) are carefully dried. Sallads, of which they have a great variety, are eat by all ranks voraciously, and, like the French, they are great consumers of bread. The lower orders content themselves with rye, or with a mixture of wheat in the loaf.* They

* This bread is given to horses in travelling, cut into a tub, with beer ; a mess of which they are very fond, and it refreshes them more than corn.

eat much less meat than the English. You will see a labourer, or a woodcutter, sawing beech timber in the streets for fire-wood, sit down at one o'clock to a luncheon of *swartz broden* (black bread), seasoned with a crust of Dutch cheese and an apple. The principal meal is supper—a thin soup, often *maigre*, sallad, and vegetables, with a little meat occasionally. The peasants who are a stout and hardy race, are fed in a similar manner. Masters and servants sit at the same board, and the latter are kindly treated. In many parts of Holland milk forms a chief part of their food.

Belgium and the northern parts of France and Flanders are supplied with fat cattle from Holland. In return they import grain. Nature has formed these countries to be one kingdom, had it been possible to make the inhabitants see the mutual advantages of such a union ; but “envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness,” often prevent nations as well as individuals from friendly intercourse.

The absurd and impolitic blockade-measures of Napoleon destroyed the commerce of Holland ; but it was impossible to deprive them of their trade in money.

In the herring fishery they excel all other nations, in a way quite peculiar that never has

been equalled, in the process of salting this fish (though at Yarmouth they are better smoked). This simple branch of commerce formerly afforded subsistence to 450,000 persons. At present it scarcely occupies a tenth part of that number.

The herrings appear on the coasts of Scotland and England generally about midsummer, and remain until the end of November. They then migrate to the Irish seas, and return to the southern ocean. The Dutch fishermen are prohibited from casting their nets before the 24th of June. Their *busses* are 50 or 60 tons burden, and carry 14 men. The herrings are first salted on board these vessels, and afterwards on shore.

The productions of this fishery were formerly immense, although now much fallen off. The Dutch have an almost superstitious idea of the superior excellence of the herring; and, indeed, they consider it as a sovereign and universal panacea. On the first appearance of it, they imagine it will cure all diseases to which the human frame is subject. They are consequently most eagerly sought after, and fetch an enormous price. The boat that brings the first herrings to market has a reward of 50 guilders (£5).

The Greenland trade was formerly also a great source of wealth to the Dutch. The ports of

Amsterdam and Rotterdam alone used to send 300 vessels on this fishery, each manned with 40 or 50 seamen, forming an admirable nursery for their navy; but the trade is now nearly annihilated.

The advantageous situation of the kingdom of the Netherlands, at the mouths of so many navigable rivers, produces a considerable internal commerce, which must rapidly increase now that the navigation of the Rhine is declared free (1829).

Immense rafts of timber, and long vessels for its transport, float down the Rhine; and, in return, Holland supplies the greatest part Germany and Switzerland with sugar, coffee, tea, spices, earthen ware, linen, woollen cloths, &c.; the balance of this trade being always greatly in favour of the Dutch; and it has the advantage of being secure from the dangers of maritime war and sea risk.

Since the invention of steam, the navigation of the Rhine is greatly increased, and Switzerland is brought to our doors. A man may now breakfast in London on Monday; the next morning he may have the same meal at Rotterdam. He ascends the Rhine and visits the magnificent scenery of the Rheingold; and within ten days he may return to the British metropolis, at a trifling expense.

THE INUNDATION OF 1825.

THE inundation of 1825 proved a dreadful calamity to the inhabitants, although they have reason to be thankful that the whole country was not swallowed up. On the 1st of February the citizens of Amsterdam began to tremble on finding that the tide, already very high, did not ebb to its usual state. On the 3d, the water was $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches higher than at the great flood of 1818. The following day it was calm, but on the 5th, the tide, accompanied by a heavy gale of wind, rose still higher. If it had continued to flow a quarter of an hour longer, every part of the city, which is surrounded by the half-circle of the river Y, would have been overwhelmed. During the whole of this night every one was on foot ; the cellars of a great part of the town were filled ; the bridge of *Nieuwe* (Stadsherberg) was under water, and every moment it was expected to blow up. In an in-

stant the tide, which it was feared would still mount, suddenly stopped, descended, and Amsterdam was saved by a miracle. The cause has not been accounted for. It was soon known that the stone wall, constructed in the dyke of Dungenheim in 1799 to defend the country against the attacks of the English, was thrown down; that Waterland the west part of North Holland, the lowest and richest, was also in ruins. These great defences now broken down, nothing could stop the rapidity of the waters in the flat country as far as Alkmaar and Edam. The Wormer Meer, the lowest of all the Polders, was immediately swallowed up, the waters rising to 9 feet. The dykes of Edam having also given way, 3000 acres were destroyed. At this moment the danger was not less in the east, the dyke of the Helder which appeared the surest rampart, and the greatest effort of human invention, was overflowed, running on the highway to Alkmaar. In short, almost every dyke was threatened with ruin. In a space of above 200 miles, 40 villages, the richest in Europe, a population of 25 or 30,000 souls were in danger from the waves; 50,000 acres of land, 100,000 sheep, and 10,000 horned cattle, were lost for agriculture for some years. The number of lives lost has not been

very accurately ascertained, but it must have been considerable.

Notwithstanding all these miseries, North Holland suffered less than might have been expected, and much less than many other parts of the provinces. In every corner of the Zuyder Zee the desolation was universal, the island of Schokland entirely disappeared, and the *debris* scattered by the waves alone indicated its former existence.

Terschelling and Weiringen had nearly a similar fate. The dykes of the province of Groningen had given way in thirteen places, Overijssel and Drenthe, countries equally low, and exposed to the north-east winds, were, if possible, more completely destroyed. In the midst of these disasters another occurred, which exposed the survivors to perish of thirst, for the springs of fresh water were nowhere to be found. Many of the unfortunate sufferers had taken shelter in the remains of their crazy abodes, and refused to quit what was left of their possessions, or to survive the loss of their property and friends. Others, as criminal as they were incensed, became pirates, and plundered every thing they could lay their hands upon.

No public disaster, however, could have been

more promptly remedied. The royal family gave the noble example by a liberal contribution of 100,000 florins. M. Van Brienon, an equal sum, and many individuals of the richest part of the community became rivals in munificence.

Meantime a new affliction began to desolate the country. An epidemic, caused by the inundations, produced *marsh miasma*, fevers, and agues, which carried thousands to the grave. This disease was less felt in North Holland than elsewhere, yet the inhabitants were unable to give their contributions to relieve the great number of sick and indigent at Groninghen and Overysael, having so many of their own to take care of. Hoorn, above all, had many victims, and those who escaped the first attack, were carried off by a second. Groninghen containing 30,000, it is said, lost a third of its population.

Such, however, is the industry and perseverance of the Dutch nation, that within two years but few marks of this great flood could be observed. The dykes, canals, and highways, having been repaired, and new villages rebuilt on the ruins of the old.

TAXATION.

WE have hitherto refrained from giving any statements regarding the finances of the Netherlands, but shall now mention one or two remarkable taxes which fall directly on the greatest part of the community; and, we believe, were introduced by Napoleon. We have taken the following details from "*La Loi Fondamentale du Royaume des Pays Bas*," and other authorities :—

"The tax on patents is of the nature of an English income-tax and that of licences combined. By the ordinance published on this subject, no one shall be allowed to exercise any commerce, profession or trade, without being furnished with a patent.

"Every city or town in the kingdom is divided into seven classes, and every profession or trade exercised in them pays by a tariff. Amsterdam, the capital, is in the first class. The second class comprehends Antwerp, Brussels,

Ghent, and Rotterdam. The third, Bruges, the Hague, Gronenghen, Leige, and Utrecht ; diminishing to the seventh or lowest class. For example, a merchant or other profession, residing at Amsterdam, in the first class, would have to pay 275 florins for his patent, whereas the same exercised in the second class of cities would have to pay 240 ; the third 190 ; and so on, down to the lowest class, 45 florins or guilders, which are of the same value. All other places not mentioned, are considered as belonging to the lowest class. The poor porter or carter carrying on his occupation as a member of this lowest order of cities or towns, is taxed from 5 guilders (about ten shillings) down to a sum equal to half-a-crown, so that his place of residence, as well as his employment, is taken into consideration. Manufacturers have a certain sum laid on them according to the number of persons they employ, without any attention to local situation. By looking at the tariff it will be seen what the tax is in different towns of every trade, down to him who makes *sabots* (wooden shoes). The cobbler, and maker of matches, are the only tradesmen who are exempted from the patent. An innkeeper pays according to the number of furnished chambers in his house, and is classed

in proportion to this number, although he is also rated by the size of his establishment in servants. Manufacturers and shopkeepers are also in a similar situation ; for they not only pay for the articles they make, but for goods they buy to retail, and are compelled to declare the amount of their sales. As to the professions which are carried on by individuals in their own persons, the favour or caprice of the officers who collect the revenue, is discretionary. The physician may be classed according to their supposed estimation of his practice, and so may the surgeon, apothecary, dentist, oculist, &c. Barristers are exempt. Journalists, attorneys, and army agents, are put in the third class, with brewers and distillers. The baker, butcher, pastry-cook, candle and watch maker, in still lower classes. All these are in the discretionary power of the officers of government. Masters and mistresses of schools, players, dealers in old clothes, dealers in beer and spirits, with a hundred other trades, belong to the lowest class. Smokers of herrings, and journeymen, are not included in the list given in by their employers. This classification is certainly very absurd, and the tax never could be suffered to exist in a free country, and yet, we believe, a similar one is still levied in France.

Clerks in private offices must take out a patent, and pay from 1 to 2 per cent. according to their salaries.

“ With regard to the greater part of professions and employments, the amount of the tax is quite uncertain, and places individuals at the mercy of the officers of the revenue. Besides the classification of towns, the tax is also regulated by a scale of professions and trades. The people are arranged into seven classes, according to the supposed amount of their gains. For some professions and employments the class is fixed. A banker is always in the first class, and some of the poorest trades are always in the seventh class ; but, with regard to many of the professions and employments, there are two, three, or four classes, in any of which a man may be put, according as the collectors of revenue think fit. Thus, a physician may be put in the third, fourth, or fifth class, and may have to pay at Amsterdam, for his patent, the income of twenty-four, forty-five, or ninety *visits to his patients*, according as he is required. A goldsmith may be put in the fourth, fifth, sixth, or seventh class ; so with regard to many others. It is evident what an engine of oppression this may prove in the hands of power. If a man speaks out too

freely, and exposes this abuse of authority ; without taking him before the police, fining him, or sending him to the *maison de force*, he may have a *hint* about his patent, and the class he is likely to be put in, which he will comprehend in a moment, without any explanation being given.

“ Now, let us suppose a man is dissatisfied, and wishes to appeal. When the income-tax in England was in existence, it was the practice for a man in that case to go before the commissioners, who were gentlemen and fellow-subjects, who paid like himself, and who, though sometimes a little too zealous in their loyalty, yet, nevertheless, were serving, without fee or reward, for what they thought the good of their country. It is not before such men you are to go in the Netherlands. You must state your grievance in writing, on stamped paper, and send it, with various documents, to the comptroller. This will not exempt a man, meanwhile, from payment of his tax. He must pay down the money, and then appeal !

“ If a man carries on two trades or branches of business, he must have two patents ; but from the operation of this law are exempted all persons who receive their salaries from the public revenues, as ecclesiastics and public function-

aries, market gardeners, fishermen, and workmen in certain manufactures ; and, for the encouragement of the arts, painters, sculptors, &c. The amount of a tax for a patent is fixed according to the supposed emolument of the different trades, and of the individuals exercising them. For several branches of industry the tax is fixed and certain, so that an individual may know what he is bound by law to pay. Of this description are various sorts of manufacturers, and persons employed in mills moved by machinery.

“ Merchants and shopkeepers of every description are required to make a return to the government officers of the annual amount of their sales, according to which returns the tax for their patents is to be fixed. This, however, is only for information, as the revenue officers are not bound to adhere to it, having a discretionary power to assess the individual.

“ It would have been a wise measure had King William abolished this unpopular tax on industry, instead of doubling it.

“ Stamps are also a considerable source of revenue. The bills stuck in a window for lodgings to let, and play bills pasted up in the streets, must be on stamped paper. A petition to the king, or to his ministers, is not received

without a stamp, and, as well as every sheet of music, is *timbré*.

“The window tax (which the landlord pays) is on a better plan than that in England, not being calculated on the number or size of the windows, but according to the rent, which does not lead the owners to deface their houses, and to injure their health, by excluding the light and air. Our financiers might follow this example with benefit to the public.

If the King of the Netherlands does not draw as large a revenue from his subjects as the English Chancellor of the Exchequer, it is not for want of diligence and attention to the most trifling objects of finance, and but little ceremony is used in regard to the mode of levying it.”

The Dutch and English have long rivalled each other in the art of distilling spirits. The *genièvre* of Schiedam still holds its high reputation, and is certainly greatly superior to the English alcohol, denominated gin, or, *par excellence*, “blue ruin.” Yet our rectifiers, by their various processes, have extended its fame into every corner of the British islands; and, we have no doubt, even if the duties were equalized, that “Hodges & Co.” would beat Mynheer’s schiedam out of the market; for,

although Scotch whisky is highly esteemed among the *bon vivants* of London of a certain class, it does not stand in competition with the various compositions under the denomination of “rectified spirits.”

In the small towns of Schiedam and Flushing, the chief distilleries are established. They do not pretend to have any secrets in the process, and strangers are admitted to see it. The grain from which it is obtained is wheat, brought from Germany by the Rhine, and is admitted to be a better material than barley and oats, of which English gin is made. The distiller pays for his licence in proportion to the number of his stills—from 25 to 95 guildres. The coals made use of are from the Belgian mines ; but, if it were not for the high duty, the English coals would be preferred, as they burn more freely, and last longer. Throughout Holland, turf is generally the fuel for all domestic purposes. The pieces, about the size of a brick, sell for a guildre per hundred.

The very best schiedam is exported for 5 or 6 shillings per English gallon, but the duty being so enormous in England, little is consumed there. Notwithstanding the low price of this article, the inhabitants of Schiedam, Flushing, and the adjacent towns, as far as we could

learn, were not more addicted to drinking spirits to excess, than in other parts of the provinces. A Dutchman, and even his *frau*, take a small glass on getting out of bed, during the winter season, to counteract, they say, the effects of the fogs, but they are a sober race. We cannot help contrasting the Mynheers with certain natives of the "Black Isle," in Ross-shire, residing in the district so well known—"Ferintosh,"—the property of Mr. Forbes of Culloden, whose family, in consideration of the great losses it sustained during the rebellion of 1745, obtained an especial permission to distil whisky (for a trifling duty) from the barley which this parish produced. The consequence was obvious, the whole inhabitants became distillers, and grain was purchased from all parts, so that the revenue was defrauded, and the people became brutalized by drinking to excess. At length the government, seeing the gross absurdity of granting such a licence, withdrew it, compounding with Mr. Forbes by a grant of money. The stills stopped, but the liquor still keeps its name of *Ferintosh*; and has been long rivalled by other establishments.

It was not without good cause that the Dutch entertained so decided a hatred to their invaders—the French. The wealth of Holland

depended on her foreign trade and the connection of the merchants with England. To this the absurd continental system of Napoleon was opposed, and their trade was annihilated. By official returns, the number of foreign ships which entered by the Brielle and Hoelvetsluys amounted, in the year 1782, to 1786, annually diminishing till 1806, when there were only 65 ; for the following five years the number was so small that no account was kept. But such was the happy change that took place at the general peace in 1814, that the number was above 1300 within one year.

At present (1829) English goods are imported in such quantities, both into Holland and Belgium, that the exchange is 6 or 7 per cent. in favour of England. We have already mentioned the flourishing state of Antwerp previous to the Revolution.

Notwithstanding the immense advantage which an alliance with England favoured the Dutch, they used every means in their power, during the Revolution, to thwart the attempts which the English government made more than once to rescue them from the French yoke ; yet, since their separation, they abuse us for ingratitude and injustice, in not taking their part in the quarrel with their neighbours.

It is not an easy task to enumerate the various little miseries which the Tourist must submit to in travelling through Holland ; some of which, however, have been lessened since the introduction of steam on their lakes and seas. Previous to that time, crossing the ferries was most tedious and disagreeable. In going from Breda to Rotterdam, for example, except the traveller could bear the bone-breaking over a rough pavement, on a *stool-wāāgen*, without springs, he had to go by Laak-swallow and the Mierdyke, where there is hardly any place of repose ; and, if the wind were unfavourable, he had to wait many hours, and the passage of these *miers* often occupied a whole day ; but now there are steamers, and the voyage from Antwerp to Rotterdam, and from Amsterdam to North Holland, which was formerly sometimes an affair of twenty-four hours, is now accomplished in a fourth part of that time ; but still, journeying on the tops of the dykes, up to your axle-trees in sand, at the rate of a league an hour, and the horrible stench from the canals, with the monotony of the passing scene, where nothing is to be seen but willows, and stunted, and often leafless, oaks, are very tiresome. In the cabins of the treckschuyts, the effluvia of tobacco, sour crout, stale apples,

and stinking cheese ; and the crowded decks of these vessels is a sad contrast to English travelling. If you take post-horses, you are completely at the mercy of the Mynheers, who are constantly guilty of the grossest impositions on strangers, and if you remonstrate and talk of the *poste route* regulations (which, by the law, they ought to obey), there is no redress, without great trouble and delay.

The prices of provisions in Holland and Belgium are nearly the same, and fish is, of course, much cheaper ; but so fastidious are the Mynheers, and so jealous of their neighbours on this article, that, though fish could be brought by steam from Scheveling to Antwerp, within twenty-four hours, and supply Brussels, Malines, Louvain, &c. with a commodity which would be sure of a ready market, and, in a Catholic country, so essential a part of food, not a *fin* is transported by that means of conveyance. An Englishman attempted to establish a regular supply of fish daily, but the fishermen refused to deal with him, alleging that, in exporting what they required for their own markets, the price would be raised. They had, perhaps, heard of the old Scotch maxim—"We will keep our ain fish guts for our ain sea maws." On this occasion the government ought to have in-

terfered, and, as the seas of Holland contain abundance of fish, more boats could have been found to supply the demands of the southern provinces, without touching the pockets of the Hollanders. We have already stated the great difference of the expense of travelling in Holland compared with Flanders, for which we have never been able to account.

Strangers ought to be careful in drinking the water in Rotterdam and Amsterdam, which is impregnated with salt. The citizens boil all that is used for culinary purposes ; and seltzer and other artificial waters are in general the diet-drink of those who can afford the expense.

CONCLUSION
OF OUR
MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS.

WE have but little to say on education. Both in Belgium and Holland, during the French government, schools were established under its protection in every village of importance, with a school-house and garden, and the masters have salaries according to the branches of education taught.

In Brussels, the Emperor erected a lyceum on a large scale, which continues to flourish. At Dort is a military school for officers of the army, and at Hoelvetsluys is one for the navy. These are supported by government. At Amsterdam, also, is a naval establishment by private contributions, where the youths are taught every branch of education useful to sailors. They are brought up hardy, and sleep in hammocks.

We shall conclude these miscellaneous remarks by a short description of a game of which the Dutch are extremely fond, being an exercise suited to their slow movements, and requiring but little bodily exertion. It is called *Kolfen*, and is a game of ancient date. The covered way or gallery in which it is played, is 90 or 100 feet in length, and 25 broad, having at the sides a narrow space, raised 3 feet, for the spectators, the floor being laid with a hard and smooth composition of clay and sand. At 10 feet distant from each end of this building, is a pillar of wood, the lower part being cased in brass. The apparatus for the game is a club, loaded at the lower extremity with lead, and the balls are stuffed and elastic, of the size of a six-pound cannon shot. The combat is between two persons, and appears to be very simple, though it is said to require considerable dexterity. The first player drives his ball towards a pillar, followed by his opponent, and he who first hits it, scores a point—the number being at the discretion of the players. This is an amusement and a wholesome exercise at all times, and the spectators take as great an interest in *Kolfen* as the players, to the great effusion of Schiedam, and consumption of tobacco, the gallery being so dense

with smoke, that the pillars are hardly visible. The keeper of one of these *arenas* finds it a profitable concern, although he exacts nothing for admission. There can be no doubt that the Scotch game of golf is of Dutch origin, which the similarity of their names indicates, as well as of the mode of playing them. The clubs used in both being faced with horn, and sometimes, in Holland, with half a calf's foot, called *Kolf* or *Kolfen*. This definition the author had from an amateur of the game.

The great carnival of the Mynheers is when the canals are frozen over ; yet, though they are active and expert skaters, they have not the grace of a first-rate English performer, as seen on the Serpentine river. The peasants bring light goods to market on the ice, and women on skates often carry on their heads huge baskets of vegetables and other provisions. Among the upper ranks, driving in *sleighs* is the fashion ; but, in general, the Dutch horses are too heavy and slow for these machines. In Russia, one horse is trained to trot, while the other, with his head lowered to the pole, gallops ; which, to strangers, has an unpleasant effect. The Prince and Princess of Orange were wont to exhibit themselves daily in superb equipages ; and frequently, by torch-light, at-

tended by their court and friends, when they returned to the palace from parties in the country. Many coachmakers hire out *sleighs* to the public, and others place the bodies of carriages on sledges, parading the streets, and forming *pic-nics* into the country.

The Dutch are never at a loss for amusement at all seasons. The men have their clubs and coffee-houses, and, in the suburbs, the tea gardens afford, on Sundays and holidays, society to families, where they meet their friends. In many of their country-houses they sit in their drawing-rooms, and, from the windows, with a pipe in their mouths, angle for gudgeons. In the city, with mirrors placed outside (a fixture in every abode), they can see, without being exposed to public view, every thing that passes in the streets. Their theatres are well supported, and the pipe and the bottle, either in the little summer-house or by the stove, they enjoy "*otium cum dignitate*," calculating their per cents., and puffing away care.

INTRODUCTION

TO THE

BELGIAN REVOLUTION.

HAVING now concluded our sketches of Belgium and Holland, we shall proceed to the Revolution, the details of which we have taken from the best authorities we could find ; and, especially from documents which the kindness of one of the chief actors in that remarkable event has furnished us with ; so that the public may rely on their authenticity. This highly talented gentleman having been, from his official situation, intimately acquainted with every circumstance that occurred, pending the negotiations, and during the struggles, which terminated in the separation of the two countries.

More than one Belgian historian asserts that, from the commencement of the reign of King William, a general discontent had been manifested in the Belgian provinces, though they acknowledge that the citizens of Brussels

viewed the new order of things more favourably by their town becoming the capital ; admitting also, that his majesty, after he had been a short time on the throne had, by his affability and the liberality of his ministers, (which many, however, thought affected), contributed to gain the government many partisans. The people, moreover, flattered themselves that the favours granted to the Dutch would soon be at an end, and that they would, in their turn, have a full share of “ the loaves and fishes.”

Whatever might have been the opinions of the people in the interior in regard to his majesty at this period, there was every appearance of his great popularity in the capital, as long as he continued to execute the fundamental laws to which he had sworn at his inauguration ; and it cannot be denied by his bitterest enemies that he justly merited the good-will of his new subjects by encouraging commerce, manufactures, and agriculture ; by promoting every branch of industry, constructing canals, roads, and bridges, with many liberal acts for the good of the country ; nor did his majesty lose this popularity (at least in Brussels) until he issued his *ordonnances* in lieu of the legal laws.

It is, however, natural to suppose that his subjects in the southern provinces were at first

jealous of seeing a stranger on the throne, and especially a Dutchman and a Protestant. They set out by murmurs and insinuations, "that the king was a tool of the Holy Alliance," and calling him "*Le Prefect d'Angleterre*." These "gibes and jeers" were, however, of short duration, and they discovered qualities in his majesty which they had not at first noticed. His meanest subject had access to him, and he gave audience to all persons who applied. Though the press was not free, yet many books that were prohibited in France, were printed in Belgium; and foreigners, banished for political opinions from that country and others, found an asylum in the Netherlands. It would have been well if William had continued to govern thus mildly, but it will be seen in these details that he shortly began to infringe on the liberties of his subjects, and to lend a deaf ear to their remonstrances.

From these remarks, many of the readers of these sketches may probably accuse the author of partiality to the Belgian cause, to which he will plead guilty; for he has ever been an admirer and advocate of rational liberty, and he must confess that he rejoiced when the Belgians succeeded in shaking off a yoke that had been imposed on them without their consent.

Upon the testimony of journals and pam-

phlets open to the lies of the enemies of freedom and every liberal cause, many Englishmen form an opinion of the Revolution, and from such vague authorities draw their conclusions, declaring "That the Belgians, ungrateful to their benefactors, were discontented without cause : that, not having any just reason to revolt, they have only obeyed their turbulent and restless spirit : and, that the government of Holland was gentle, liberal, and paternal, and King William the model for kings" !

No one can think that a people rebels thus without a cause. A partial revolt—a local rising—may be referred to the passions of the moment, but a Revolution is a remedy so violent and so extreme, that a whole nation must have exhausted all means of conciliation, and the state of things must have become insupportable, before they have recourse to so desperate a measure.

When Napoleon was driven from his throne, the battle of Waterloo fought, and victory secured, the Holy Alliance sounded the trumpet of liberty and independence, and the diplomats of Europe declared that Belgium should be separated from France and annexed to Holland. Such compulsory measures of nations differing in religion, language, customs, and habits, are rarely fortunate.

The Belgians trusting, nevertheless, to the experience of the past, the tyranny of the conscription, and the bayonet ; and, blinded by the splendid name of the house of Nassau, which they had considered as the hereditary friend of public liberty, they were lulled into confidence. What they wanted was liberty and commerce, which they hoped to purchase at the price of sharing in an enormous public debt, and the burthens of taxation. They purchased nothing but chains by the sacrifice. They had hoped for brethren ; they found oppressors ; and 4,000,000 of Belgians became a prey to half that number of Dutchmen.

In confirmation of these opinions, we shall give a list of the grievances of which the Belgians complained (and for which they in vain sought redress), in order that they may be seen at one point of view, although we shall have occasion to mention them again as we proceed.*

“The treaties guaranteed to the Belgians a constitution, not as a gift, but one to which they had a right. The project of this constitution, presented to the Belgian nobility (whom the king himself had taken the precaution to appoint), had been rejected by them. The

* The list of grievances is extracted from a pamphlet published in 1831, by Hanchard, Paternoster Row.

Belgians had a jury; the king, even before he was invested with royal authority, and in quality of simple commissioner of the powers, deprived them of it by an act of his own will and deed. He abolished the publicity of judicial debates in its most important branch—the examination of witnesses. He kept the judicial order dependent upon him; and, by some premeditated delay in his arrangements, the law by which it was provided that the judges should not to be removed was rendered merely a figure of speech. The independence of some of the magistrates was the signal for their disgrace; the servility of others was their title to reward from the crown; so that, instead of being impartial administrators of the law, the magistrates became the mere tools of the despotic will of the government. All liberty of the press was destroyed by the publication of an ordinance, which threatened punishment to the writers, from a year's imprisonment, and six hours wearing the iron collar,* to pain of death; and such was the vagueness of the expressions in these ordinances, that the examination and

* This part of the punishment for libels the author has read for the first time, nor did he ever hear that there was such a clause in this bill of pains and penalties.

censure of acts of government were treated as crimes. For fifteen years, who ever wrote with the zeal of a citizen against the abuses which were constantly increasing ; who ever set forth infringements of the constitution was pursued and condemned as guilty of exciting distrust of the government. Imprisonment, fines, and banishment, were the lot of any Belgians who dared to take up the pen ; while the king—the faithful imitator of his forefathers—kept in his pay foreign writers (who were paid with the people's money) to make eulogiums upon his person and government ; and he sought apologists amongst men who had been dishonoured in France on the pillory.* He imposed taxes without consulting the people. He paralysed the effect of the laws by his own interpretations, the execution of which he insisted upon. He expelled, by force, from Belgium any strangers who came under the protecting shade of a constitution that they believed to be a truth, or to demand hospitality of a nation which places this virtue in the rank of its title to the sympathy of other nations. He took possession of the most important branches of industry, and, in opposition to the interests

* Alluding to the Italian, "*Libri Bagniani*."

of his subjects, he became, by degrees, merchant, manufacturer, stock-jobber, printer, &c. He burdened, with exorbitant taxes, all the productions of Belgium ; and, in a country principally agricultural, taxes upon bread, grinding corn, cutting wood, and distilleries, oppressed the southern provinces, while Holland, which scarcely felt the weight of them, profited by it. He assumed the right of nominating the magistrates of the towns, and introduced into the municipal regulations what was diametrically opposed to the constitution. He took into his own hands the control of education, and deprived the heads of families of the sacred right of bringing up their children in the way that they thought best. It was no longer allowed that any one should give public instruction without a permit. A licence was necessary even for teaching reading and writing in private families ; to become a master of the French, English, German, Latin, or Greek languages, it was necessary to have a royal permit. Private schools were authoritatively closed, and those masters who had vainly imagined that nothing was needed but the requisite information, and the confidence of the parents, were banished to the frontiers by the *gendarmerie*. From the dame-school to the highest classes in the university,

every thing was under government regulation. None taught, or were taught, but as the king directed. Having thus taken into his hands all secular instruction, he was not long in getting possession of the religious instruction also. A college was established (*the collegium philosophicum*), in which every Catholic Belgian who devoted himself to the worship of God, was compelled to receive the instructions of government professors. Opposition to this measure was great ; resistance was universal. Patriotic and disinterested remonstrances to the king were not spared. His most confidential agents warned him of the risk he ran, and of the popular storm in which other monarchs had perished before him.

“ The last stage of humiliation remained—a degradation which affects the most sacred property of man—the use of his paternal tongue. This sacred right the king took from the Belgians, and imposed on them a foreign idiom unknown out of Holland. In a country where French is the language of literature, of conversation, and of the bar, a king was found short-sighted enough in his policy, and tyrannical enough in his contempt of information and civilization, to order, by a simple decree of his will, ‘ that French should be no longer

the national language; that the Belgians were to unlearn their mother tongue, and frame their organs and those of their children to the use of the Dutch.' In many of the provinces, the Belgians were no longer allowed to defend their interests in the courts, except in Dutch. No man was admitted to any office (even in those provinces in which French was universally spoken) until he had served his apprenticeship to the Dutch. The father of a family was compelled to make his will in a language every word of which required a translation. The oldest statesmen, who had grown grey with honour in the administration, were turned out of office. Judges left the bench, government officers their places, professors their chairs, and military men their epaulettes. Whole provinces resounded with unanymous and energetic complaints. King William was deaf to their entreaties.

"To be born a Belgian was an original sin, which excluded them from all public employments.

"The partiality of King William towards his Dutch subjects soon extended its influence from persons to things. All the great national establishments of the kingdom; the high military court; the syndicat of Mortmain; the council

of Catholic worship ; the supreme council of the nobility ; the great military schools ; the commercial society, were summoned to Holland. The king had determined that the Belgians should plead their causes, as a final appeal, in his good town of the Hague” !

In order to show the difference of opinion respecting these alleged grievances, we shall quote that of the anonymous author of a book* (which he styles “a modest little volume”) who vituperates the Belgians with a pen dipped in gall, for having thrown off the Dutch yoke, styling them “cowardly ruffians, and hired agents of France ; traitors who fled like chaff before the gallant troops of their real sovereign” !

This *modest* writer further informs his readers, “That he had been two years absent from England, and, when he returned, was horrified to find that Great Britain and France had united to support this rebellious people,” which he deeply laments, adding, “that but for this interference, Belgium would at this moment have been under the dominion of the House of Nassau, in unexampled prosperity” !

We presume that the author of this “Cure for Ministerial Gullomania,” which he also

* Published in London in 1831, by John Murray.

designates his volume, dedicating it to Lord Grey, had been residing in the dominions of some despot, to have imbibed such opinions, or, that he had been hired (as he accuses the agents of France to have been) to traduce the Belgians for having preferred a free government to one of tyranny, and to attack Lord Grey and his cabinet for having prevented a civil war between two nations that had separated, and never ought to have been united. But could it be expected that a liberal English ministry, who had pledged themselves to endeavour to preserve peace, would follow the steps of the Holy Alliance, by taking the part of Holland on an occasion that could only tend to deluge both countries in blood, and produce a general war on the continent?

The lamentations of this angry writer are highly absurd. "Had we been faithful," says he, "to the Dutch, they would have died in their dykes and ditches for one common cause; but that glorious day is over. We have sacrificed all the ancient principle of our policy to ally ourselves with our hereditary and natural foe." He prays and believes, "that in that agony of the English cause, the aggrieved and insulted Hollanders will have the mercy to distinguish between the ministry who betrayed

them, and the nation that now yearns for their alliance. Let, then, the King of Holland act for himself. Let that enlightened and injured monarch of a virtuous, devoted, and admirable people, laugh at that pretended balance of power, and most fraudulent scales, which have been employed to cheat him." * * *
But enough of this rhodomontade !

Now, let us see what was the conduct of that nation towards England during the revolutionary war. There was, then, no "dying in ditches for the common cause." When we sent an army into Holland to liberate it from the thralldom of the "*grand nation*," did not the Mynheers use every endeavour to thwart England, and to assist their enemies ?

We have endeavoured to point out to our readers the causes which led to this Revolution, from authentic sources, without giving any opinion of our own (further than as advocating the cause of rational liberty), whether or not the Belgians were justifiable in shaking off the yoke which had been imposed on them. We cannot help remarking that the interference of France and England to prevent a war of opinion between Holland and Belgium, as well as a general war, was a *coup d'état* on the part of England, of the greatest wisdom, and that no

other measure could have been adopted so judicious as placing Prince Leopold on the Belgian throne. The writer we have quoted brings forth the old and absurd argument "that France is our natural enemy, and Holland our natural friend;" but we humbly think that no nation is either naturally inimical or friendly to another. France, and Belgium, and Holland, from their proximity, ought to be the latter; but, unhappily, vicinity does not always produce good will. It is highly absurd to allege that, because England and France have been engaged in warfare for four or five centuries, in a more enlightened age such a barbarous system should be continued, and the more especially, as their alliance now becomes necessary to counteract the growing power of the despots of the north, who have been long uniting to extinguish rational liberty wherever it appears to dawn. Besides, the insular situation of England, and its proximity to the French shores, renders communication and friendly intercourse the more desirable. An equitable commercial treaty alone is wanting to cement the bonds of an alliance, which it is so much the interest of both kingdoms to preserve.

THE
BELGIAN REVOLUTION.

THE first public document announcing the union of Belgium with Holland was the treaty of Paris of the 30th March, 1814; the sixth article of which says, "that Holland, placed under the sovereignty of the house of Orange, shall receive an increase of territory." The conditions of the union were settled by the treaty of London of the 20th of June in the same year. Equal protection was to be granted to all religious communities, and an equal eligibility to all offices, was to be open to all subjects. Free intercourse with the Dutch colonies was thus of course to be enjoyed by the Belgians. But Belgium was to have her share of the public national debt which amounted to more than £12,000,000 sterling! No history, ancient, or modern, can show such a gross imposition as this.

On the 21st July, the prince commenced his functions as governor-general of the southern provinces, and the first act of his administration was a decree of the 6th November, abolishing the trial by jury, which the French government had instituted, and to which the Belgians were sincerely attached. This abolition was the cause of many remonstrances and debates in the States-general, and of just and deep indignation among the Belgians. By an act of the 16th March, 1815, Prince William proclaimed himself King of the Netherlands! He promised a constitution, which was to be agreed upon according to the above mentioned principles (of his own dictation), but still there were eight articles respecting that unborn constitution in the treaty of London which were not yet known, so that in Belgium the new king was at that period absolute, if not *de jure*, at least *de facto*; and, being thus unlimited by any existing constitution, he proceeded to establish that fundamental law which ought to have preceded his assumption of power, and not to have followed it. Amidst the agitations of that critical period, the king established a commission to revise the Dutch code of laws; but while it was proceeding, the battle of Waterloo was fought, and the prince royal's

bravery excited the highest admiration in Belgium. The king, in a letter addressed to the prince, used the following expressions:—
“Let the Belgians know that the blood which they have spilled has irrevocably effaced the last doubt as to the solidity of this new kingdom, and the intimate union of its inhabitants.”
This ridiculous gasconade (had it been true that this young hero had done any thing more than his duty on that day) is a proof that the effusion of blood is not always a sure mode of reconciling nations to each other. A month after this battle the king announced that the plan of the new constitution was ready to be submitted to the votes of the *notables*. These had been selected by the government, or rather by the king, and it was found that out of 1,523 votes, only 527 had been in favour of the projected constitution, while 796 were against it; which, as far as regards Belgium, must be considered as a rejection.

Perplexed by this palpable declaration of the national opinion, he had recourse to a bold and arbitrary counter-declaration, in which, in defiance of the fact, it was affirmed “that there was a majority in favour of the law.” Of the negative votes, it seems that 126 had grounded their dissent on the equality of rights granted to other religions than the Catholic. “This

sole motive of opposition," said his Belgic majesty, "cannot be admitted, because it virtually refuses to acknowledge the existence of the kingdom itself." With equal logic and modesty it was also declared, that those *notables* who had neglected to inscribe their names in the registers must be considered as giving their approbation to the constitution—that, consequently, the number of votes favourable greatly exceeded that of an opposite character." A more barefaced outrage on common sense and equity can scarcely be quoted. By this constitution two nations were put together, whose opposite interests and reciprocal antipathies were as unpromising for the happiness of their union, as the fraud and force by which they were cemented.

We will not enter into the detail of the grand obstacle to harmony in the new kingdom; the embarrassed state of the finances. The national debt of Holland (as has been already stated) amounted to more than £100,000,000 sterling. This enormous sum, it is true, had been reduced to one-third by Napoleon, but when the reign of terror was at an end, and that of justice came back, which was expected would accompany the Prince of Orange, it was thought necessary to revive the other two-thirds into an active debt

bearing interest. The law for this measure was passed in May 1814. The total debt of the State amounted to 573,154,530 florins, and the deferred debt, or that bearing no interest, to 1,146,307,060, so that the sum total was thus raised to £1,700,000,000. These burdens alone were more than sufficiently heavy, but they were greatly aggravated in consequence of Napoleon's escape from Elba, and the general war that ensued.

The income of the State now became insufficient for its wants. New debts were heaped up upon old; loans followed on loans, and taxes upon taxes; duties were levied upon the slaughtering of cattle, on the grinding of corn, on servants of both sexes (the first instance we believe of a tax on female labour), on horses, and household furniture. The one raised from a single florin to 3 Napoleons, and the other at least 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, besides the nuisance of domiciliary visits to value it. Some of the persons best informed in Belgian affairs were of opinion that, even with all this oppressive taxation, the finances were not fairly applied; that ministers had never dared to reveal the real state of them; and, that large sums were secretly spent for unknown purposes.

At this period, several journalists of the liberal party were undergoing prosecution before

the High Court of Justiciary in Brussels. Their punishment was to be justified by a severe law enacted in 1815, against the disturbers of the public peace. Whilst such a law existed, it was mockery to speak to the Belgians about their free constitution ; and, accordingly, a deputy of Limbourg, M. de Broukere, moved for its abolition. It was during the discussion of this argument that M. Van Maanen, the minister of justice, cut short the question, by telling the house "That ministers would give themselves no more trouble in answering objections, because they were the king's servants, and responsible only to his majesty" ! Here, then, was a noble prospect for the Belgians ; on the one hand, a court invested with power, if not to silence, at least to shackle, the press ; and, on the other hand, a legislature, whose ministers were not responsible. This was pure despotism !

Van Maanen, a man still more obstinate than his royal master, probably imagined that this shackling of the press was a severe but wholesome way of stifling discontent ; and, if the means had been fitted to the end, his conduct might have been justifiable. But experience shows that the good humour of the people was never for one moment promoted by

the prosecution of public writers, except in cases where the prosecuting government has been foiled and baffled. Of national truth it may be said, with more truth than of fire itself,

“Quoque magis tegitur—tutus magis æstuat ignis.”

When people have grievances, the removal of a single one of them will do more good than thrusting a thousand men into chains and prisons.

This Dutchman had long been a tool, and, consequently, a favourite of the king; executing all his oppressive plans with delight. He was well aware of his great unpopularity with nine-tenths of the inhabitants of the southern provinces, and he sought every opportunity of annoying them. Not a twentieth part of the public offices or *bureaux* was occupied by them, and he had the impudence to say, when they remonstrated against this partiality, “That the Belgians had not the same capacity for business as the Dutch” ! Petitions to remove him from the king’s councils were presented, to which his majesty lent a deaf ear ; and, at length, his name became odious in all the provinces. At this period, a certain Italian—Libri Bagniani—contrived to get into the king’s good graces. This renegado found an asylum

at Brussels after his banishment from France. He had been convicted of more than one forgery, and, after standing in the pillory at Toulon or Lyons, was branded, and condemned to the galleys for life; but having some influence with the court of the grand Duke of Tuscany, (of which country he was a native) his sentence was commuted for banishment from the French territory. This fellow had been previously the editor of a French newspaper, and was not deficient in talent, and especially in satire. He undertook, on certain conditions, to put down by his pen the radical daily press, and his proposal was accepted, a large sum of money being placed at his disposition, taken from an institution for the encouragement of the arts, besides a contribution from his majesty's privy purse. Thus furnished with the sinews of making war, he opened the campaign with a furious attack upon the Belgians, and certainly scurrility could not be carried farther. As it was no secret that this felon was patronized by the king, and, indeed, hired to abuse them, this did not make him more popular. So obnoxious did this impudent foreigner become, that the mob had frequently assembled to burn his press, but the police was on the alert, and it was not till the first night of the commence-

ment of the Revolution, that they were able to put their threats into execution. Van Maanen had resigned a short time before this event, but his dismissal came too late.

The trial of De Potter for a libel in the spring created a great sensation. He had already been severely fined, and imprisoned for eighteen months for some article in a newspaper, which "a packed jury" considered a libel. Before the termination of this imprisonment had expired, a second article from the same journal, brought him, the editor and the printer, under the censorship of the press. De Potter was arraigned, in the first instance, for high treason, by endeavouring, in this paper, to change the dynasty of the royal family on the throne, and his coadjutors, for aiding and assisting in this high crime ; but, by the eloquence of his advocate, M. Van de Weyer (afterwards appointed ambassador to the British court), the treasonable part was abandoned, and they were tried for a libel.* M. de Potter was so detested by the king and his minister, Van Maanen, that every one foresaw that, however he could justify his case, it was prejudged. After a hearing of many days, during which M. Van de

* This, we have since learned, is a mistake. He was arraigned for exciting disaffection among the people by his writings.

Weyer exhibited extraordinary talent in his defence, the prisoner was sentenced to a mulct of 1000 florins, and a further imprisonment of two years. He petitioned for a mitigation of such heavy and unheard-of damages, when his majesty was graciously pleased to change the sentence "into banishment from the kingdom of the Netherlands for ten years" ! thereby adding to the punishment. The other culprits were, of course, also found guilty, fined, and banished, but for smaller sums, and shorter periods. The iniquity of these trials gave a death-blow to the popularity of the court, and greatly contributed to hasten the Revolution.

The term of De Potter's first imprisonment being now expired, he was transferred to another *conciergerie*, to wait until arrangements were made for the exportation of the convicts, but they were detained several months ; and, as De Potter's removal from one place to another had caused great excitement, and the police had been severely handled by a mob of malcontents ; in order to prevent a similar occurrence when the sentence of banishment was at last put into execution, they were removed in the night, and conducted to the Prussian frontier by four *gendarmes*. On their arrival at Aix-la-Chapelle, their passports were exa-

mined by the police, when they were informed that they could not be permitted to proceed farther, and, on no pretence, to enter the territory of the King of Prussia. This astounded them ; for they had got permission to quit Belgium by that route. In vain they remonstrated against this breach of faith ; the gates were shut in their teeth, and all that their guards would do, was to conduct them to a small hamlet, some twenty miles distant, on another part of the frontier, and lodge them in a mean *cabaret*, where they could hardly purchase the necessaries of life. They continued under *surveillance* for two or three months, and, at last, a Prussian passport was dispatched to permit their transport to Switzerland, where they hoped to find an asylum. On their arrival at Mayence, the news of the Revolution at Paris had just reached that place, and, crossing the Rhine, they got rid of their keepers, and were permitted to proceed to the French capital.

Immediately on De Potter's arrival, he despatched a letter to king William, warning him of the critical situation in which he was placed, and recommending, in the strongest terms, the immediate necessity of appeasing the general discontent of his subjects, by redressing their

grievances, and dismissing his minister, Van Maanen, from his majesty's councils ;—that not a day was to be lost to endeavour to counteract the plots which were hatching to overturn his government, which speedy measures only could effect. He assured his majesty that, although he had been persecuted and unjustly banished his country, he continued a loyal subject, and had the love of it as much at heart as ever, and dreaded the horrors of a civil war. On this account, he now warned him of his approaching danger ; for though he had nothing to do with the malcontents, he had strong reasons to believe that if their grievances were not redressed before the 25th of the present month (August), when the anniversary of his majesty's birth had been announced to be celebrated in Brussels, a revolution would be attempted on that day.

We know not whether the king and his ministers paid any attention to this warning, but shortly after a few insignificant places were given to the Belgians, and the preparations for the *fête* continued ; but the liberal party had lost all confidence, and a rupture with the government took place. The malcontents had united themselves with the Catholics, who had always been formidably opposed to the mea-

sures of government ; and their jealousy had been further excited in being ruled by a Protestant king. Petitions, signed by more than 80,000 Belgians, to redress their grievances, were rejected, or, as the authority from which we quote observes, “ *furent ensevelies dans la poussiere du greffe.*” This discontent and ill humour daily gained ground, and, when the heroic conduct and example of the Parisians reached Brussels, it was easy to foresee that some great event would be the result, if the government could not in time allay the storm. The popular writers, De Potter, Thielmans, and Berthels (the last a zealous Catholic), had expressed, with some violence, the general discontent, and, as we have seen, had been banished. The minister, Van Maanen, pretended to see a plot, and his tool, the renegado, Libri Bagniano, had the impudence to state, in his journal “ *Le National*,” that “ he would muzzle the conspirators like dogs, and flog them to boot ” ! Such provocations, issuing from the press of a scoundrel who had been hired by the minister of justice with the public money to libel the people, excited their just indignation ; and, although the conspirators had as yet formed no plan to overturn the dynasty of the House of Nassau, the general hatred to that

house was daily gaining ground, and at last the tempest burst.

The anniversary of the king's birth-day, on the 24th of August, which was just approaching, great *fêtes* had been long in preparation to celebrate it and the recent marriage of the Princess Marianne of the Pays Bas. Placards, however, had been distributed on the walls of the Hotel de Ville and other places, in the night of the 21st, containing these words:—"Monday, fire-works; Tuesday, illumination; Wednesday, revolution"! The *regence* were alarmed, and assembled. They decided to suspend the *fêtes*, and to order Libri Bagniano to quit the city, around whose house the police had for fourteen days kept guard. He departed at midnight for the Hague;* but this was not generally known, and the people were persuaded that he was at home. On Tuesday the 24th, the birth-day, there were few rejoicings. *Te Deum* was chanted, a royal salute was fired, and the garrison paraded before the palace. It consisted of 200 light cavalry, 1500 grenadiers and chasseurs of the guard, and a battalion of militia—amounting, in all, to 2,000 men.

* This was not true. He skulked somewhere in the neighbourhood.

It was, however, found that not more than half that number were mustered on the occasion, which showed evidently the disposition of the soldiers, and the feebleness of the government. At the same time, there were so many garrisons and troops in the neighbourhood of Brussels, that, in a couple of days, 7 or 8,000 could be united, and the pretext of a grand review for the *fête* presented itself ; but the minister had so ill chosen his *employés*, that they thought there was no danger from these empty threats, and they contented themselves by stopping the representation of “ *Masaniello*,” and the “ *Muette de Portici*,” operas which alluded to liberty. The minister of the interior, who happened at this time to be in Brussels, said “ That it would be cowardice to take any precautions.”

Until this time, the drama of Masaniello had been given without any apprehension of its exciting the patriotic feeling, although the Bruxellois had identified many passages in it with their own situation. The view of these patriots, flying to arms to do themselves justice, touched their hearts, and appeared an admirable example to follow ; but, without guides and chiefs, they continued to submit, in the hope of more justice being done to them. In a moment, however, a rumour prevailed that

La Muette was prohibited ; that the minister had issued his orders that the piece should be erased from the *repertoire* (the list of the plays), fearing its numerous allusions might excite fermentation among the citizens. This idea had not yet occurred to any one ; the fears of the minister, however, set them agog. Nothing was talked of but “*La Muette*,” they summoned the director to give them “*La Muette*,” and it was thought prudent no longer to resist. The opera was accordingly given out for the 26th, and placarded every where. The populace were enchanted with their victory. They assembled in multitudes in the evening, and every avenue to the theatre was choked up. The crowds who could not procure entrance, encamped in the Place de la Monnaie, determined to remain until the representation was finished. The theatre was crammed almost to suffocation, and joy appeared in every countenance. The signal was given, and a profound and religious silence prevailed in this assembly when the piece commenced. All the allusions which it offered were hailed with *bravos* ! The scene of the revolt in the market-place produced an extraordinary effect ; but the honours of the evening were for the fine air, “*Amour sacré de la patrie*,” which

was cheered and encored, for *bravos* could no longer be heard, being overpowered by cries and shouts. The performers were recalled, and the air again sung, producing still more enthusiasm if possible. The curtain dropped ; and, till now, there was no appearance of tumult, nothing looked like a revolution, when the audience, on issuing out, found the square filled with people, and cries of "*Chez Libri*" from a hundred tongues. At this moment, Sieur Libri Bagniano, principal proprietor and editor of the "*National*," who had sold himself, "soul and body," to the minister, Van Maanen (and, as we have stated, had rendered himself odious for some years), issued from the crowd. The appearance of such a man, at such a crisis, may be imagined. It produced an electric effect. He was pointed at and named ; his carriage approached, into which he threw himself, a hue and cry following him. The people, exasperated at the sight of the monster, armed themselves with stones and brick-bats, which they threw at him, pursuing him to the door of his press, situated in the neighbourhood of the theatre. Happily for him he did not enter it ; but, trusting to the fleetness of his horses, his life was saved. They wreaked their vengeance on him by demolish-

ing his property. In an instant his doors were forced, his windows broken, and the whole *matériel* of his printing-press; paper, type, &c. were thrown out on the *pavé*. They did not stop here. They knew that Libri possessed a valuable library in another quarter of the city (la Rue de la Madeleine), where he lived. They hastened thither, and recommenced the same operation with increased fury. In an hour and a half, this luxurious abode of the renegado Italian was despoiled, from the parlour to the attic, without leaving the smallest article; books superbly bound, pamphlets collected with care, rare editions of works in all languages, and many from the press of Renouard and Didot, a complete copy of the *Moniteur*, valuable presents from royal hands, of curious literature, pictures, drawings, prints (for the *Sieur* was an amateur of the arts), plate, linen, and wardrobe, with every piece of his rich furniture, fell from the windows *pêle-mêle*, and were burned. The loss was estimated at 30,000 florins. Seldom has so much *esprit* been thus treated, and it was much to be regretted, as a spectator observed, for *l'esprit* does not run in the streets of Brussels as in Paris.

When every thing was thus demolished, the

rioters felt that they required refreshment after their labours, and the cellar being visited, it was found to contain ten pipes of Bourdeaux, with 1,500 bottles of other choice wines. A part of this stock was broached, and there was no lack of *bon vivants* to taste it. An Englishman living in the neighbourhood lent his pails, which were carefully returned when the *fête* ended. After an hour of bacchanalian tumult, a commissary of police, preceded by a drum, and followed by a detachment of grenadiers, made their appearance. This dignitary, when about to summon the multitude to disperse, was cut short in his address by a huge stone, which levelled him with the pavement; and the officer in command of the detachment, now no longer backed by authority, and having no orders to act, wisely withdrew. *Chasseurs* and *gendarmes* also presented themselves from the *Cassernes*, but being similarly situated, they retraced their steps; not, however, without having been saluted by flying shots of the *Sieur Libri's* campaign! In the meantime, the heroes of the night formed themselves into bands, to efface the signs of the shopkeepers who bore the royal arms over their doors; one marched to the sound of a bell, others kept pace to the clink of a sauce-pan from the *Sieur's*

batterie ; and the arms of the house of Orange in this quarter, disappeared in a trice, thus imitating the acts of the Parisians.

Towards midnight, the pillagers separated, a large detachment having moved to the Place Royale, preceded by a flag, made from a curtain of the Signior's. The officer of the guard demanded what they wanted ; and the commandant of the place having also made his appearance, a soldier from the ranks stepped out and exclaimed, "*De grace dispersez vous, epargnez nous la honte de voir verser le sang Belge !*" These words produced a magical effect on the mob who instantly retired. Another group stopped before the Palace of Justice, and in an instant broke the windows of the Court of Assizes, with cries of "*A-bas Van Maanen ! Vive De Potter !*" The mounted *gendarmarie* having already surrounded the palace ; this force, however, either from want of authority, or of will, did not prevent the mob from destroying various public documents, but the records were saved. A more numerous assembly directed itself to la Rue de Berlaimont, where lived the director of the police, M. le Baron de Knyff, a man much disliked from the harshness of executing his official duties, and of being allied with the odious minister to coerce

the people. His house was speedily invaded, and, as at the Italian's, his furniture thrown into the street and burned, though not an article was pillaged. An individual being detected in appropriating the cloak of the Baron, was severely handled, and the mantle committed to the flames. On another side of the city the column of the people who had retired from the Place Royale, descended to the hotel of the minister of justice, M. Van Maanen. It appeared that the *conceirge* (portress), in her fright, opened the gate, so that there was no opposition to the entrance of the assailants, and the devastation of this spacious house commenced to the cries of "*A-bas Van Maanen!*" This was a more striking scene than the preceding, from the grandeur of the edifice, and the beauty of the furniture, so wantonly destroyed. A woman* was observed with frantic joy extremely active in tearing down the superb silk window draperies, and selecting the most precious objects to throw into the flames. The minister's cellar afforded a stimulus (if this had been wanted) to the incendiaries, and though it was not so well filled as that of his coadjutor,

* It was found, afterwards, that this fury was the minister's housekeeper.

it served to inflame the pillagers to further acts of destruction. It was in vain that the force which had arrived attempted to stop the *saccage*. It was too feeble, and after every thing was demolished, the multitude rushing upon the guards, disarmed them, and compelled them to retire, after they had set the hotel on fire, ranging themselves around to witness the conflagration. Volumes of smoke mounted rapidly, and the *pompriers* (firemen) hastened with their engines to the spot; one of the leaders of the mob advancing to the officer who commanded (for these *pompriers* are a species of military somewhat resembling the old city guard of Edinburgh), and said to him, "We will accomplish our purpose, which we consider a great act of public justice; the traitor Van Maanen ought not longer to have a dwelling with us, the people have decreed that his hotel shall be set on fire, and we will not stir while one brick is standing on another. Retire—you have nothing to do here—if you are come to attack us, we will oppose force to force." What could a handful of *pompriers* do against a multitude but retire, and to deploy on the Hotel de Ville? Though the building was greatly damaged, it was saved by the interposition of a few more moderate citizens. Until this last act of incendiarism, the majority of the

Bourgeois had viewed the conduct of the rioters as proceeding from a popular tumult among the lower orders inflamed with patriotism and wine, without any premeditated object. At length they became alarmed at the violence of the proceedings of their fellow-citizens, which had assumed a more serious character, and when they saw the prolonged and increasing tumult, a simultaneous feeling inspired them, especially the young men, who, fearing that their brethren might be severely punished if the police got the upperhand, they determined to support their cause, *a tout prix*, notwithstanding the excesses they had committed, which, however, they in some measure justified. Without, however, concerting any measure, they were animated by a hatred to the guards of the government. It was even said that the pillagers were in the pay of the police. This suspicion, however, was afterwards found to be totally untrue.

The state of excitement and incertitude that reigned in Brussels during the night, can be readily conceived by a rapid examination into the situation of the Belgians, who, like the French, were desirous to maintain their rights; but greatly different was their position from that of their brave neighbours, for they had not received any direct or immediate insupportable

provocation. It was the entire machine of the government by opposition to their interests that was at the bottom of the evil, which the king had for a long time the power to prevent. In France, the people had only one man to expel. In Belgium, it was a system, a constitution to break, and a constitution cannot be combated like an individual. But they had the example of France before their eyes. They could only gain their cause by union and fortitude, while their defeat would be a stain on the name of a Belgian, and a misfortune to their country. Without being general, the resolution to fight for their liberties had many partisans, and courage supplied what they wanted in numbers and resources.

During the night of the 26th, the gun and pistol makers, and venders of arms, were compelled to deliver up to the people every weapon of war in their magazines, and many of the citizens had also domiciliary visits paid to them for the same purpose. The day of partridge shooting was approaching, and many fowling-pieces were in the hands of the armourers to be cleaned, especially those of the English sportsmen, who lost their Mantons.

At five o'clock on the following morning, when broad day-light exhibited the previous

commotions, a larger military force, a battalion of chasseurs, and a regiment of grenadiers, deployed by companies into the streets where the agitation was the greatest. It was in the Place du Sablon, at six o'clock, that the first shot was fired on the people. Without any previous ceremony, the officer in command, with a firm countenance, proceeded to action. "Chasseurs, attention ; carry arms ; present arms ; fire" ! (" *Portez armes ! appretez armes ! joue—feu*" !) when three citizens "bit the dust," and, as the historian who records this event, adds—"Ce commandement parricide, a peine prononcé, fut exécuté ; et des hommes du peuple, atteints, peut-être, par les balles de quelques uns de leurs proches, tomberent, et le sang de ces martyrs rougit le pavé" !

These troops scoured the streets, discharging their muskets occasionally in the air, and on the people, but we did not hear that there were many (if any) more martyrs on this occasion. The dropping shots, however, occasioned great consternation, and every house and shop was shut ; though the windows were filled with women, and the streets covered with all ranks and sexes, yet the danger was not great. Many of the Bourgeois, armed with fusils, pistols, swords, and ironed sticks, were posted at the

corners of the streets, trembling at the discharges of the troops ; but, as their historian observes, "*Fermes et décidés, à relever la liberté publique*" ! "All," he adds, "afforded to the Brussellois an exact resemblance of the noble and patriotic resistance of the Parisians ; the cry, '*Imitons les Parisiens*' being in every mouth." We confess, however, that we cannot see much similarity manifested on this occasion. The king's palace continued under the protection of the guard, as well as that of the Prince of Orange.

While the Regence were in consultation to suppress the riots and conflagrations of the preceding night, a mob, chiefly composed of ragged ruffians and boys, assembled at noon in the Park, and, forcing the gates and breaking down the fences, with screams of "*Vive la liberté,*" and "*A bas Van Maanen,*" being well provided with the implements of destruction, and no opposition made to disperse them, they proceeded without delay to level every erection which, for two months, had been preparing to celebrate the king's birth-day at an enormous expense. Temples, galleries, rotundas, bowers, seats, &c. fell by the axe, not a vestige of ornament escaped ; and, particularly, their vengeance was wreaked on the orange trees, or, rather, an

imitation of that emblem of the House of Nassau, ingeniously contrived, when lighted up, to represent them, which many thought a childish conceit.

The author's house faced one of the gates, and he had an opportunity of witnessing the devastation. For ten years he had looked with a refreshed eye on this lovely garden, the pride of the Brussellois, and the admiration of every stranger; where the citizens, with their wives and children, passed their leisure hours in promenading its extensive walks, and the tired mechanic and labourer sought repose from the noontide sun under its shady groves; while the nightingale, thrush, and blackbird, carolled undisturbed. Now, alas! they heard the axe resounding in every corner of this elysium (hitherto preserved with so much care), and accompanied by the bellowings of an unrestrained mob! The scene, for some moments, appeared like a vision of the imagination; but the activity of these modern Goths soon convinced the spectators of its reality; yet no citizen stepped forth to prevent the wanton destruction, so that it may be supposed it was a part of the plot. It was, however, miraculous, that the destruction of every emblem of royalty was not followed by that of the garden, for who could have calculated that the trees would have been

spared ? The sun was down before the demolition was completed, but the savages were not satisfied. The lamps for the illumination could no where be found ; after a diligent search, however, they were at length discovered in a cellar of the Vauxhall.* By this time reinforcements had arrived, armed with bludgeons, and the various coloured glass was brought forth—such a crash was never before heard ! It was said the number of lamps exceeded 300,000 ! Not one was stolen, the whole falling by the hands of the banditti ; and, when their vengeance was glutted, they retired amidst the cheers and exclamations of the spectators, while the troops, who were guarding the palaces, paraded before their posts as if nothing had happened. This was the second scene of the drama of the “Neapolitan fisherman.” To foreigners, who had no knowledge of the plot, the *dénouement* was any thing but promising ; and many families made preparations for immediate departure. Meantime the citizens were prompt, and armed themselves hastily, to defend their lives and property against the *cannaille*, who filled the streets with their shouts.

On the morning of the 27th, the ancient na-

* This Café is so called.

tional *drapeau* of three colours, red, black, and yellow, the flag of Brabant, was hoisted on the spire of the Hotel de Ville, accompanied by shouts and cries of "*Vive la liberté.*" In a moment, these colours floated in every quarter of the city, amidst the acclamations of the people. The reappearance of this standard gladdened every heart. Cherished colours, which none had forgot, although they had been deprived of them for so many years ! These symbols of liberty were again restored, and they hoped for ever. They announced the return of independence, joy, and happiness ; such, at least, were the feelings of the youthful enthusiasts.

On the preceding night, the city was illuminated with the greatest brilliancy by an order from the municipality, who had begun to recover their courage, hitherto so ambiguous. This proclamation announced that the tax on the *mouture* (grinding of corn) was suppressed. The inhabitants were invited to organize in every street a provisional guard, and to illuminate their houses, as the lamps did not render the necessary light at this critical moment.*

* This was done by small pots (containing oil) in the windows ; a considerable tax on many persons who could but ill afford the expense.

This was followed by a second edict to the following effect :—

“REGENCE DE LA VILLE DE BRUXELLES.

“Citizens of Brussels, it is not to you that the excesses which have been committed are to be attributed ; they could only be the work of vagabonds, strangers to our beautiful city, and, perhaps, to Belgium. As to you, who gain your bread by labour, it is consequently your interest to preserve peace and tranquillity, instead of demolishing private and public establishments, whereby you will no longer have employment. A guard, composed of your fellow-citizens, the chiefs of whom are entitled to your confidence, will watch over your security. Trust in them—lay down your arms, and return to your employers ; when your services are required, you will be called on to defend your city.”

Another proclamation followed, inviting the citizens to present themselves to the captains of their different sections, and to obey their leaders. Orders were also issued to erect barricades at the gates of the city, to prevent reinforcements of troops from entering it.

A national guard was formed, while the troops in the garrison remained stationary be-

fore the palace, taking no part in the movements of the citizens. The Generals, Vauthier, d'Aubromé, Aberson, and Byland, were in the interior of the palace. The centre and lower parts of the town became quite tranquil, and the markets and many of the shops were re-opened. With all these appearances of the restoration of order, there existed great inquietude among the upper ranks and the respectable Bourgeois. The magazines and *bureaux* of the bankers continued shut ; no public business was done , all confidence was at an end ; bills of exchange were protested ; and commerce ceased. There was no communication with the interior, except by the diligences.

The national guard had, however, succeeded, in some measure, in keeping the agitators in order ; but the populace thirsted for vengeance, though they obeyed, and were led, without knowing why. This seeming quietude could not be expected to continue.—It is much more easy to conduct people who will listen to reason ; but the annals of all nations have shown how difficult it is to govern the *canaille*, when in a state of insurrection. The fears of the national guard can, therefore, be naturally imagined, and the apprehension of further acts of violence, determined every honest citizen to arm

himself, and to make every sacrifice for the common cause.

The national guard of Paris, by its zeal and devotion in the memorable days of July, had probably saved their city from a horrible devastation. Such an example produced on the Bruxellois a lasting impression, which afterwards secured their liberty, and, in the meantime, saved their city from the menaces of a handful of brigands and incendiaries. These miscreants, dispersed on one point, tried their influence on another, and, unfortunately, found numerous auditors. Towards seven o'clock in the evening of the 27th, an immense mob had collected in the Place Royale, among whom were a considerable number with arms. The national guard interposed, commanding them to retire, which was refused. The officer in charge of the detachment in vain remonstrated with these ruffians, who, advancing in the hope that they might be able to disarm the Bourgeois, were saluted with a general discharge, which killed three, and twice that number were wounded, when the remainder took to their heels. It was thought that this act of energy saved the town, for the mob dispersed, and tranquillity was restored.

On the morning of the 28th, every thing con-

tinued quiet. The peasants entered with their provisions as usual, being market-day; the shops and magazines were re-opened, and there was no appearance of revolution. In the evening, however, a body of rioters, amounting to one hundred, marched to Uccle, a village a short distance from the city, where an Englishman, Mr. Wilson, had a cotton manufactory. They threatened to destroy it, but were persuaded to abandon their purpose, on receiving 300 florins, which were paid; but hardly had they departed, when a second detachment made its appearance, chiefly composed of the workmen of another establishment. These *worthies* (bent on destruction from jealousy to the Englishman) set fire to the principal building filled with the raw materials of his manufactory, at the same time destroying his whole furniture and other effects, besides machinery of great value. What an act of wantonness! It is to be regretted that this devastation was followed by another of greater importance.

At Foret, in the same vicinity, the fabric of Messrs. Bosdevex and Bal was attacked and delivered to the flames, while their houses were pillaged. Fortunately, these gentlemen contrived to make their escape in time to save their lives, as the ruffians threatened to burn them

alive, with their *mécaniques*; and Madame Bal, who was confined to bed by severe indisposition, had been removed on a mattress to the house of the *Curé*. This catastrophe plunged two unfortunate and amiable families into utter destitution; for their premises had not been insured. The loss was estimated at 317,000 francs (150,000 florins). No apology can be offered to palliate the conduct of these barbarians.

The next morning, the following proclamation was published :—

“We, Major-General Comte de Byland, commander-in-chief of the troops in the province of western Brabant, agree, with the other military authorities of this city, and make known to the inhabitants, that the troops which were expected to arrive this day, shall not enter as long as the inhabitants of this residence respect all the civil established authorities, and maintain good order.

“The Commander-in-chief,
(Signed) “GUIL. Comte de Byland.”

“QUARTER-GENERAL,
Brussels, 28th August, 1830.”

It appeared that, in the conference which preceded the publication of this proclamation, the Baron d’Hoogvorst expressed himself with

great energy, declaring "That he would be responsible for the safety of the city if the troops did not enter it ; otherwise, he would be the first to give his advice for resistance, and oppose force to force." The conference being ended, an aide-de-camp was dispatched to the head-quarters of Prince Frederic, to stop the march of the troops.

In the evening, forty citizens formed a commission at the Hotel de Ville, having chosen for their president, M. Baron de Sécus, a member of the Etats-generaux, and M. Sylvan Van de Weyer, their secretary. This commission was charged to state and support the wishes of the Belgians to the king, to prevent a further effusion of blood.

The deputation, composed of forty-five members, engaged to transmit only the just reclamations of the Belges to the king direct, refusing any interview with his ministers. The following are the terms expressed in this document :—

"The frank and sincere execution of the fundamental law, without restriction or interpretation in favour of power ; the dismissal of the minister, Van Maanen ; the provisional suspension of the *l'abbatage* (a duty on the slaughtering of cattle), until the approaching session of the Etats-generaux a new system

of election, by law, that would make the elections more directly from the people ; the re-establishment of trial by jury ; a new law of judicial organization ; the penal responsibility of ministers, established by law ; a law which fixes the high court of appeal in the western provinces ; the cessation of all suits entered against liberal writers ; the annulment of all convictions on political matters ; that bread shall be distributed to all unfortunate workmen and labourers out of employment, to enable them to return to their labours.

“The deputies must further demand that the *Etats-generaux* shall be promptly convoked, and that the guardianship of the city, favourable to good order, shall alone be confided to the *Bourgeois guard*.”

M. Stassart arrived at Rotterdam by the steamer from Antwerp. Hardly had he landed when the people attacked him, and the police had great difficulty to save him from being massacred. He immediately took his departure for the Hague ; and, finding that his life was in no less danger, he returned to Brussels. At Rotterdam a great concourse of the inhabitants had assembled, gaping for news from Brussels. M. Stassart was not known to them ; for they had heard of the arrival of a deputation from thence. Pressing round him, they cried out,

Which is Stassart ? The noble deputy, fearing that some mistake might compromise the life of his honourable colleague, exclaimed, with great coolness, " I am he." This *sang froid* had an instant effect on the honourable citizens of Rotterdam, who aided the police to conduct him with safety to the diligence.

The baron, who had been dispatched along with the other deputies on the opening of the States-general, returned on the night of the 17th, finding that his presence at the Hague was useless, the king having apparently decided on war. His arrival at Brussels produced a great effect.

The accounts from Bruges were of a less favourable nature. On the morning of the 29th, at six o'clock, the 29th regiment of the line marched to Menin. At eight, the prisoners contrived to get possession of the keys of the gaol, rising on the keepers, and making their escape, to the amount of about twenty. They directed their steps towards Steenburgh, threatening to kill every one who approached them.

As soon as their evasion was made known, a few young men formed a group near the prison, and were speedily joined by others ; so that by noon they increased to a multitude,

and, taking post in the Grand Place, became exceedingly riotous. They levied contributions at every door (breaking the windows of all who refused), as well as the hotel of the literary society, and the Café de Cranenberg, where they seized on a barrel of brandy, which was soon consumed to the cries of "*Vive de Potter.*" A voice pronounced the name of Sandelin. In a trice this gentleman's door was forced, his furniture thrown into the street and burned (*à la Bruxellois*), as a *feu de joie*.

In the meantime, a handful of Bourgeois advanced, shouldering their rusty muskets; but were speedily disarmed, happy to escape with their lives. The Burgomaster and the principal citizens at length assembled at the Hotel de Ville, to concert measures for the return of order. They armed themselves, and repaired to the scene of conflagration, which still continued. The incendiaries fired on them from the windows, which was returned by a platoon; and half a dozen of these miscreants were put *hors de combat*. It was not, however, till an hour after midnight that the mob dispersed, with promises to return to the field at sunrise. Although the incendiaries did not keep their promise, as to the hour of reassembling, they paraded at ten o'clock, renewing their labours,

by again setting fire to the house of M. Sandelin, which had not been entirely consumed, in consequence of the exertions of better disposed persons, who, during the night, had stopped the progress of the flames. The military prison, *vis-à-vis*, did not escape conflagration. Patroles of armed Bourgeois in vain attempted again to disperse these furies ; but the citizens met in large numbers at the town-house, when a deputation (the two *curés* of the parish) was sent, praying "That they would unite their efforts, along with the magistrates, to restore order, and to prevail on the 'Masaniellos' (as they styled themselves) to lay down their arms." The delegates were authorized to promise them a distribution of bread (instead of a *halter*), relief to the relations of those who had fallen in the battle, and medical aid to the wounded. It is unnecessary to add that these terms were agreed to.

How deplorable to find such dastardly conduct in a population of 30,000 citizens, submitting to the tyranny of an insignificant band of robbers and cut-throats ! Yet it was to be expected that, in such circumstances, a starving mob, unrestrained by the laws, would break out into immediate violence. A pole was stuck up in the Grand Place, styled "the tree of li-

berty," round which national airs were chanted, with cries of "*Vive la liberté* ;" but these demonstrations of patriotism were of short duration, and plunder became the order of the day. The houses of the richest citizens were attacked, gutted, and demolished. Within twenty-four hours a dozen of the handsomest dwellings of the unoffending citizens being burnt, and their most valuable contents carried off. Had the authorities remained at their posts, these disasters might have been prevented.

A few months after this disgraceful event, a placard was stuck on the trunk of the branchless tree of liberty, which had been raised on the Grand Place; which, though it contained some point, cannot be translated, like all such *calembourgs*, into another language.

" ARBRE DE MISERE.

DRAPEAU DE CORSAIRE.

CHAPEAU DE VOLEUR.

PAYS DE MALHEUR.

GENS DE MAL.

GEN-DE-BIEN." *

* Alluding to M. Gen-de-bien, a colleague of De Potter's, with whom he was banished; but, on his return, became a minister, which he continues to be.

It was on the 27th and 28th that the government at the Hague received the account of the events of Brussels. On the morning of the latter day, the council of ministers assembled at seven o'clock, and did not finish their labours till noon. The king presided, attended by the two princes, and the minister Van Maanen, assisted also at the deliberation. M. Van Gobbelschroy was at Brussels.

When this first council broke up, new despatches required a second reunion, the result of which was, the departure of their R. R. H. H. the Prince of Orange and Prince Frederic for the southern provinces. Orders were also immediately issued for the march of a large body of troops stationed in Holland, to the frontiers. The grenadiers and chasseurs, which formed a part of the garrison at the Hague preceded them, as well as the troops of the line quartered in west Brabant. Their royal highnesses slept at Vilvorde on the night of the 30th, where they found the 15th division, with eight pieces of cannon.

His majesty gave out the following *arreté* :—
“ We, Guillaume, &c. finding we are authorized by the last paragraph of the 97th article of the fundamental law, we think it proper to convoke an extraordinary meeting of the Etats-

generaux at the Hague, on Monday the 13th September next, &c.

(Signé)

“ GUILLAUME.”

“ De par le Roi,

(Signé) “ J. G. DE MEY VAN STREEFKIRK.”

“ LA HAYE, 28th August, 1830.”

On the morning of the 31st, M. de Cruykenbourg, aide-de-camp to H. R. H. le Prince d'Orange, arrived at the palace of Laeken, bearer of a despatch for M. d'Hoogvorst, commandant-general of the Bourgeois guard at Brussels. H. R. H. invites M. le Commandant to proceed to his *quartier* to arrange with him on the best means of calming the discontents, and to satisfy the public opinion. It is reported that H. R. H. is charged with full powers by his majesty on these points.

A deputation was instantly despatched, composed of M. le Baron d'Hoogvorst, commander-in-chief; Major le Baron Vanderchmissen, commanding *en second*; Comte Vanderbuck; Chevalier Hotton of the horse guards; Rouppe, *ci-devant* Major of Brussels; and M. Van de Weyer, Advocate. This deputation was charged to express to the princes the request of the citizens of Brussels, “ That their R. R. H. H. would enter their gates under the sole escort of

the deputies, in order that they might be convinced of the excellent spirit of the guard of the Bourgeois, equally resolved to maintain order and preserve liberty." During the absence of the deputation the city offered an image of the most profound calm. The princes received at Vilvorde the members of this commission, and, at five o'clock, they returned, descending at the Hotel de Ville, and prepared a proclamation to announce the reply of the princes. But before this document could be arranged it was known to the public "that the princes demanded their entrance into the city, accompanied by troops, without any promises, and insisting that the citizens should put down their flags, and cockades of three colours."

Towards seven o'clock, the news of this proposition was publicly known, though the proclamation had not yet been placarded. An immense crowd assembled on the boulevards and the gate of Laeken ; resolved, whatever it might contain, to oppose the entrance of the troops by force, if necessary. The barricades at all the gates were rapidly advancing. The people now unpaved the streets, and cut down trees for their formation. The whole night was employed in these labours, and on the morning it looked like an intrenched city. At ten o'clock

at night, the commission waited at the town-house, and from the balcony the following proclamation was pronounced :—

“FELLOW CITIZENS,—The commission having expressed to the princes the desire of the citizens of Brussels, that they should see them within their walls without escort, being assured that the troops should not enter before an answer was given to the following propositions. In the meantime their R. R. H. H. have attached to their entry, conditions to which the members of the council do not consider themselves authorized to accept without previously consulting the general opinion of the people by means of a public address, which the princes themselves demand. In consequence, the commandant has caused the following document to be published, signed by their R. R. H. H. :—

“ ‘ You may inform the brave Bourgeois of Brussels, that the princes are at the gates of this royal residence, with open arms to those who will come to them. They are disposed to enter the city, surrounded by this same guard, and followed by a military force, in order to relieve the fatiguing service of *surveillance* which the Bourgeois have so well executed to this moment; on condition, however, that the colours and flags, which they consider illegal,

shall be put down, and replaced by the national colours.

(Signed) ' P. D'ORANGE.
' FREDERIC, P. de Pays Bas.' ”

It is unnecessary to add that their terms were not accepted, and it was ordered “That a certain number of the members of the guard Bourgeois shall be deputed to wait on the princes in order to obtain changes in these conditions, and that the sections shall be desired to attend at the head quarters by a deputation of twenty-five persons.

(Signed) “ BARON E. V. D'HOOGVORST.”

31st August, 1830.—The passages of the above proclamation, concerning the proposition of deposing the Brabant colours, and of receiving the princes with troops, were received, during their recital, with the strongest marks of disapprobation.

1st September.—New concessions have been obtained by this deputation, which were announced by the following “ Proclamation” and “ Order of the day” :—

PROCLAMATION.—“ H. R. H. the Prince of Orange will this day enter Brussels with his *état-major*, unaccompanied by troops. He de-

mands that the Bourgeois guard shall go before him. The deputies have engaged to guarantee the safety of his person, and that he may retire when he pleases."

ORDER OF THE DAY.—"The chiefs of the sections are desired to attend the prince this day at ten o'clock, on the Grand Place, with the whole of their sections, in arms, and in their best clothing; where they will arrange themselves in two ranks, for the purpose of waiting and escorting H. R. H. the Prince of Orange.

(Signed) "VAN DER MEERE."

During the long conference which the members of the first deputation held on their return with the *état-major*, several citizens were admitted to the sitting, and it was proposed, before sending the second deputation to the princes, that the ambassadors of Austria and Spain should assist at the meeting. M. S. Van de Weyer opposed this, saying, "Bourgeois, we have hitherto maintained order; we will alone terminate our affairs. Let us not paralyze our cause, in taking for our interpreters the ministers of Austria and Spain. Have we not in our city men in whom the people have the fullest confidence?" This advice was unanimously followed; but M. Secus, desirous

to make them feel the utility of a voluntary intervention of these ambassadors, they received a passport to proceed to Vilvorde, not as deputies, but as private persons. "In the multiplicity of counsellors there is wisdom."

The second deputation was received very coldly. The princes showed little disposition to change their resolution. Warm debates ensued. All the members of commission argued that, from the great state of excitement which prevailed, they feared matters might be driven to extremities, in case these feelings were not speedily stifled. The Prince de Ligne exclaimed, with lively emotion, "That, if their R. R. H. H. persisted to enter Brussels by force, they must first pass over his body." Another told the Prince of Orange, "That he would be rendered responsible for the blood which might be spilled." (This spirited remonstrance of the former seems irreconcilable to his conduct afterwards.) The prince persisted for some time, but at last, after a private conference with his brother, and again with M. Van Gobbleschroy, he consented to give the deputation a reply, which permitted the adoption of the measures inserted in the "Proclamation" and the "Order of the day."

On the morning of the 2d, at ten o'clock, the

Comte de Cruykenbourg arrived, demanding, in the name of the Prince of Orange that, on the entrance of his royal highness into the city, the Brabant colours should be put down. A peremptory refusal was returned. Agreeably to the arrangement concluded with his royal highness, he must enter in the middle of the guard, keeping his own colours.

M. Van de Gobbleschroy departed with the aide-de-camp to confer further with the prince, and speedily returning, announced that he had in vain stated that H. R. H. was bound in honour and faith to fulfil his promise, and that the convention continued in force.

The calm but decided state of the city cut short the question, and the display of the Brabant colours was a condition *sine qua non*.

The reception of H. R. H. by the Bourgeois guard, and its solemnity, will always be held in remembrance in Brussels. The prince, on his part, merited the highest encomiums for the remarkable and noble courage and coolness which he exhibited, by entering the city without a military escort on such an occasion, and trusting solely to the good faith of a multitude whom he was aware, were inimical to his family. We question if any other prince in Europe could have been found to possess equal boldness.

At eleven o'clock the whole of the civic guard were drawn up on the square of the Hotel de Ville, arranged in sections, and in their best apparel; each wore at his button-hole a tri-coloured ribbon, and on his cap the number of his division. Such an assemblage of spectators, filling every window, had perhaps never before been seen, while every street leading to the square was paved with heads.

At noon they marched in double files, which occasioned a lengthened line. The *coup d'œil* was imposing, but some of the *accessoires* appeared misplaced and in bad taste; indeed, we might add, disgusting. A gang of butchers were placed at the head of the columns, representing sappers and miners, marching in advance, and shouldering their cleavers. Fifty vagabonds, from the purlieus followed, armed with pikes, and clothed in *sarreaux* (a sort of smock-frock), many of which were in tatters. As an excuse for this masquerade, it was given out that the authorities were obliged to make this sacrifice to appease the *canaille*. The guard was, however, well equipped in *blouses* (a better sort of frock, worn by the peasants), which had an uniform appearance. The 5th, 7th, and 8th sections were composed entirely of respectable citizens; but had a most sombre

appearance, being dressed in black, giving a funeral appearance to the procession.

Silence prevailed ; yet the confidence which the prince showed by coming among the people without escort, could not fail to make a lively impression on those who had the good taste to appreciate this confidence, and the affability of which he gave proofs as he passed along.

When he saw, in the first street he traversed, the great preparations which had been made for defence ; the compact mass of armed men, united and organized as by enchantment ; the streets in part unpaved, and barricades every where constructed, the prince appeared astonished ; but, on observing the quietness and loyalty of this immense assembly, he discovered great emotion.

When passing along the line, he spoke to several persons, saying, " It is well, my friends. You have done well to preserve the city so bravely." To Captain Michiels, who had spoken with warmth at the second deputation, on the resolution of the citizens to defend their city, he said, "*Eh bien*, M. Michiels, you see I have kept my word in coming among you."

In the Place de Monnaie, shouts of "*Vive le*

Prince,” “*Vive la liberté,*” “*A bas Van Maanen,*” were general. The prince exclaimed, “*Oui, mes amis—vive la liberté, et vous l’aurez,*” and he burst into tears. The recollections of his former popularity must have been very galling to him, the more especially as no blame could be attached to H. R. H. for the present situation of the country; and it is greatly to be lamented that, by the ambition of his father grasping for power, and his giving a deaf ear to the just complaints of his subjects in the southern provinces, that the hereditary prince has been deprived of his succession to a throne, which, from every prospect, he would have filled with honour to himself, and to the satisfaction and happiness of the whole kingdom.

The prince was desirous to pass directly to his palace by the Rue de la Madeleine; but, it being cut up by trenches and other impediments, he was obliged to proceed by the Grand Place, where, after addressing a few words to the people, and a short conference at the Hotel de Ville, H. R. H. became anxious to return to his palace. Accompanied by aides-de-camp, and a few of the Bourgeois guard, he set out, *sans façon*, at a sharp canter, by the narrow streets behind the Hotel de Ville, where he

shortly outstripped his followers ; and, being mounted on a thorough-bred English hunter, leaped the barricades and trenches, leaving more than one of his retinue in the ditches. When he reached the Palais de Justice, the civic guard at that post, not understanding his being thus unattended, got under arms on the cry of the sentinels, who crossed their bayonets ; but, fortunately, the serjeant recognising H. R. H. ordered his guard to present arms. At this moment, one of his staff, who had overtaken the prince, came in contact with some person who obstructed his way—a quarrel took place, when a cry of “*arrête, arrête,*” ensued. This might have been fatal to H. R. H. ; for some of the mob imagining that it was to the prince the cry alluded, it was said that a fellow aimed a blow at him with a beam, and another threw a stone. At this crisis, some more officers of his staff reappeared, and the prince happily arrived safe at his palace.

A curious circumstance occurred during the procession. A portable bridge had been constructed, by the Dutch troops, across the parapet of the rampart behind his palace, with the view, no doubt, that, in case of any disaster, the prince might make his escape by it. The peo-

ple considered this as a breach of confidence, and insisted that the pioneers, who had erected it, should instantly pull it down. The facility of entering their city by such means, showed the absurdity of defending an open town by barricades.

The *état-major* waited on the prince, who requested to be guarded by a detachment of citizens. He continued a long time in conversation with the principal officers on what he proposed to do, assuring them anew that no troops should enter. At half-past three o'clock the conference ended, and the guard was dismissed. It was calculated that at least eight thousand men were in attendance on this occasion. In the evening, the following proclamation was published, and distributed every where :—

“ AU NOM DU ROI,—I am here among you in confidence. My safety is complete, guaranteed as it is by your loyalty.

“ Unite yourselves with me to consolidate the re-establishment of tranquillity and order. Be assured no troops shall enter your city ; and, in concert with your authorities, I will take the necessary measures to restore calm and confidence.

“A commission, composed of MM. le Duc d’Ursel, president ; Van der Fosse, governor of the province ; d’Hoogvorst, commandant ; De Wellens, burgomaster of Bruxelles ; Le General d’Anbremé ; Kockaert, member of the Regence ; Le Duc d’Aremberg ; Stevens, member of the Régence, secretary ; are charged to propose to me these measures. They will assemble to-morrow, 2d September, at nine o’clock in the morning, at my palace.”

“BRUSSELS, 1st September, 1830.”

During the day, the prince named MM. Rouppe and Van de Weyer as joint members of the commission.

Since the prince’s arrival, a great fermentation existed ;—in fact, his presence seemed to have decided the great question ; so readily do we believe what we wish. Meantime, the hours advanced, and nothing was done. Suddenly, however, the carriages of the deputies who had been dispatched to the Hague made their appearance. “*Les voila ! les voila !*” (they are come, they are come) “They bring the king’s answer,” was the cry. The Régence immediately assembled, and it was shortly after announced, that the following report would be printed and circulated without delay :—

“ Arrived at the Hague, on Monday, at one o’clock, we demanded an audience of H. M. which was immediately granted, and we were graciously received. On exhibiting our credentials, no objection was made to the title in virtue of which we acted. Having attentively listened to our written document, H. M. said that he was gratified in being able to anticipate our wishes, in convoking the States-general for the 13th September ; the sure and legal means to know, and to satisfy, the wishes of all parties in the kingdom ; to do justice to their their grievances, and to satisfy them.

“ After some consideration, we entered into the *exposé*, and from that into the discussion of various points, which we had been charged to communicate verbally to H. M.

“ To the discussion on the theory of the responsibility of the ministers, and of the sign manual (*contre-seing*), the king said, that the fundamental law had not determined (*consacré*) these theories. They might be just and useful ; but that they could not be changed except by a fundamental law, agreed upon by the States-General, convoked in double number ; that an extraordinary session, opening on the 13th September, would take place, either at his demand, or on the invitation of the second

chamber, on a proposition of this point, as well as on all others, found necessary or advantageous to the country. On the demand to dismiss certain ministers, and particularly M. Van Maanen, H. M. did not say a word in their favour; neither did he discover any ill humour nor contradiction to the complaints we enumerated to their charge. H. M. observed that the fundamental law gave him the choice of his ministers; that, besides, he could come to no determination as long as he appeared under constraint; that it was not consistent with his royal dignity to seem to yield, like one from whom *something was required, with a pistol at his throat* (le pistolet sur la gorge). He showed us, however, plainly, as well as the Liege deputies, who were also present at the conference, that he would take our demands into consideration.

“ In regard to the subject of the high court, H. M. observed, that it was not till after mature deliberation, that the seat of its establishment had been chosen; but that he would take into consideration, and advise on the best mode of conciliating all interests.

“ On our demand as to the inequality of the division of the employments, the great establishments, and public administrations, H. M.

appeared afflicted, and, without contesting the truth of these facts, he said it was extremely difficult to content every one ; but, as soon as good order was restored, he would consider the subject ; but it would be proper, above all, that the princes, his sons, should re-enter Brussels at the head of his troops, and put an end to the existing disturbances, to which he could not submit, without giving a pernicious example to all the other towns in the kingdom. After long discussions and considerations on the probable disasters of an entry into Brussels by force of arms, and, on the other hand, of the advantages of the convention, and a proclamation for that entry, with the partial occupation of the city by the guard Bourgeois, H. M. proposed our having an interview with the minister of the interior, and to present us to the princes upon our return to Brussels. In conclusion, H. M. expressed his desire that tranquillity would soon be restored, repeating several times, with lively emotion, the horrors he felt for the effusion of blood."

This report, far from calming the people, irritated them. They would, they said, have nothing more to do with deputies, although they were satisfied that they had fulfilled their duties. The Comte de Mérode said to the king,

“Remember, Sire, that it was through the infatuation of the Prince de Polignac that Charles X. lost his crown.”

Meanwhile, numerous groups of Bourgeois assembled in the Grand Place, when a proclamation was read by the president of the commission, which was received with groans and hisses, and burned at the foot of a lamp post in the middle of the square. The commission again met to discuss the vital question,—the separation of the southern provinces from those of the north,—considered in the general opinion as the only effectual means to save Belgium, and preserve that beautiful portion of the kingdom from the house of Nassau. These sentiments did not accord with those of the commission, who pretended that it only required the redress of grievances for the restoration of order. Be this as it may, the question, after having been long agitated, they unanimously resolved to propose it to the prince.

In order to throw more light on the subject, and to prove to H. R. H. that this was the unanimous opinion of the whole population, they suggested the propriety of uniting with the members of the States-general who were at Brussels. The prince gave a favourable reception to this proposal, and the deputies were

summoned to the palace, when their opinion was found to coincide unanimously with the commissioners.

The officers and chiefs of the guard were next called on to express their wishes. "The separation of the north from the south, under one king," was the universal desire. The prince, visibly affected, promised to become the organ of their views to his father. After the most frank and energetic explanations, H. R. H. pronounced these words, which seemed to escape from the bottom of his heart:—

"Gentlemen,—In expressing your desires to the king, may I be assured that you have no reservation (*arrière-pensé*), no thoughts in your minds of changing the dynasty?" "Monseigneur," replied they, with unanimous voice, "we only wish for liberty, and the independence of our country. The separation of the north from the south are the sole means to obtain them." "You will then remain Belgians; you will not become Frenchmen?" added H. R. H. "No," was the cry from all parts; "we would be free and independent Belgians." "*Eh, bien!*" rejoined the prince; "If the French should ever attempt to destroy your national independence, will you follow me in battle, if I place myself at your head?" "Yes, if you

will guarantee our liberties.” “Swear to me, then,” replied the prince, “that you will maintain the Orange dynasty.” “We will swear! we will swear!” “That you will not permit the intervention of France in your affairs.” “We will swear!” And the roof of the palace repeated the oaths.

Tears fell from the eyes of the prince and his attendants; and the old generals who accompanied H. R. H. cried, “Bravo! bravo! Messieurs—it is thus that the truth should be spoken to princes.”

At three o'clock, H. R. H. departed, accompanied by his staff and the guard Bourgeois (on horseback) which the prince had requested. On arriving at the head-quarters, he embraced his brother with great affection. The guard having dismounted, they continued some time in conversation with the officers, and the prince shook hands with many of the members, giving them fresh assurances that he would support their claims with all his power.

A short time previous to the prince's departure, he walked from his palace along the Rue Ducale, attended by two of his staff, and followed by a score or two of ragged boys. The few persons who were in the street took no notice of H. R. H. and none saluted him, except some Englishmen, whom he recognised; and

graciously spoke to one gentleman, Mr. Levett, who had long been a resident, observing "that he remembered his great exertions in assisting to put down the fire at the palace, a few years back." The prince appeared to be much gratified in conversing with this gentleman.

The noble conduct of the prince, by his courage and confidence on so critical an occasion, gained him many friends. He restored tranquillity in the city, after the people had been excited by the apprehension of the entry of troops into it; for, by the support he gave to the Belgian cause with the king, they owed him a debt of gratitude, although his efforts were not successful in preventing the collision which afterwards occurred. The departure of H. R. H., and the whole of the troops being withdrawn from the garrison, left the city in a delicate position. The following proclamation was published :—

"The council of the Regence hasten to make known to their fellow-citizens the address to the king, which has been despatched by a courier extraordinary :—

" 'Sire,—The council of Regence of the city of Brussels, assembled in a permanent sitting, having discovered the cause of the movements which agitate this city and Belgium, is con-

vinced that they proceed from a desire to see established a separation of the southern and northern provinces. It adheres completely to the wishes of the Belgians, which have been transmitted, Sire, by H. R. H. the Prince of Orange. It beseeches your Majesty to grant them, and to be convinced that the preservation of the dynasty of the house of Nassau has never ceased to be their wishes, and that of the generality of the inhabitants of this residence.

(Signed) ' L. DE WELENS. ' "

" BRUSSELS, 4th Sept. 1830."

The news of the prince's arrival at the Hague were this day (5th September) announced. H. R. H. was received with great demonstrations of joy. The king went to his son, and the interview was highly touching. H. M. on returning to his palace, was hailed by acclamations, when a cabinet council was immediately summoned. The idea of a separation was favourably thought of, and Van Maanen received his dismissal.

The following were the terms accorded to this favourite :—

" William, by the grace of God, king of the Pays Bas.—At the request of the Sieur

M. C. F. Van Maanen, our minister of justice, earnestly praying that he may be dismissed from his present functions. Trusting that this dismissal may be the means of restoring order and tranquillity, or, at least, tend to the prevention of still greater disasters than those in which the country is at this moment unhappily placed. In this case, he considers it as a sacred duty, to insist on his dismissal from the department of justice, and the management of other public affairs at our court.

“ Having found it expedient to accord to the *Sieur M. C. F. Van Maanen* an honourable dismission from the functions of minister of justice, at the same time thanking him for the long services, executed with zeal and fidelity, to us and our kingdom.

“ Duplicates thereof shall be sent to our dearly-beloved son, the Prince of Orange ; to the departments of the general administration ; and also to the *Sieur Van Maanen* for his information and government.

(Signed) “ GUILLAUME.”

“ LA HAYE, 3d September, 1830.”

It would appear that the honourable dismissal of the *Sieur Van Maanen* was a strong proof that he had not lost his influence at court,

that he continued in the king's confidence, and that his councils would be listened to more than ever.

The "*Staats Courant*," an official journal, contained the following article on this subject :—

"The king having learned with indignation, the continuation of the mutiny, and resistance to legal authority in many parts (*in enkele plaatsen*) of southern Brabant and of Liege, it is thought H. M. will be obliged, until the results of the deliberations of the States-General, to issue the strongest orders in the cantons where public tranquillity has not yet been disturbed, and in ports and other strongholds of the kingdom, in order to preserve the loyal population and fortresses from insurrection.

"With this view the superior officers of the army, and the commandants of the fortified places, have received the strictest recommendations to use every possible measure for the maintenance of repose, and, if necessary, to have recourse to force of arms."

On the 8th September, the following proclamation was placarded every where :—

"We, William, by the grace of God, &c. Divine Providence, who has deigned to grant to this kingdom fifteen years of peace with all

Europe, with internal order and increasing prosperity; has visited two provinces with innumerable calamities, and the repose of many adjoining provinces has been troubled or menaced.

“ On the first news of these disasters, we hastened to convoke an extraordinary meeting of the States-General, who, in terms of the fundamental law, representing the whole Belgian people, for the purpose of advising, in concert with their high mightinesses, the best measures the nation requires in its present state.

“ In the meantime, our well-beloved sons, the Prince of Orange and Prince Frederic of the Pays Bas, have been charged by us to repair to these provinces, as well to protect by the forces placed at their disposition, the persons and property, in order to ascertain the real state of things, and to propose to us the most proper measures to calm the minds of the people.

“ This mission, filled with a humanity and generosity of sentiment, which the nation will appreciate, has confirmed the assurance that the same which has shown the greatest agitation, preserves and proclaims attachment to our dynasty and national independence; and, however afflicting it may be to our hearts, the circumstances come to our knowledge, we will not

abandon the hope that, with the aid of Divine Providence, whose succour we invoke in this afflicting and painful occasion, and the co-operation of all wealthy and good citizens in all parts of the kingdom, we hope to restore order and to re-establish the action of the legal powers and the laws.

“ We count to this effect, on the concurrence of the States-general. We invite them to examine if the evils which affect the country proceed from any defects in the national institutions, and if there is any means to modify them ; and, principally, if the relations established by the treaties and the fundamental law between the two grand divisions of the kingdom, ought for the common interest to change their form and nature.

“ We desire that these important questions shall be examined with great care, and an entire freedom (*liberté*), whatever sacrifice it may cost us, as long as they tend to fulfil the wishes and to ensure the good of our people, whose happiness is the object of our greatest care and solicitude.

“ Belgians ! Inhabitants of different countries in this beautiful kingdom, more than once relieved by the favour of providence, and the union of the citizens from the calamities into

which they had been placed, wait with calm and confidence the result of the grave questions which the circumstances have stirred up. Second the efforts of legal authority to maintain lawful order and the execution of the laws where they have not yet been disturbed, and to re-establish them where they have suffered.

“ Lend your force to the law in order to protect your properties, your industry, and your personal safety. That the different opinions may be effaced before the increasing dangers of anarchy, which in many places present themselves in the most hideous form, and which, if not prevented or repulsed by the means which the fundamental law places at the disposition of government, joined with those which the zeal of the citizens furnishes, will bring irreparable loss to the welfare of individuals, and the national prosperity.

“ Let the good citizens every where separate their cause from that of the agitators, and join their generous efforts for the re-establishment of the public tranquillity where it is every instant menaced ; put an end to such great evils, and permitting them ~~to~~ be effaced, if possible, that no trace may be left.

“ These presents shall be every where pub-

lished, and posted up in the ordinary forms, and inserted in the official journals.

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

(Signed) “ WILLIAM.”

(Countersigned) “ MEY DE STREEFKERK.”

“ This proclamation,” says the author from whom we have quoted, “ rich in words, but void of sincerity, and, above all, of truth, did not appear satisfactory to any one. It bears a date which is not without importance—the 5th Sept. perhaps at the moment when William signed the memorable lines of an ordinance, that saved, in 1816, France from the yoke of the absolutists, one word would have appeased Belgium. Would he then wish we should declare ourselves independent? Let him take care; if we do so, it is his despotism that has occasioned it.”

As soon as the proclamation was made public, MM. Brouckere, De Gerlache, Le Hon, &c. were dispatched to Vilvorde. They were received by the prince, and had a long conference with him, in which several members of the deputation expressed with energy, the necessity to calm the minds of the people, by prompt, legal, and decisive measures. They demanded

with firmness, the separation of Holland from Belgium, and that the prince would be considered responsible, in the eyes of Europe, for the state of irritation and disorder in which the obstinacy of our cabinet placed Belgium. The prince listened to the representations with great attention, he did not dissemble the importance of these circumstances. He spoke of the oaths of the king, of the obligation to respect the fundamental law, and did not conceal that in his private opinion, the separation of the two countries would meet more than one legal obstacle. He desired that the deputation would put in writing the observations which they had found necessary to make, which he would immediately transmit to the Hague. The deputation returned to Brussels.

The discourse from the throne on the opening of the extraordinary session, convoked on the 13th Sept. arrived in Brussels this morning, the 14th. *

The next morning, the guards Bourgeois were convoked, for the purpose of sending four deputies from each section to the council of safety and the *état-major*, to advise upon proper measures, under existing circumstances.

* See Appendix No. 1.

After a short deliberation, a project of address was definitively agreed upon, and unanimously approved.*

The greatest activity was employed to obtain the approval of the citizens to this address, and in forwarding it to the deputies. At the rising of the session, the Commandant d'Hoogvorst announced its resolves to the numerous groups collected on the Grande Place. This news, in some measure, calmed the populace. The immediate publication of the address was unanimously voted.

In the meantime, a second address, more explicit and laconic than the first, had been made out by a body of citizens from divers towns, assembled at Bruxelles, and hundreds of signatures were affixed to it. It was as follows :—

“The undersigned inhabitants of Bruxelles, Liege, Louvain, Luxembourg, Namur, Neufchâteau, Alost, St. Tront, Roulers, Tirlemont, Jodoinge, Dinault, Thielt, &c.—In consideration of the royal speech, and the imminent and hourly-increasing danger of a civil war, with the distress and irritation of the commercial

* See Appendix, No. II.

190 PROCLAMATION OF THE PRINCE.

and working-classes, supplicate the deputies to use all their endeavours to insist, without delay, upon the accomplishment of the separation of the north and southern provinces, by means of an address, in answer to the royal speech, or by any other act; and, at the same time, to require the immediate dispersion of the Dutch troops stationed in the Belgian provinces. If their efforts cannot attain this end—the only one likely to secure the peace of our provinces—we, the undersigned, earnestly entreat the deputies to agree among themselves, as many of them expressed their intention of doing before.”

(Here follow the signatures of all the deputies.)

The people then placed themselves under arms, organized their means of defence, and waited in expectation of peace or war.

On the morning of the 22d September, Prince Frederic, who commanded the Dutch troops, published the following proclamation:—

“**BRUXELLOIS**—The king, our august father, in concert with the representatives of the nation, is occupied in attentively examining your wishes, compatible with their oaths.

“In the meantime, order is incessantly disturbed within your walls, while, with a zeal and activity worthy of the highest praise, you watch over the defence of public and private property, although a small number of factious persons concealed among you, excite others to pillage, the people to revolt, and the army to dishonour. The royal intentions are perverted, the authorities without power, and liberty is oppressed.

“Conformable to the orders of the king, we bring the only true and efficacious remedy to this state of things, namely, the re-establishment of legal order, so that your city may again become the residence of your monarch and the heir to the throne.

“The national legions are about to enter within your walls, in the name of the law, and at the request of the best citizens—your friends, your brethren. They bring with them neither reaction nor vengeance, but order and repose ; a generous oblivion will be extended to your faults and the irregular proceedings which circumstances have produced.

“The principal authors of actions too criminal to hope to escape the severity of the law ; strangers who, abusing your hospitality, have come among you to organize disorder, shall be alone justly punished ; their cause has nothing

to do in common with yours. In consequence, we have ordered what follows, in virtue of the powers entrusted to us :—

“ *Art. 1.*—The national troops will re-enter Brussels.

“ *Art. 2.*—Every obstacle to their march will be removed by means of the municipal authority, the civic guard, the commission of safety, and all good inhabitants.

“ *Art. 3.*—The posts of the civic guard shall be in succession given up to the national troops ; we will afterwards arrange the mode of service for this guard.

“ *Art. 4.*—The armed individuals, strangers to the city, shall retire without arms to their homes. Every armed troop, belonging to other *communes*, who have come to Brussels, shall be desired (*invités*) to retire, and, if necessary, dispersed by force.

“ *Art. 5.*—The colours, adopted as distinguishing marks by a part of the civic guard, shall be put down. We reserve to ourselves to determine the signs of rallying which it shall be authorized to carry.

“ *Art. 6.*—The municipal administration, the committee of safety, the council, and chiefs of the civic guard, shall take care that the above dispositions, and all which concern them, are

put into execution, and that the maintenance of order be kept, until the troops shall have effected their entry.

“*Art. 7.*—The members of this corps are declared to be personally responsible, from the date of this present notification, for all resistance which may ensue to the public force, as also of the expenditure of the public or municipal funds, arms, and ammunition.

“*Art. 8.*—The garrison shall be, as soon as possible, put into barracks or encamped, so as not to be a burden on the people—they will observe the most strict discipline. All resistance shall be repelled by force of arms, and individuals guilty of such resistance shall be sent to the competent tribunal, and criminally prosecuted.

“Given at our head-quarters at Antwerp,
the 21st September, 1830.

(Signed) “FREDERIC, P. des Pays Bas.”

SKETCH
OF THE
BATTLE OF BRUSSELS.

FROM the mass of materials contained in the daily journals of Brussels, various pamphlets, and a small volume, entitled "The Battle of Brussels, or the Second Epoch of the Revolution," we have selected a short sketch of the events of that remarkable conflict ; and, having been in correspondence with a friend, an eye-witness, we trust it will be found pretty correct, although it is natural to suppose that the conduct of the citizens in such an unequal struggle, related by one of themselves, would be greatly overrated, yet it must be acknowledged that these patriotic men exhibited an extraordinary example of courage and perseverance.

A revolution, though commenced under the most favourable circumstances, always entails

with it a state of great suffering and distress, which, if prolonged, becomes fatal. It was, therefore, the first duty of a people thus circumstanced, to endeavour to organize a fixed government, otherwise the revolution, which they had just accomplished might, by anarchy, create a new order of things, as odious as the former.

The "Commission of Public Safety," a junta of three persons which had ruled Brussels for several weeks, had been supine, and, by a total want of action, permitted the seeds of discord to divide the people. The impoverished citizens murmured, and business was at a stand from the effects of the Revolution in August; at length the more timid among the principal merchants assembled at the Bourse, when a proposal was made to restore the monarchy, and to prevent the separation of the two countries, a day being fixed to draw up a petition for that purpose; but the pusillanimous promoters were left in a minority, and the motion was abandoned.

The "Central Union," a sort of close club, still existed, which had acquired great influence over the patriots, by the eloquence of some of the members, and especially by M. Rogier, a Liegeois, who stated that their cause would be lost by want of energy; and it was unanimously

resolved that more active measures should be immediately adopted. In consequence of this decision, the "Committee of Safety" lost all public confidence.

On the night of the 19th September, the corps of volunteers from Liege, amounting to 200 men, being no longer under any restraint, and finding that their services were not likely to be called on, they determined to sally forth to seek for the enemy; having been drilled for several days, and employed as patrols, they imagined that they possessed sufficient discipline to overthrow any number of Dutchmen who might be opposed to them. Full of this military ardour, the *gallant heroes of the mines* passed the gate of Louvain at dawn of day, in search of adventures. About a couple of leagues from the city, on the Terveuren road, they had the good fortune to surprise half a dozen mounted *gens d'armes* reposing, and little thinking of such foes being at hand. No resistance being offered, their horses were made prisoners, while the riders were allowed to depart; but our historian does not state if they were permitted also to retain their arms and accoutrements. "*Ce n'est que le premier pas qui coute.*" Flush-ed with their first essay, they directed another *reconnaissance* towards Vilvorde, but found no

enemy. "The Spanish fleet we cannot see, because it is not yet in sight"! During a short halt, the Antwerp diligence to Brussels was passing, when the *conducteur* communicated the news of the arrival of Prince Frederic at the former city, "conducting an army of 15,000 troops (besides another body of 1000 encamped at Tongres), to take, burn, and destroy the capital, should it attempt resistance." This intelligence induced "the men of Liege" to retrace their steps, and, on their arrival, they lost no time to make it known, as well as the feat they had performed. While one part of the communication filled the citizens with fear and dismay, the capture of the horses inspired deep regret as an infraction of the usages of war, and they were immediately ordered by the authorities to be returned under an escort, with every *amende* in their power, to the prince, which was done by proclamation; but it was, however, very ill received by the patriotic party, and torn from the walls of the Hotel de Ville, where an immense crowd had assembled on the occasion, joined by the Liegeois warriors, who considered themselves so ill treated, that they proceeded, with their standards flying, to the Commission of Safety, followed by thousands of citizens, to demand

arms. But the presence of their young chief, M. de Rogier, who harangued them from the Grand Place, exhorting them to order and obedience, shortly calmed the multitude. With an energy inspired by patriotism, he warned them "that pillage and incendiarism would be punished in the most summary manner by martial law."

Innumerable reports were now circulated every hour, the most timid insisting that the enemy was at the gates, while the cry for arms continued. It being known that there was a depôt of muskets and pikes in the Hotel de Ville, the populace forced the gates, without much opposition, and helped themselves to all they could find, disarming, at the same time, the Bourgeois guard. In this state of anarchy, many resigned themselves to despair, others loudly invoked the speedy arrival of the royal forces, while two petitions were actually despatched to Prince Frederic at Antwerp, the bearers of which were known to belong to the opposition party. The first, covered with signatures, requested "an amnesty for the city, answering for her readiness to submit." The second, from the priests, only containing ten names, promised that, "on the sight of the royal troops, the Orange flag would be hoisted."

[Two immense baskets of the orange cockades were found on the same day in the Town-house.] Many of the upper classes of the citizens detached themselves from the patriots, not, we believe, from disaffection, but from cowardice.

On the 22d, the popular movement continued. Sections were assembled for the purpose of reuniting volunteers disposed to defend the city, and a considerable number presented themselves. A fine corps, commanded by M. Rodenback de Boulders, a veteran grenadier of Napoleon's imperial guard, had volunteered to reconnoitre the route to Louvain, and to seek reinforcements in that large town.

An account of the state of Brussels on that day, we extract from the *Courier Belge* :—

“ Since yesterday morning, the town has enjoyed, in appearance, the most perfect tranquillity and most profound repose. The streets have never been more quiet, and we have not heard of any excesses being committed ; and the volunteers have displayed the greatest order and obedience to their leaders. To-day, all the sections have been convoked to meet in the Grand Place at ten o'clock, and the commandant, Baron d'Hoogvorst, announced that he will remain at the head of the guard Bourgeois

as civic chief, to maintain order in the interior ; but the command of the army will devolve on M. le Comte Van der Meeren.

“News favourable to the popular cause at Liege arrived this morning, and have increased the ardour of the Bruxellois. One of the two fortresses which surround Liege has been taken by assault.

“Animated by such cheering intelligence, many young patriots marched in the afternoon to join an advanced guard which had been posted at Dighem, a few leagues between the roads of Malines and Louvain, where some Dutch troops had taken their ground, but, on the approach of our volunteers, they retired, after firing a few shots *à la distance*” !

Hitherto no leaders had been appointed, and in the evening of the 22d, it was given out that the people were to be left to their own guidance—what a thunderbolt to the true patriots ! First, abandoned by their deputies ; again, by the commission of public safety ; and, lastly, by those whom they had chosen as their chiefs. Thus cast off, they sunk into a sullen stupor. Gloomy forebodings transpired among those connected with commerce and manufactures ; they saw nothing but ruin staring them in the face. At night it was rumoured, and generally

believed, that Prince Frederic had announced his entry into Brussels on the 23d, and the proclamation we have given (page 192) soon followed to this effect. His army had been increased by the 9th and 10th regiments, with an immense park of artillery, said to consist of 100 pieces, which had advanced beyond Malines. To these details it was added, that red-hot shot would be employed, in case of any obstinate resistance, which, with the menacing nature of the royal proclamation, struck terror into the firmest hearts.

The aspect of the posts, on the evening of the 21st, was still more discouraging. Scarcely a dozen men had joined the *corps de garde*, although a great multitude had turned out at the inspection in the morning. False alarms, however, brought forth the citizens during the night, but totally unprepared to make any resistance ; terror had occasioned them to congregate ; for the following morning, the day of battle, they were secure in their homes. The lower orders, however, became more zealous, and laboured hard to construct barricades.

The whole disposable armed force that could be counted on, did not exceed 5 or 600 men, and the Baron d'Hoogvorst was the only chief that remained ; among this number were 160

Liegeois. Prince Frederic had announced officially, that he was on his march from Malines with 100 pieces of cannon, so that it may be readily imagined the besieged could have but small hope of resisting an attack, in an open town, with the small means they could bring forward to oppose an army of regular and well-disciplined troops.

The advanced post of the Dutch had encamped about half a league from the eastern gate of the city, in a position communicating with that of Schaerbeck and Louvain. At four o'clock, A.M. a battalion of infantry, 6 or 700 strong, three squadrons of lancers, and three of cuirassiers, with twelve pieces of light artillery, put themselves in movement by this latter route, taking their position on the heights of St. Josse-ten-noode, where their cannon commenced a sharp fire at seven o'clock to batter the upper part of the town—this, however, only proved a false attack; the body of the troops marched towards the gate of Schaerbeck. They had 1,500 grenadier guards, the flower of their army; as many chasseurs; two battalions of infantry, each 1,000 strong; three of the 10th division, of a similar strength, with 1,400 of the 15th; 700 of the battalion of ———; three squadrons of light cavalry; three of cuirassiers, and sixteen pieces of artillery, with-

out counting those that followed the column at a short distance. The most moderate calculation of this force cannot be estimated at less than 12,000—triple the number of the effective patriots. Such a difference, in a strong fortified place, would not be considered too great; but in an open town, such as Brussels, it is almost incredible that the citizens were not overwhelmed, considering how ill they were prepared to resist such an assault. In fact, they could not count on being able to make the smallest resistance. The gate of Schaerbeck, leading to Rue Royale, on which the enemy directed the *élite* of their army, is spacious, and more than half a mile in length, greatly resembling La Rue de la Paix at Paris. It is elevated several hundred feet above the lower town. It was impossible to find an entry more favourable to the assailants, who could sweep it from one end to the other, as far as the Place Royal, the western extremity. On the part of the Bourgeois, nothing had been done to obviate, with any effect, the occupation of this important street; a few *chevaux de frise*, placed outside the gate, served merely to indicate that there was an intention to defend it.

On the morning of the 23d, at half-past six o'clock, the *éclaireurs* (light cavalry and chas-

seurs) presented themselves in front of this entrance, and were saluted by a round of grape shot, while the Liegeois and a few volunteers, amounting to 200, rushed forward ; but their opponents, being supported by a whole battalion, soon drove them back, while the grenadiers of the guard moved in close column, and the gate was abandoned with trifling loss on either side. [It appears extremely singular that, in a city containing nearly 120,000 inhabitants, not a single engineer could be found, nor an officer of experience, capable of planning some effective defence for this important post, which might have been easily converted into a citadel, and forced the assailants to enter by another gate, where the citizens could have better defended themselves, as was afterwards proved.]

Some resistance was made to prevent them from gaining the Park, but in vain ; and it was abandoned, as well as the southern Boulevard, the palaces, and the Place Royal, after a short conflict. These commanding positions were soon filled with Dutch troops and artillery.

The appearance of the town at this time was frightful ; despair was manifest in every face. No defenders were to be seen beyond a few groups, ill armed, and without leaders ; those

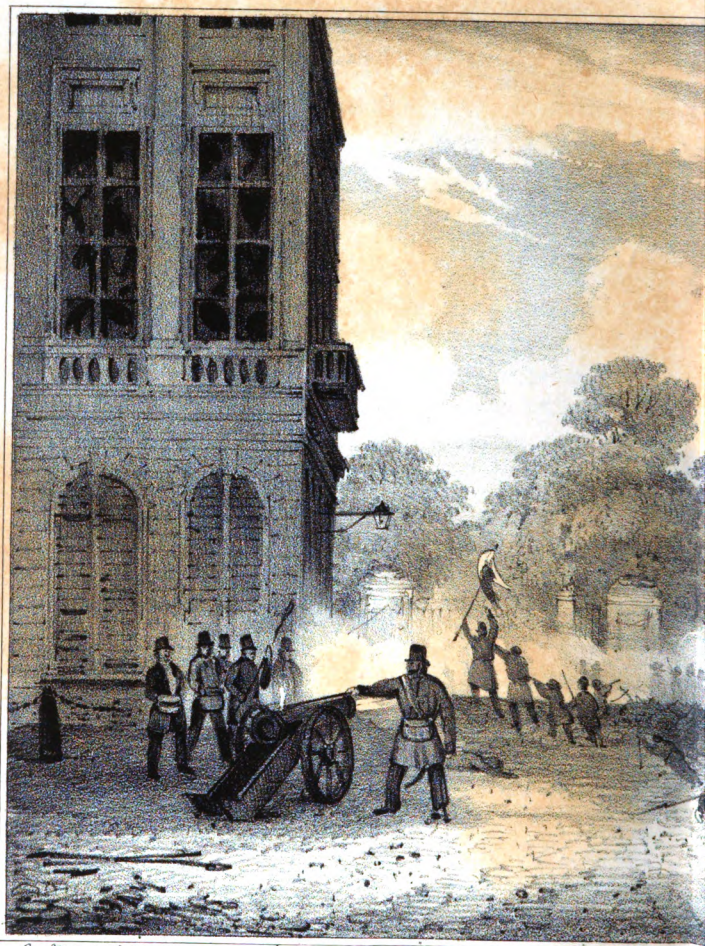
who had muskets wanted cartouche boxes; and the depôt for ammunition had been in the possession of the enemy since their entrance; in a word, all appeared to be lost, for the sections did not assemble. In this deplorable state, orders were given to sound the great bell of the cathedral, and this lugubrious noise, with drums beating "the general," the firing of cannon, and dropping shots in all directions, instead of rousing the citizens, served only the more to intimidate them. At this moment, a cry was heard, "that the enemy had entered the Flanders gate (situated at the northern extremity of the lower part of the town) with a battalion of infantry, and two squadrons of cavalry."

Taking advantage of the time consumed by this movement of the Dutch troops, some determined citizens placed themselves in ambush in the Place Royale, which is contiguous to the Park, and from whence a hundred spectators had already allowed themselves to be driven back by six of the enemy's sharpshooters. The passage at the end of the street, which connects this square with the Park, is terminated on one side by the Hotel de Bellvue; on the other, by the Café de l'Amitié, and a wall surrounded by a stone

balustrade. There the company of the brave Renard from Tournay, and some of the best-armed Brussels volunteers placed themselves; farther on, behind the iron bridge, the brave Liegeois Charlier, surnamed, *Jambe de Bois* * (wooden leg), pointed on the same passage his great Liégeois cannon, charged with grape shot. From this moment, it became impossible for the enemy to manœuvre on this point, which it was of the utmost importance to preserve. Some of those who had been repulsed by the enemy from the gates of Louvain and Schaerbeek, had retired to the observatory, situated on the boulevard between these two gates. where a sharp fire commenced, which interfered with the communication of the Dutch; and, though the preservation of this edifice was not of importance, the fire of musketry, heard from afar, animated the spirits of the people, by offering an example of defence; and as long as these brave men had cartridges they held firm. Their ammunition, however, being at last exhausted, towards three o'clock in the afternoon, they escaped by the ramparts, and re-entered the town by another gate.

* The print we have given, represents this hero in the act of firing his large cannon.

THE BATTLE OF
1861



On Stone by C. Burton.

EXPLOITS OF JAM

OF THE 23rd OF SEPT^r
1830.



Day & Haghe, Litho to the King

WHILE THE BOYS.

A more decisive movement soon took place in the very midst of the enemy's post, in the quarter between the Place Royale, the Boulevard, and the Park. The inhabitants of this part of the town, profiting by the interval on the passage of the troops of the first column, rushed to the Rue Royale, immediately after the guard had quitted it, where they raised barricades, and stopped a regiment of infantry then advancing to rejoin the rest of their corps; and, though placed between two fires, they succeeded in cutting off the street, and maintaining a communication with the town by the Place de Louvain. This was an object of the highest importance; for there are in the Rue Royale, terraces from whence the enemy could have greatly annoyed the defenders of the boulevard, if the Bourgeois had given them time to establish themselves in them.

At the head of this street, facing the gate by which the enemy had entered, the battle was vigorously carried on; where, entrenched in the houses looking to the botanic gardens, a handful of men fearlessly confronted the showers of grape and the fire of the chasseurs of the guard. It was the free corps of Messrs. Rodenback and Niellon. From all sides, however, volunteers came to their assistance; and the

time spent by the enemy in occupying the Park had sufficed to allow the armed population to recover from its first panic.

It was half-past eight when the Dutch troops, masters of the park and of the palaces, endeavoured, but too late, to advance farther. Four attacks were made—one on the boulevard beyond the gate of Namur, in order to occupy this gate and that of Halle, which is the next. Another attempt was made on the Place and Street of Louvain, descending to the church of St. Gudule, to silence the *tocsin*, unceasingly calling the citizens to the defence of their capital. A third was made upon the Montagne du Parc, which street conducts to the lower town. A fourth, on the Place Royale, which commands the whole city. Each of these attacks was sustained by two pieces of artillery; that on the Place Royale being the principal one. Had it succeeded, the upper part of the town would have been completely in the power of the enemy. But we have already seen how they allowed this opportunity to escape; probably not being aware of its great importance. The great gun of the *Jambe de Bois* swept the passage; and the artillery brought to return the fire had scarcely placed a gun, when the Brussels volun-

teers, in ambush behind the balustrade, soon occasioned its retreat.

Whilst this important point was so happily defended, the detachment which had made its way to the gate of Laeken had driven back a dozen Bourgeois who guarded this post ; but they were prevented from advancing by the barricade, which cut off the road beyond it.

Things wore an aspect still more favourable at the gate of Flanders ; the enemy were endeavouring to destroy the first barricades. Whether it was from stratagem, disorder, or fear, we cannot determine ; but a battalion of 700 men and 400 hussars, which formed this column, remained for half an hour in the interior of the town, slowly advancing, but flattering themselves they would find no enemies to combat with. Arrived at the Pont aux Moines, a strong barricade, defended by about thirty brave men, stopped their progress.—Threats were exchanged on either side ; but neither the inequality of numbers, the want of ammunition, nor the fear of being treated as rebels, intimidated the resolute men who guarded this post, and who were determined to retain it. They kept up a quick discharge of their few muskets ; while the people in the neighbouring streets threw on their heads

210 A DUTCH DETACHMENT DEFEATED.

stones, lime, tar, and every sort of offensive missile, from the windows and roofs of their houses. The column was thus thrown into disorder, with immense loss,—charged on all sides, put to flight, and partly disarmed; the lieutenant-colonel who commanded the battalion and the major of hussars remaining prisoners. The carabines and muskets thrown down by the runaways served the defenders of the town to fight them with their own weapons.

After this rout, the greater number of the Bourgeois who had been engaged in this conflict hastened towards the upper part of the city, crossing the most populous streets, amidst cries of “victory!”

The impression this produced upon men scarcely recovered from the astonishment of having offered resistance, cannot be described. They advanced nearer the Park, and the firing became so incessant that the enemy were compelled to hide themselves behind the trees for shelter. The heavy piece of the *Jambe de Bois* also gained ground. The Liegeois captain, Pourbaix, planted his standard on the Place Royale, amidst a shower of balls and shells. The enthusiasm became general; the shouts of “*En avant! en avant!*” were heard from all sides. Armed volunteers rushed from the

houses and lanes, without leaders, but all guided with the same spirit of enthusiasm. They formed into small parties, choosing chiefs for themselves, and selecting the Liegeois in preference, who were distinguished by the letters L. G. on their caps. There might be seen ascending from the lower town, sometimes small bodies of men, sometimes isolated volunteers, towards the Place Royale or the Place de Louvain. The barricades were well defended by artillery; and musketry bristling from every window rendered the streets impenetrable.

The effect of this new impulse encouraged them to go forward to the avenues of the Park; they burned to meet man to man. Pikes were again displayed, and, towards eleven o'clock, every thing seemed to announce an attack of bayonets and swords. But the enemy, who till then had kept on the defensive, changed their plan at this juncture. The column which had penetrated into the interior of the town retired to the Palaces and the Boulevards, leaving only in the Park the sharpshooters and artillery. These last were protected by large masses of trees; the skirmishers hiding themselves behind the mound facing the King's Palace, where they were under shelter, having contrived to make holes and steps in the ter-

ances. They fired their guns without exposing their persons, while they were within reach of their formidable reserves.

This skilful mode, offensive and defensive, paralyzed the efforts of the citizens, who had begun to drive back the assailants. They had thought it prudent to defend themselves by barricades, and became panic-struck on beholding the enemy had adopted similar measures. The citizens had intended only to guard their houses, but their enemies were now at shelter within the palaces ; so that all their confidence vanished, and they saw themselves without defence, in the face of an entrenched enemy.

The plan of the Dutch general was more easy to understand, than to defeat. Two bridges thrown across the moat, facing the palace of the hereditary prince, permitted the artillery (who had remained outside as a reserve), to enter. The firing and cannonading continued from this time, but with less vivacity, and without either party obtaining a decisive advantage. During this crisis, many of the zealous citizens left the town to seek reinforcements from the country, particularly from the Wallon district, a part of the Low Countries, where the people are most warlike, and had always been the most disaffected towards the Dutch. Many

volunteers attended the summons, and poured in at every gate.

Though a general enthusiasm prevailed among the citizens, nothing of importance took place. The enemy had taken possession of the gate of Namur (without a possibility of defence on the part of the Bourgeois), and gained during the day some houses in the neighbouring streets, while four pieces of cannon supported the chasseurs. The patriots, however, defended themselves bravely, and their intrepid conduct prevented the enemy from descending by the Namur street.

On the afternoon, the lancers, who had arranged themselves in order of battle on the boulevard, made a charge on two pieces of cannon belonging to the Bourgeois, which were posted between the gates of Halle and Namur ; one of these fell into their hands, but was soon recaptured.

Towards the gate of Schaerbeek resistance was also preparing. The pillage of some houses had exasperated the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. A garden, whose terrace touched the Rue Royale, and by the side of which were piled bricks, with other building materials, which served them for a *redoute* ; from thence they prevented the advance of the

enemy. A well-sustained fire was directed from the lanes and houses situated to the left, directly facing the Dutch battery and the immense hotel of MM. Meeus, where they were entrenched. The Bourgeois had again taken up the offensive on this point, in defiance of the superiority of their adversaries and their advantageous positions. It was the "*corps franc*" which thus combated ; after having successfully defended the street of Schaerbeek, destroyed in a great measure by the balls and shells. The attack was conducted by the new captain of this brave corps, M. Stieldorf, who, though severely wounded in the leg in the morning as he was rushing on a battery, continued to guide and exhort his brethren in arms. But the principal engagement, and the one from which the most remarkable consequences were expected, was towards the extremity of Louvain Street, in the very centre of the positions occupied by the enemy, who, since the morning, had been trying to make themselves masters of this quarter. The entrance to the Louvain Street was cannonaded, columns of grenadiers advanced from the Place d'Orange, whilst the sharpshooters, masters, of the principal buildings in the neighbourhood, showered their balls upon the posts defended by the citizens. Towards night, the

scanty and ill-armed population, who, in this part of the town, had acted on the defensive since the morning, and who had been several times attacked from so many different sides, appeared worn out with fatigue and exhaustion. Suddenly a flame bursts forth! A cry arises, "There is powder in the Annonciades! We shall be blown up!" At news so fatal, *though others might have taken to flight, the intrepid Bruxellois saw only an additional motive to push forward.* Men of all classes, and of all ages, women, children, and the whole neighbourhood, arose *en masse*. They fell upon the grenadiers, who, in their turn, drew back; and, advancing with determined resolution, became masters of the ground, and two barrels of gunpowder (all they could find at first) were brought back in triumph. Never was a more unexpected instance of good fortune, which their courage well merited. Towards night the fire ceased. One of the prince's aides-de-camp, having presented himself *en parlementaire* (with a flag of truce), was arrested as a hostage for M. Duepetiaux and Everard. The fear of reprisals did not, however, prevent M. Jules Kint and another youth to repair to the Dutch quarter-general to demand the evacuation of the town, as the troops found it impracticable to penetrate into it.

The prince appeared disposed to suspend the combat, declaring his horror at the effusion of blood. He consented at the same time, though with repugnance, to deliver up sixty of the citizens whom he had made prisoners. Every thing, at this moment, seemed to indicate the retreat of our assailants ; but, when it was known that there was a want of ammunition, the prince changed his mind. This appears to be a most improbable circumstance, as nothing had occurred on the first day of the conflict to induce H. R. H. to agree to so absurd a proposal, and we believe the whole to be a *gasconade*.

Although the citizens had so bravely defended themselves for three days, there was no order among them, and now it was found more than ever necessary that some chief should be found to direct them. Videttes, advanced posts, regular companies, officers, staff, were all wanting. Don Juan Van Halen,* a Spanish officer, but of Belgian extraction, and formerly aide-de-camp to Mina, having offered his services to the provisional government, was invested in the chief command of the moveable forces. The artillery being placed in the hands of M. Parent,

* This officer has lately made a figure in Spain, to oppose the Queen's government, and has been banished from that kingdom.

a veteran French officer, who had already displayed great zeal and intelligence during the two preceding days ; other officers of some experience offered their services to conduct the platoons to the combat. At the same time, several reinforcements arrived from the Pays de Wallons, Binche, and the arondissement of Charleroi, which last had sent a second strong detachment with a party of miners on the side of the enemy. The succours which they expected had been stopped and defeated ; 5,000 men coming from Maestricht and Tongres not having been able to force their march by Louvain, the inhabitants of that town having given them a disgraceful check. Meantime, the Bourgeois, full of spirit, made preparations for a victory, while the Dutch army complained that they were only conducted to butchery.

It would fatigue the reader to continue the details of a sanguinary struggle between two nations, who had so lately been subjects under the same king, and who, though a national jealousy had existed, had hitherto been living in amity. One was now fighting for its liberty, and the other forced to butcher their brethren in arms, without consulting their feelings. We shall, therefore, conclude our accounts of the contest (which we have

taken from various authorities), by stating that, on the evening of the 27th, the prince having calculated his losses in killed, wounded, and prisoners, found that they amounted to 4,200 ; 80 waggons of wounded having departed by the Schaerbeek gate, and 425 by that of Louvain. As to his progress during the conflict, he had only lost ground from the first day, although the citizens were then few in number, ill armed, wanting ammunition, and without experienced commanders, they had formed under his eyes an army and a government. To continue the battle there was danger of his retreat being cut off. Such, it was supposed, were H. R. H.'s feelings, or the opinion of his advisers, for orders were issued to evacuate the city. At four o'clock on the morning of the 28th, the remains of this highly-disciplined army departed in silence, to the joy of the inhabitants. The sentinels were abandoned on their posts, fearing that their disappearance would announce the flight of the troops. The cavalry formed the rear-guard.

“ Perhaps history cannot exhibit a more remarkable event than this. How could it be supposed that an open town, attacked by such a force, and defended only by a rabble, had been able not only to expel the assailants from their gates, but to destroy more than a third of

the effective force which had attacked them ? This glorious result shows that when men are resolute to defend their liberties they must conquer.

“The feeling which prevailed in the city when this precipitate retreat was known, afforded a mixture of satisfaction and disdain ; for if they rejoiced at their triumph, they felt disappointed to have lost the opportunity of annihilating their hated invaders. At the same time, this people so exasperated against their enemies, showed at this moment the greatest humanity to the unfortunate sentinels who had been abandoned on their posts.”

Nothing can be more ridiculous than this rodomontade of the Belgian historian ! He has calculated the Dutch forces at 17,000, and their loss in killed more than one-fourth of that number. We have not seen any authenticated account of the amount, but there can be no doubt that here it is greatly exaggerated, as well as the return of the killed and wounded. The citizens not being able to oppose their invaders in the Parc and the wide streets, took post behind their barricades and walls, and every house was a fortress, so that the slaughter must have been great ; their own loss was said to have been in slain, about 700. The plunder,

excesses, and cruelty of the invaders, we believe to be in a great measure overrated, but where can we find an example of soldiers, under such circumstances, refraining from plundering? We have reason, indeed, to believe, that some of the citizens did not neglect the opportunity of secreting plate, money, and other valuables that fell in their way, when entering dwellings, from whence the families had fled, or in search of the enemy, who had taken shelter in them—all this might have been expected. A citizen may be brave, and a good patriot, though he could not resist the temptation of *borrowing* from his richer countrymen a portion of their wealth on such an occasion. An Englishman* pretended that his house had been forcibly entered by men with muskets, who not only plundered every thing portable, but stole his wife's jewel box, value 65,000 francs! It was, however, never ascertained whether these robbers were Dutch or Belgians, and it was also insinuated that the lady was not possessed of such valuables, being in great difficulties as to finance. The tale of Lord Blantyre having been killed "*sur le fer de quelque brigands*," of young women being violated (a whole boarding-school of English girls!) of men without arms, being

* This person has lately figured in the *London Gazette*.

mutilated and strangled, and of others found half roasted (*cadavres roti*). All these marvellous tales were propagated, no doubt, to throw odium on the enemy; but we believe them to be unworthy of credit.

We have thus given a sketch of the most prominent events of the conflict, by which some idea may be formed of the nature of so unequal a warfare. The citizens totally unprepared to oppose an attack of regular and well disciplined troops, thus trusted to their barricades and their courage, but found that they required other means of defence when the hour of trial arrived. The short time between the bursting out of the revolution to the invasion of the Dutch, prevented such measures being adopted, even had there been among them wiser heads to plan them; thus situated, it must be considered miraculous that such a rabble as was opposed to an army of this magnitude, with every material to assail men so ill armed for defence, should be able to drive it from their gates with immense loss. The besieged, it is true, had every thing at stake, besides their long and rooted hatred to their invaders, and though they were on the onset panic-struck, a few trifling successes inspired them to persevere, and by harassing their enemies at all points where they were most vulnerable, finally conquered.

“ In a narrow street near the mountain Duparc, the citizens transported a mortar, charged with all sorts of missiles (*mitrailles*), which had made terrible havoc on the Dutch artillery, who had planted two guns of a large calibre in this alley ; but being, however, soon dismounted, it was conveyed to the top of a house, and continued during the remainder of the day to play on the enemy with considerable effect.”

“ A chasseur of the Dutch army,” says our historian from whom we quote, “ was shot for having passed the advanced posts. A grenadier of the same corps, found himself face to face with his brother, who was armed for the defence of his country ; they were Belgians, sons of a Brussels citizen. They made signals to converse, but the former said, in a loud voice at a considerable distance, ‘ If I advance another yard I shall be shot by my comrades, but I swear to you on the faith of the crucifix, that I have not fired on a Brussellois,’ a few minutes after, the unfortunate youth fell, and his bloody *schakos* was brought to his brother ! Noble, though obscure victim, thy death ought not to be imputed to the citizens, who only saw thee as an enemy, but those who had the barbarity to send Belge to fight against Belge, fathers against sons, and relations against relations. What an account will they have to render to God and to

futurity ! what a stain to leave to their children !”

“A Tyrolese sharpshooter who had volunteered his services as a skirmisher, had laid many a Dutchman low with his rifle for several days during the contest in the Parc, but the Mynheers had contrived a singular mode of deceiving these marksmen, to which our Tyrolean became the first dupe. Dead men who had fallen, were placed on their legs, and their bodies tied to the trees, so that in the shadow of the leaves and branches, they could not be readily detected from their living brethren. The *Yaager* having espied one of these *cadavres*, peeping, as he imagined, behind his post, took a deadly aim, but without effect, thrice he fired, and the enemy did not drop ! He thought himself bewitched, and exclaiming ‘that the d—l had got into his gun,’ retired completely crest-fallen, till the *ruse* was discovered. The citizens in return, also contrived a scheme of wasting the ammunition of the enemy, by stuffing *mannikins* (men of straw), and placing them behind their barricades, so contrived that, by pulling a rope on each discharge from the enemy, the *homme de paille* tumbled over ! This stratagem deceived the enemy for some time in the dusk, and the streets being full of smoke. On one occasion, the last night of the battle, when fatigue had

overcome both parties, there was a short suspension of firing, and the barricades were found abandoned, and many even had fallen asleep in them. This having been perceived by a patrol, a file advanced to reconnoitre, who seeing a few reposing, as they thought, in the arms of Morpheus, fired a platoon, retiring precipitately, and imagining that they had silenced for ever, at least, half-a-dozen Bourgeois. They were a detachment of mannikins! 'All these are gravely related by our historian. '*Se non é vero, é ben 'trovato!*' "

When a part of the Dutch were driven from their posts at the Schaerbeck gate, they took shelter in the adjoining houses, which they were compelled to evacuate, after having set fire to sixteen new and beautiful buildings. At the sight of these devastations, the patriots exclaimed, with an unanimous shout, "*We will also burn and destroy!*" In an instant, a gang of incendiaries (styled by our historian "*des hommes décidés*") passed from roof to roof, to the Hotel des Finances, adjoining the Etats-Generaux, and occupied by the enemy's troops, who fired incessantly on the people. Shortly, the flames obliged them to evacuate this post, and a shower of balls reached those who took refuge in the Parc. Instead of deploring the loss of one of the finest buildings in the city,

the citizens rejoiced, for they thought of nothing but vengeance.

The same means were employed on the opposite side of the Parc, but by red-hot shot. *Jambe de Bois* undertook the direction, which required address, as they were unwilling to burn down the palace; but the stables and coach-houses, which served as shelter to the troops, they determined to destroy. The huge mortar was accordingly transported to an angle in the rear of the palace. The stables, however, were saved by the activity of the soldiers, while the two houses adjoining, which masked them, were only burned.

The Bourgeois who, for want of arms, courage, or patriotism, had taken no part in the struggle, exhibited the greatest curiosity to look at the field of battle.

“Juvat ire et dorica castra,
Desertosque videre locos littusque relictum.”

The spectacle which they beheld was frightful. The noble buildings in the Place Royal and the Parc, pierced with bullets and cannon shot, seemed as if they would tumble on the heads of the spectators. The Hotel de Belle Vue and Café de l'Amitié were scarcely recognisable. The gates of the Parc, with the groups that

surrounded them, were demolished, as well as a great number of the marble busts in the avenues of it, many of which were from the chissel of the great Godecharles, were broken into a hundred pieces. The walks were stained with blood, while many *cadavres*, which had not been removed, were to be seen among the masses of the young trees. All this was to be expected the day after such a conflict.

The immense Hotel of MM. Meeus, which had cost above 300,000 francs, an enormous sum for Brussels, had been early occupied by the invaders, which they had constructed into a little citadel, and from whence they had kept up an incessant fire. The mobs led thither to view the neighbouring houses, which the troops had burned, were greatly excited, when it was circulated, by certain malevolent persons, that the Messrs. Meeus were themselves traitors; for the Dutch soldiers had found in their hotel a great quantity of arms and ammunition. Instantly the crowd advanced, broke down the *porte-cochere* (gates), and sacked the interior of this superb mansion, which they finished by setting on fire.

The example of such wanton devastation, during so popular a movement, cannot be too much condemned. Our historian remarks

thus ; “The inhabitants of Brussels had shown great heroism, humanity, and generosity, towards their enemies ; and, behold, without any motive, the same people destroyed the noblest private hotel in the city, the property of one of their most patriotic and best citizens. Unhappy event ! but, at least, it may be useful to futurity.” “Meeus is a traitor !” such was the cry which the Bourgeois repeated after the pillage. This reproach being addressed to the elder of the two brothers, he retired without uttering a word, conscious that he did not merit such an imputation, and that he had till now, as well as his brother, been universally esteemed. The daily journals appeared to approve of this vengeance on the part of the people, so profligate was the press at this period. The following is extracted from a pamphlet shortly afterwards published :—

“In fact,” says this scribbler, “this popular vengeance must be excused, when the cause is considered. The banker Meeus was a member of the commission of security, treasurer of the Bourgeois guard, and commanded a section ; and his name figured with others who *never said a word* on the letter that offered to open the gates to the prince.” [Were these considered as crimes to justify popular vengeance ?]

The *Courier des Pays Bas* states, "That the arms which M. Meeus was accused of having in his possession, were discovered by him, deposited in the guard-house of the Rue de Schaerbeek, during the first days of the revolution, and had been seized on the night of the 25th August. These muskets, said to be destined for our enemies, and the clamour of a connivance existing between them and the worthy banker, are destitute of all foundation, since he had quitted the house before the entry of the invaders, who, finding it abandoned, took forcible possession, as we have already stated; his pretended friends having put to death two of his domestics left in charge. But it is not enough to say that the man who had been designated as a traitor was innocent. We must show how much his conduct merited esteem, by the following letter from his brother, M. Ferdinand Meeus, dated from Mons, the 1st of October :—

"Escaped, by a miracle, with my wife and our four infants, from the fury of the Dutch soldiers, who had sought every where to shoot me, surrounded by them from the moment of their entry, and knowing that they had pillaged my house, I determined to save my unfortunate family by quitting Brussels, fearing that we

might become their victims, should they be compelled to retreat. I was near Louvain when I learned this had taken place, and was about to return, till I received notice from a friend of the disaster which had occurred.

“The lines written to a brother may be read by all. (An upright man can only desire that the truth may be known.) In the hearts of both members of the same family, suffering the same misfortunes, we can only regret that, for some time, we cannot be in a situation to give bread to the numerous persons in our establishment, to whom, for seventy-eight years, we have, by our fabric of lace, afforded employment. For ten years, M. F. Meeus distributed his fortune among workmen and their families by his fabrics.

“None more than us can desire the liberty of our country, for which we have been, and always will remain, ready to make the greatest sacrifices.
“ M. M.”

The provisional government of the central committee authorized, at the request of MM. Van der Linden, the above document to be published ; taking this occasion to recommend to all the citizens to maintain public order, and stating that, when a nation had so gallantly

combatted with her foreign foes, it ought to respect the conduct of their brethren within.

Happily this popular tumult was the only circumstance which occurred to throw a shadow over the triumphs of the revolution. The following proclamation was issued by the junta, MM. V. d'Hoogvorst, Charles Rogier, advocate of Liege, and M. Joly, formerly an officer of engineers :—

“Victoire ! victoire ! The provisional government makes known to the brave Belges, that the Dutch troops have yielded to the courageous efforts of a people who preferred death to the loss of their liberty.

“Brave Belges ! It is not enough to have conquered your enemies in Brussels. You must consolidate your victory, and organize the best means of defeating them without. In consequence, the volunteers in all the towns, villages, and communes of the kingdom, are desired to assemble around the Parc, where they will be arranged into companies and battalions.”
(Signed as above.)

Among many other *bulletins* the following notice appeared :—

“One of our best friends, whom the wishes of the nation have called for, since the com-

mencement of our glorious revolution, has entered our walls. The provisional government being desirous that he should be added to it, he accordingly has been elected to a seat in its councils."

Sept. 28, 1830.

M. de Potter had quitted Paris on the 18th, to join his mother at Lille, arriving at Brussels on the 27th, towards evening. He was conducted to the Hotel de Ville in triumph, amidst the acclamations of thousands of citizens, and received by the authorities as the principal author of the revolution.

The next day he addressed them as follows :—

"MY DEAR BRETHREN—I am here again among you. The flattering manner in which you have received me is much beyond my powers of expressing ; but I shall endeavour to render myself worthy of meriting your approbation. Let us unite, and we will be invincible, and preserve our independence. Liberty and equality for all. You have crushed despotism. By your confidence in the power which you have created, you will know to guard yourselves against anarchy and its results." [This speech was considered too republican.]

But the victory of Brussels could not have been considered so complete if it only extended to the neighbourhood of the capital. The towns of Ath and Mons, situated at a distance of eight or ten leagues, and strongly fortified, and amply provisioned with arms and ammunition, and commanding the neighbouring country, had joined the cause of freedom. Ypres, Nieuport, Courtrai, Menin, Furnes, and Ostend, followed their example. In the latter citadel were 80,080 mortars, 4,000 barrels of gunpowder, 1,000 bombs, with an immense quantity of ammunition of all sorts, valued at 15,000,000 of francs (£640,000).

On the 5th October, the national flag floated in every part of Flanders; Maestricht and Antwerp excepted.

On the 6th, the Prince of Orange arrived in the latter city, and the following proclamation was published at Brussels on the 4th:—

“ INDEPENDENCE OF BELGIUM.

“ The provisional government of the *comité central* considering it necessary to fix the future state of Belgium, directs that—

“ *Art. 1.*—The Belgian provinces violently detached from Holland shall constitute an independent State.

“ *Art. 2.*—The central committee will occupy as soon as possible a project (*projet*) for a constitution.

“ *Art. 3.*—A national congress, representing all the interests of the provinces, shall be convoked. They will examine the plan of a Belgian constitution, and modify it as they shall think proper, and will render it as a definitive constitution in all Belgium.

“ Signed by the members of the government.”

BRUSSELS, 4th October, 1830.

The details of the great events of which Brussels had chiefly been the theatre for a month, were imperfectly known to the people. The strength of the army (if the rabble which had been suddenly raised might be so called), as well as the plans and intentions of the provisional government, and the losses which they had sustained in the conflict, were concealed. The wretched state of uncertainty, confusion, and anxiety, into which Belgium was plunged, from the first breaking out of the revolution, down to the accession of the sovereign ; the plots, conspiracies, and intrigues, that were daily concocting against the constituted authorities, were all at variance ; the utter want

of true patriotism, or unity of purpose in the great body of the nation, or even among its representations ; the machinations of the clubs and associations, which counted many officers among their numbers ; the perpetual attempts to suborn both commanders and soldiers, now by orangists, now by republicans, and, again, by the partisans of one faction or another ; in short, every attempt on the part of government to establish a well-regulated military system, was completely baffled.

There was no confidence on the part of the soldiers in their chiefs. No *esprit de corps* existed among the body of the officers ; no discipline among the men ; mutiny and insubordination were ripe throughout the ranks ; heinous military offences were perpetrated with impunity ; the officers had, for the most part, suddenly risen from the ranks ; the majors and captains had become generals, and the subalterns, field officers ; the *sous officiers* being filled up from sergeants and privates. In general, they were incapable of fulfilling the duties of their station. They presented no moral influence over their subordinates, and dreaded to enforce obedience, or chastise crime, lest they should be denounced as traitors, and immolated to popular vengeance.

Some there were who attempted to persuade their countrymen that, as the Dutch had been ostensibly driven out of the country by a handful of armed citizens, all regular armies were superfluous, and that the hordes of undisciplined free corps, or volunteers, were fully equal to defend the territory. Others boasted that the paving stones of the highways, and the barricades of the cities, were all that were requisite to guarantee their safety against all foreign aggression ; and that the very sight of the ridiculous and unmilitary *blouse*, would strike as much terror into the breast of an enemy, as the first thundèr of a cannon is wont to inspire fear in the mind of an ignorant savage. Indeed, there was one member, a *procureur* (attorney) from Phillipville, who carried his bombast so far, as to declare it highly problematical, “whether Belgium was not in a situation to cope, single-handed, with all the powers of Europe.” This pernicious nonsense met with its due reward in the month of August, 1831, and was one of the principal causes which led to the disasters of that epoch.*

* These vaunts put us in mind of a certain general who, on the commencement of the French Revolution, boasted that, with the city guard of Edinburgh, he would march from one end of France to the other !

These impediments were of themselves sufficient to neutralise all the efforts of government to place their army on an efficient footing ; but the evil did not rest here. The doctrines of these deputies found a willing echo in the journals. A press, the most unbridled that ever cursed a nation, readily opened its columns to every species of theoretic and visionary folly. It spared no pains to inflame the minds of the people with the most exaggerated and erroneous notions of the national strength, courage, and superiority over all other countries.

Independent of this, the members of the provisional and succeeding governments had to contend with other obstacles of a more serious nature ; for, shortly after the breaking out of the Revolution, that is, immediately after the attack on Brussels, the whole of the Belgian regiments disbanded of their own accord, men and officers betaking themselves to their homes, or voluntarily enlisting themselves in the skeletons of three or four regiments which the authorities were attempting to form. Such was the situation of Belgium, after a handful of citizens of the capital, and volunteers from other towns, had driven the Dutch troops back.

The imbecility of the commander who made the attack must be obvious to every person of

common understanding. Brussels was an open town, enclosed only by a brick wall. The assailants found but little difficulty to take possession of the upper part, the Parc, a square of twenty-seven acres, which, being several hundred feet above the level of the Senne, commanded every part of the city. Had the Dutch troops turned this commanding spot into a citadel, and (keeping open a communication with their army) brought up reinforcements, with a park of artillery, as circumstances required, no force which the Belgians could have at that time brought before it, would have been able to dislodge them. Prince Frederic, however, a youth without experience of the stratagems of war, imagined he could put down his father's rebellious subjects by a *coup de main* in a single day; accordingly, he ordered troops to force their entrance by the gates of the lower town, which was accomplished with little loss, but, as they advanced, they fell into the lion's mouth at every step. Besides the barricades, deep and wide ditches were cut across every street and avenue, rendering the march of cavalry and the advance of artillery impracticable. The tops of the houses had been covered with stones and every sort of missile—hot lime, boiling water, &c. fell on the heads of the as-

sailants, while, from every window and loop-hole, bristled a fire-arm. To this blunder is to be attributed their defeat and disgrace, after a struggle of four days' hard fighting.

In its present state, the chief efficiency of the Belgian army centres in the Walloon branch of it. The district from which this latter is recruited is from the French border ; their inhabitants speak the same language, entertain the same opinions and predilections, and are characterised by the same manners, as their French neighbours. They possess all the military ardour of a French soldier, his quick discernment—his promptness in action. But nothing like this holds good with respect to the Fleming. The people of Flanders may have a love of liberty, and would, no doubt, fight courageously, if well disciplined, but they serve as soldiers against their inclination.

They cannot comprehend the *why* or the *wherefore* they are called into service ; talk to them of glory, and they call it nonsense. They care not what government they live under, so long as the fields (to which they are, as it were, rooted and chained down by nature) escape the clutch of the spoiler ; even let their crops be stripped from under their noses, they will set about the work of ploughing, sowing,

and planting, *de novo*, and wait patiently and peaceably till harvest comes round again. These were the feelings of the peasantry previous to the Revolution. Their country having been a bone of contention, and the theatre of war for more than two centuries, on any continental struggle, they were accustomed to change masters; and cared for none; they possessed no *esprit de nation* beyond their love of native soil. It was, then, impossible to make a Fleming comprehend that he had a government or laws worth fighting for; they were one and the same to his phlegmatic temperament. But no sooner was the Flemish conscript out of sight of his village bell, than the fever of home (the *maladie de pays*) lays burning hold of him; he has no thought, nor wish, nor feeling, nor ambition, but for the moment which shall restore him to his native hearth. This character is no more than what is indigenous to every exclusive agricultural country. Tear a genuine rustic from his home to make him a soldier, and you instantly destroy his moral efficiency. To this source may be traced the constantly-recurring desertions which have done such cruel mischief to the native force of Belgium.

Nothing could present a more extraordinary contrast than the state of the two nations; on

the one side, the Dutch firm and united among themselves, rallied round the throne, and forgot all personal dissensions to combine for the support of the government and the defence of the country. Thinking no sacrifice too great, they actively and steadily persevered in the process of reorganizing their legions, and could boast in a short time of a numerous and fine infantry, a superb cavalry and artillery, a large body of devoted and obedient officers, and an experienced staff, with magazines, train, transport, hospitals, and every requisite for taking the field. On the other side, the Belgians, though counting a long list of generals, field officers, and staff, were without commanders or instructors. Their infantry, though well clothed and armed, were destitute of proper field equipments, were miserably drilled, and scarcely able to execute the simplest evolutions. The cavalry were few in number, and these deficient in every essential point, and totally unacquainted with the common service of reconnoitring and patrolling. The artillery, although the men were young and robust, was without officers, and had no experience in the theory or practice of gunnery. They were without hospitals, commissariat, means of transport, or reserves; in fine, the whole mass was scarcely able to execute a change

of front or formation of squares, without falling into confusion, and were in a condition totally unfit to oppose an enemy.

Such was the state of the Belgian army on the arrival of King Leopold at Brussels. And scarcely had his majesty time to inspect one or two divisions, ere they were called upon to rally round his person, and defend their territory. The result of a conflict between two such armies may be readily anticipated. On this occasion, Leopold availed himself as far as possible of the means at his disposal, and displayed a degree of judgment and courage that plainly showed him to be a brave man and an experienced commander. But in spite of the able dispositions and indefatigable exertions of the monarch, who alone seemed to preserve his coolness amidst the chaos by which he was surrounded, it was impossible to offer any effectual resistance, and a total defeat ensued.

In August the campaign opened which overwhelmed the Belgians with disgrace, and might have produced a counter revolution, but for the firmness of Leopold, and the fortunate timely aid of an army from France that interposed at the moment of their defeat. No person of common discernment could imagine that a force so ill organized, without officers of experience

in the stratagems of war, deficient in those two great armies of artillery and cavalry, would be able to make any effectual stand against such a well disciplined army as the Dutch could bring into the field. The king, however, might have been deceived by the praises which were poured into his ear, of the devoted patriotism and courage of his subjects, and especially of the brave men who drove their invaders from the gates of the capital. Besides, since these memorable days, their army had been put on a more respectable footing as to numbers—a mass of men in uniform ; but of what a heterogeneous mixture was his force composed ! For six or eight months subsequent to the revolution, they were without staff, cavalry, artillery, and engineers. They had to create every thing, as if no army had existed, and though the raw material was here, the talent to mould it (till the king's arrival) into some serviceable shape, was utterly wanting. Indeed, down to the 1st August, 1831, their armed force presented a picture of incapacity and disunion on the part of the chiefs, and insubordination on that of the soldiers, not to have been surpassed by the bands of Bolivar, and other leaders of the very early part of the South American revolution. The want of good officers, especially in an army

so far out of proportion to the population and resources of the country, is still felt, and must in some measure account for the necessity under which the government had been placed to admit foreigners into its ranks, and to entrust to them the organization and command of corps.

We have stated all this to show the condition of the Flemish forces compared with their assailants ; and nothing but the *amour propre*, and vain glory of the heroes of September 1830, could have for a moment induced them to contend in an open field with disciplined troops. At the same time, had "the army of the Meuse" been commanded by a dashing and resolute chief, who would have led on these *knights of the blouse* to the attack, their flight and disgrace might have been less humiliating. So much, however, were these *brave Belges* paralyzed on the first charge of the enemy, that they took to their heels, cavalry and infantry, pell-mell ; and a regiment of the former actually broke through a battalion of the line, *ventre a terre*, in the streets of Liege !

It was not our intention to have continued our sketches after the conflict at Brussels and

the retreat of the Dutch army, but we shall add a few of the most prominent events down to the campaign of August 1831, selected from "*Nothomb's History of the Révolution*," and other authentic documents.

"After the Congress had, on the 9th of July, 1831, adopted the propositions of the Conference to offer the crown of Belgium to Prince Leopold of Saxe Coburg, a deputation of five of their members was charged to repair to London with this decree. H. H. received the deputation on the 11th, and, having accepted the conditions thereof, he prepared for his journey, and immediately took his departure for Brussels, where he arrived on the 21st. On that day," says M. Nothomb, "the first king of the Belgians, whose election was ratified by the popular acclamations of thousands, was inaugurated in the bosom of the Congress; thus gloriously terminating their labours."

The following day, H. M. recomposed his Ministry, which had been dissolved by the retirement of the Regent, and of the chiefs of the preceding cabinet.

"The 21st of July," adds our historian, "was *une époque d'illusion et de bonheur*; the revolution had lost nothing of its expectations, nor of its power; the glory of the days of Sep-

tember was entire ; *Belgium had dictated the conditions to Europe, and had received the oaths of a king of their own choice ; the past was without a stain ; the future appeared without a cloud.* But, alas ! it remains to us to submit to a proof of adversity, from which neither nations nor individuals are always exempt ; history pardons reverses, but never a breach of faith, or the violation of sacred engagements."

We have, therefore, to retrace the circumstances which accompanied the irruption of the Dutch, putting aside the details of the campaign of August 1831, and merely stating a few of the causes which led to it ; again quoting from M. Nothomb's " Essay."

" King William, on the 21st July (the day of the inauguration of Leopold), had protested against the eighteen articles, in declaring that he could not treat with the Belgians, whom he considered as a *rassablement de rebelles* ; and that, if Prince Leopold took possession of the throne, he could only consider him as placed in a hostile attitude, and as his enemy.

" On the 25th of July, the Conference, in reply to this protest, invited the Dutch government to open a negociation, in order to come

to a definite treaty, recalling, at the same time, all the engagements which resulted from the suspension of arms.

“ On the 1st August, the reply to this communication was received, declaring that they consented to the opening of this new negotiation. This reply arrived in London on the 3d, the evening when hostilities had recommenced in Belgium on the whole line.

“ It is true that in the note of the 1st August was the following passage :—‘ According to the intentions of the king, I find myself under the necessity to add, that H. M. is determined to support the negotiation by force of arms. (*à appuyer la négociation par des moyens militaires*), ’ ” &c. &c. This gave rise to further negotiations, which terminated in nothing.

“ The partisans of the Dutch government imagine that the suspension of arms in November 1830 was merely a preliminary measure; that this state of things was intended to be regulated by the armistice which had never been executed, and that several times the Dutch in replying to the protocols, had manifested an intention to have recourse to arms. All this may be true, but one of the parties, it must be admitted, had not the right to fix the term for

the suspension of hostilities, and if she had this right, the term ought to have been fixed previously, and in an express manner.

“ On the morning of the 2d August, the Dutch took possession of the Capitalendum, and of the sluice of Verlaat (Flanders); and on the 3d, also occupied the town of Turnhout (province of Antwerp).”

The letter of General Chassè arrived at Brussels on the 2d, at three o'clock, A.M. ; having previously announced the reprisal of hostilities, as regarded the city of Antwerp, the capitulation of the 5th November, 1830, had prescribed a delay of three months, and the suspension of arms ought to have expired at Antwerp on the evening of the 4th.

The king was at Liege when Chassè's despatch reached Brussels, and H. M. received a similar letter about the same hour. The ministers remained at Brussels, having directed M. Le Hon to make known the circumstance to the French government, M. Van de Weyer being charged to give the same notification to the Conference. The king, on his part, ordered M. Lebau to write to M. Le Hon, to request the aid of a French army ; no such demand, however, was made on Great Britain.

The French troops did not reach Belgium until the 10th. On the first news of the commencement of hostilities, the king projected the junction of the armies of the Escaut and the Meuse, "and had this junction taken place," says M. Nothomb, "it would have stopped the march of the enemy," but of this result we are very doubtful.

The king, until the 8th, had no regular troops, but on that day he had put himself at the head of the army of the Escaut, near d'Arschot. He waited that of the Meuse, and informed General Balliard of his plans.

In this despatch H. M. adds, "I have had the good fortune to unite myself with Tieken, the general whom I had ordered to march with all possible precaution to Westmerbeck; his force consists of 13,000 men under arms, with 1,500 civic guards, of the different cantons. I was received with great enthusiasm by the troops, who were fatigued to death with a long forced march. I hope to be able to take possession of Montaignu to-morrow, and to march towards Daine, who appears to have had success, with 17,000 men and 20 cannon. I breathe at present, having this large battalion, who are animated with the best spirit. These circumstances being so favourable, I believe

that it is urgent to arrest the advance of Maréchal Gérard, a sentiment which is very prevalent with the troops, and I find it natural to combat without foreign aid.

“ For the good harmony between the powers, I think that it is absolutely desirable that the Maréchal should not march until the urgency of circumstances demand this.”

On the 10th, the king gave the signal to attack Montaigu; the troops advanced—the attack commenced, when H. M. was informed of the total flight of the army of the Meuse! The occupation of Montaigu, which would have facilitated the junction of the two armies, now became without an object, and that of the Escaut was exposed to be cut up.

“ At this unexpected news,” says our historian “ without changing countenance (*renforment en lui meme tous les tourmens de son ame*), the king ordered a retreat.” On the same day the French had entered Belgium, but not in time to cover Louvain. On the 13th, the Dutch army commenced a retrograde movement. It had, however, penetrated within three leagues of the capital; and had not the French interposed, the Prince of Orange would have been in possession of it, for there was no force to oppose his entry. What would have been the conse-

quence of such an event, it would be difficult to conjecture. It might have prolonged the war, had King William imagined that his allies would have come forward to assist him in recovering Belgium, and it is to be presumed that such must have been his hopes when he thus again invaded Belgium.

Let us see what M. Nothomb says to account for this disaster. "Leopold, in his proclamation of the 4th August, had told his new subjects, 'that every one would do his duty.' He had done his own. His popularity, which had been put to proof, remained *intacte*. A month had passed since his inauguration; in this rapid succession of events, and inconstancy of fortune, there was much to touch profoundly the minds of the Belgian people. If, at his return to Brussels, on the 16th of August, the king was not received with the same *illusions*, as on the day on which he made his entry into it, he was hailed with the same acclamations.

"As to the causes of the defeat, there may be counted others besides surprise—political incertitude; the loosening of all the social ties; the excessive confidence of the successes of September; the despal of the stratagems of war; the want of all military capacity; and the provocations of an abjured and lying press.

These were the causes which gave the Dutch troops a momentary superiority over the surprised Belges ; disunited and undisciplined, individual courage was without reproach." We will leave the reader to judge if M. Nothomb's narrative of the disgraceful campaign does more than justice to his compatriots.

Much has been said and written on the merits of the cause, as well as on the comparative character of the two nations for bravery ; and many opinions on these subjects have been promulgated by persons who had little or no opportunity of knowing any thing on which a judgment could be formed.

At Waterloo, the troops of both fought bravely, though it was said that some of them fled on the day of battle. The author certainly did see *blue coats* under the walls of Bruxelles, many hours before the contest terminated on the 18th, but whether they were Dutch or Belges he knew not. The English commandant, Colonel Jones, would not suffer them to enter the gates, and they were compelled to *bivouac* in the old ditch, disappearing in the morning. We beg, however, to add, that, in mentioning this fact, we have not the smallest intention to throw any slur on these troops ; like the Hanoverian Cumberland Rangers, a few might have

252 CONCLUSION OF THE REVOLUTION.

been panic-struck. The Dutch, we know to our cost, were in former days a brave people, and continued so; we have every reason to believe also, that the soldiers of the Pays Bas were as good as the French, when fighting under the banners of Napoleon. It is always invidious to draw comparisons, and seldom, if ever, right to judge on such subjects. Should they ever again come in contact, it will then be seen which of these nations possesses the most moral courage; that which fights for their liberty, or the army that is hired to restore despotism.



CHURCH OF WATERLOO.

POSTSCRIPT.

Whatever might have been the unpopularity of the king, during the latter years of his reign, there can be no doubt that the heir to the crown, the Prince of Orange, was held in the highest estimation by the Belgians, from the earliest period of his father's accession to the throne of the Netherlands.

The gallant bearing of H. R. H. at Waterloo, and his mild, affable, and conciliating manners, endeared him to all ranks ; throwing aside the pomp of royalty, he participated in their amusements without ceremony. On his marriage, however, with the Grand Duchess Anne, a sister of the Russian autocrat, the young prince being at that time in his twenty-fifth year, was compelled, by courtly etiquette, to resume his dignities as the heir to the throne, and to withdraw himself from many of the classes of society into which his inclinations and condescension had previously led him. The princess, moreover, was found to be of a

reserved disposition, keeping aloof from all society except the court and a few of the higher orders of the nobility ; it was even said that her imperial highness considered the Belgians as *parvenus*, and unworthy of her notice. We are, however, of opinion, that this was a gross calumny on the princess, circulated by the king's enemies, in order to render the whole family unpopular. The Brussellois had not been accustomed to royalty, and when they appeared in public, showed but little respect to any branch of it, the prince excepted. It was natural, therefore, to suppose, that a Russian princess, who had been always treated in her own country with every mark of devotion, would be chagrined, and her *amour propre* hurt, by the apathy of the Belgians. She had seen the king go to open the chambers, and on other State occasions, when not a cheer was given, nor a hat moved, except by a few stray English or other foreigners.

A naturally cold and distant manner, which the princess was said to possess, was construed into pride, *hauteur*, and disdain ; but she could not be accused of pomp, for she daily promenaded in the Parc, *vis-à-vis* to her palace, dressed in the plainest manner, and only attended by an elderly *dame d'honneur* and a couple of

footmen. The three young princes also took their exercise in the gardens, with their tutor, thinly clothed in winter, and brought up as hardy as the children of a peasant.

When the prince's palace was finished (1827), it was opened for public view, and the following year, on the return of the court from the Hague, it was announced that a series of balls and *fêtes* would be given by their R. R. H. H. during the season, alternately with the court. The anxiety which our countrymen and their dames showed to be invited to these parties may be readily imagined. Some actually returned to London, who had never before considered it worth their while to be introduced at St. James's,* and others, who had no pretension to be thus honoured, endeavoured to be presented to King George, but with what success we know not. Be this as it may, the *aspirants* were disappointed ; for, while the court dresses were in preparation, a courier arrived from St. Petersburg announcing the death of the princess' mother, the widow of Paul. It would appear that this melancholy event deeply afflicted the Grand Duchess, for

* No foreigners can be presented at court, who have not been introduced to that of their own country.

she shut herself up in her palace at Terveuren, and was not seen in public for twelve months, occupying herself with reading and her needle. During this solitude, she worked, with her own hands, a *suite* of drawing-room chairs in silk and worsted, with such extraordinary taste, as to produce the effect of painting, and they became the admiration of the public, having been sent to the town palace.

After the court went out of mourning, H. M. held levees in his new palace, and the queen her drawing-rooms. Strangers could not help remarking the shabbiness of many of the Belgians—attending, on these occasions, in hackney coaches; and as almost every person of condition is possessed of a handsome equipage, foreigners conjectured that their appearance at the royal palace in such machines, showed a great want of respect to their majesties.

The prince generally resided at Terveuren during a few months in summer and autumn. In 1827, he amused himself by driving a team of English horses, that would have been distinguished in the "Four-in-hand Club." In this pursuit, H. R. H. was assisted by an Englishman, who had contrived to get into H. R. H.'s good graces, by his dexterity, as a charioteer would say, "in handling the rib-

bons.” This gentleman made himself so useful in this capacity, that he was appointed “Master of the Horse” (for there was a score of English horses and English grooms in the royal stables). An intimacy with a foreigner naturally produced jealousy ; and the prince, at the end of the campaign, found it prudent to discharge the Master, and the whole establishment of grooms, in order to appease the malcontents. We know not if this dismissal from royal favour affected the credit of the favourite ; but, shortly after, he disappeared, leaving his affairs so embarrassed, that his creditors were compelled to seize on the only effects they could find, viz. a scanty wardrobe, which was exposed in the market-place, and sold by auction ! This created great scandal, which was augmented by the discovery, that the captain (for we think he assumed that title) had absconded with a young and handsome female, his *compatriote*.

The prince must, no doubt, have been chagrined to have countenanced such a *mauvaise sujet* ; but the princess showed great sympathy and generosity to his unfortunate wife (an amiable woman of good connexions), by sending her a considerable sum to enable her to return to her family. It is such characters as this ad-

venturer that throw an odium on Englishmen abroad.

Notwithstanding the lesson the prince had of the imprudence of favouritism to strangers, an Italian Count became shortly after a confidant of H. R. H. and various rumours were soon circulated to this gentleman's disadvantage, probably without any truth, as in the case of the extraordinary and mysterious robbery of the princess' jewels, in which the Count was also implicated. One rumour among many prevailed, "that he had been the actual thief;" another, "that he was entrusted with them to deposit in the hands of a rich Spaniard for a large sum to pay a royal gaming debt;" a third tale was got up, "that he had been despatched to Russia to obtain money on them from the prince's *beau frère*;" for, in consequence of the political state of Belgium at this time, the Count had quitted Brussels, which gave an air to this libel. But the discovery of the jewels in America, two years after,* shows the total

* The history of this extraordinary robbery is so well known, that we have little to add to it. A lithographic print of the jewels was circulated to every corner of Europe, designed by the Grand Duchess' jeweller, and copied in the *English Court Journal*. A Persian shawl, with her imperial arms and cypher worked in it, and a *briguet* watch, were dropped in the street,

falsehood of the gross calumnies which had been heaped upon the heir of the throne, and making an honourable man the medium of this improbable, we might say impossible, charge ; propagated to degrade H. R. H. in the minds of his father's subjects, and, by a side wind, to attack the royal family. We would not have mentioned an affair of this delicate nature in these sketches, had not the prince, on his visit to Brussels a short time before the battle, when addressing the citizens, expressed the indignation he felt by the monstrous calumnies of which he had been accused ; and stated, "that, at the time, he had large sums in his bankers' hands, and could have commanded money to any extent, had he required loans." This address (which we have alluded to in another place) was received with the loudest acclamation, and made a great impression on the numerous assembly, though it is more than probable that many present had assisted in the propagation of these despicable calumnies.

and found by a labourer at day light. The culprit, who was detected at New York in 1832, in possession of a great number of the jewels, was tried and convicted at the Hague, on his own confession, but we have not heard if the sentence (death) has been put into execution.

CONCLUSION.

WE should greatly regret, if, in our endeavours to give a faithful sketch of this remarkable Revolution, the reader should imagine we had expressed ourselves too freely on the conduct of King William ; but we are aware of the great difficulty of recording such an event with impartiality, there being so many conflicting opinions on the merits of the cause.

Several Flemish authors who have written on the causes of the Belgian Revolution, assert that King William was unpopular from the very commencement of his reign, and that a general discontent prevailed in all the Belgian provinces ; Brussels excepted, where the court had influence.

We recollect, however, that the daily press at that period lauded H. M. for his great exertions in forwarding commerce, manufactures, agriculture, and many other measures for the good of the State. We are aware, nevertheless, that but little dependence can be placed on a

press that is not free, and that the opinions of individuals who are generally biassed by their own interests in speaking on public affairs, are as little to be depended on. On this account, we are inclined to give up some of our own opinions as to the king's popularity, which we have stated to have been great in the earlier part of his reign; but we still have strong reasons to believe that, had H. M. continued as he began, to govern mildly, and to execute the fundamental laws, he would have been the sovereign of the Netherlands to this day.

Had King William formed an alliance with his neighbours, England and France, and considered their friendship of more importance to the future stability of his kingdom, than leaning for support on Prussia and Russia, the Revolution might not have occurred; but being unfortunately connected by so many family ties with these despotic monarchs, it was natural he should make an alliance with them, and to have been induced to tyrannize over his own subjects, vainly imagining that, if he went too far, he might trust to his allies to reduce them to obedience; and, if H. M. could be brought to confession, he must admit, we are quite sure, that this confidence was the rock on which he split.

We will leave our readers to speculate on the probability of such an event. But while we are writing these remarks (12th August, 1834), we find that King William is granting furloughs to his *schuttery*, which we trust is a preliminary step to the termination of a contest that has been so long continued, for no other apparent object than to extract money from the subjects of both kingdoms to keep up large standing armies, to ruin commerce, and to disturb the tranquillity of Europe.

The King of Holland well knows that a general discontent prevails at this moment in Belgium, and has existed for a long time in the capital and other large towns, in consequence of the unsettled state of the country. Although H. M. may have abandoned every idea of recovering the throne by force of arms, he may still imagine that, by refusing to sign a treaty with his late subjects, and by keeping his ports shut against them, this discontent might augment, and, in time, produce a counter-revolution ; for the late Orange plot, although it failed, must be attributed to such hopes. We are led into these remarks by the receipt of a letter, of very recent date, from an intelligent friend residing in Brussels.

“ I cannot,” says he, “ give you an adequate

idea of the state of things in this city, compared with its former prosperity. The streets deserted; the shops empty; the canals stagnate; and trade ruined. Nothing but complaints from all quarters. One day they attribute these grievances to the mal-administration of the ministers, and another, to the obstinacy of their late monarch, who refuses to make a treaty with them."

These malcontents probably flattered themselves that, when they drove their invaders across the Scheldt, and obtained a king of their own choice, with a free constitution, wealth and happiness and tranquillity would be the immediate results; forgetting that they owed their former prosperity to their alliance with Holland, which exported the produce of their manufactures, consumed their grain, and purchased their minerals; that 50,000 persons were thrown out of employment who had been engaged in weaving and spinning; in the construction of steam-engines and machinery; in the formation of roads and canals, and in many other branches of industry, which the separation of the two countries naturally paralyzed, but which they had not the sagacity to foresee. Neither do they seem to have been aware that time is required before commerce can fall into

its usual channels, before taxation could be reduced.

These circumstances, the natural effect of the revolution, are by many construed into grievances—a term always in their mouths ; but it is not by brawling and pillage and conflagration that the Belgians can hope to prosper. They have yet to learn that it is only by obedience to the laws and the exertion of their own industry that they will eventually reap the fruits of the revolution, and, by union, preserve their free institutions. Blest, as they are, in the possession of one of the richest countries in Europe, it will be their own faults if they do not retain their independence, and secure their prosperity.

It would be difficult to point out any period in the history of Europe, when tranquillity prevailed so generally as at the present moment, for, excepting in a corner of the Peninsula, all is peace—affording a fair hope that wars and bloodshed, which have ever been the scourges of mankind, are far distant. At any rate, we may venture to assert, in conclusion, that, until France is divided into provinces, and England annihilated as a great nation, King William must content himself with the sovereignty of the united provinces of Holland.

APPENDIX.



No. I. Page 188.

DISCOURSE FROM THE THRONE.

"NOBLE AND MIGHTY SEIGNEURS,

"Deplorable and imperious necessity has made it necessary that the extraordinary Session which I have this day opened should be convoked.

"The State, in peace with all the people of Europe, and the war happily terminated in the colonies, was flourishing in peace and happiness, blessed with order, commerce, and industry. I occupied myself with redressing the grievances of the people, and gradually introducing into the interior administration the amendments pointed out by experience. An unexpected revolt breaks out in Bruxelles, which example is followed in some other localities. Burning and pillage accompany these tumults too distressing to my heart, the nation, and humanity; and I spare this assembly the unhappy picture.

"My first thought was the convocation of V. V. N. N. P. P.* In the meantime I have taken those measures without delay, as far as my power extends, which may arrest the progress of the evil, protect the good citizens against the malevolent, and ward off from the kingdom the scourge of civil war.

* Noble and Mighty Seigneurs.

“It is of little importance to trace the causes of what is past, and to aid V. V. N. N. P. P. in examining into the true character of these causes, their tendency, and probable results. It is more urgent to the interest of the country to seek the means of restoring order, tranquillity, and the empire of laws, not only for the time, but in a manner sure and lasting. But amidst the clashing of opinions, the ravings of passion, opposing views and interests, it is a very difficult task, noble and powerful Lords, to reconcile my wishes for the happiness of all my subjects with the duties I have contracted towards them, and which I have hallowed by my oath.

“I appeal, then, to your wisdom, your calmness, and your firmness, that I may, with the assent of the representatives of the nation, and in concert with them, adopt those measures which the safety of the country requires. An opinion has been hinted from more quarters than one, that, to accomplish this end, it would be advisable to proceed to a revision of the fundamental law, and even to a separation of those provinces which the treaties and the constitution have united. This question, nevertheless, can only be resolved according to the forms prescribed by this same fundamental law which we have solemnly sworn to observe. It will be the principal object of V. V. N. N. P. P.’s deliberations. I wish you to form your opinion, and to declare it calmly, and with the entire frankness so important a question demands. And I, on my part, impelled above every other sentiment, by the desire of securing the happiness of the Belgians, whom Divine Providence has entrusted to my care, am ready to agree with this assembly upon the means likely to lead to it. This reunion has, besides, another object—to acquaint you that circumstances imperatively require that the militia shall remain reunited beyond the time, during which, in the word of the fundamental law, it must be annually exercised in the discipline of arms. The means of

defraying the expenses resulting from this and other measures, and the fatal consequences of dissensions, will be found for the present; the regulation of it will be submitted to your deliberation in the next usual session.

“Noble and powerful Lords—I rely upon your fidelity and patriotism. This is not the first time I have been a prey to the storms of Revolutions. I shall not sooner forget the courage, the attachment, and the fidelity which have shaken the foreign yoke, re-established the existence of the nation, and placed the sceptre in my hands, than the valour which, on the field of battle, strengthened the throne and consolidated the independence of the country.

“Entirely disposed to satisfy all reasonable desires, I will grant nothing to the spirit of faction, and will never consent to measures which would sacrifice the interests and the prosperity of the nation to passion or violence. To conciliate, if possible, all interests, is the only wish of my heart.”

Scarcely had this speech been made known, than an increasing spirit of agitation was manifested among the people, who collected together in groups, openly expressing their discontent. The “Discourse” was torn, and burnt in many of the public places. The numerous posts of the guard Bourgeois provided sufficient patrols, and the order was not disturbed for an instant. It is in vain they hope to ensnare us with vague words. The separation shall be pronounced willingly or by force; by the States-general or by the people. The royal speech was followed by this message addressed by the king to the Second Chamber:—

“NOBLE AND POWERFUL SEIGNEURS,

“In consequence of what we have made known at the commencement of this your unusual Session, and on a former occasion, to all the Netherlanders by our proclamation

of the 5th inst. we beg your earnest and undivided consideration on the two following points :—

“ 1st, If experience has indicated the necessity of modifying our national institutions ?

“ 2d, If, in this case, it accords with the interest of general good, to change that which has been established both by treaties and by the fundamental law between the two great divisions of the kingdom ?

“ It would be agreeable to us to receive, as early as the nature of things will permit, the true and frank communication of the sentiments of the representatives of the people of the Netherlands upon these important questions, that we may concert with V. V. N. N. P. P. according to circumstances, on the measures likely to lead to the accomplishment of your intentions.

“ And we pray, noble and powerful Seigneurs, that God may continue you in his holy keeping.

(Signed) “ GUILLAUME.”

“ LA HAYE, 13th September, 1830.”

No. II. Page 189.

ADDRESS OF THE DEPUTIES TO THE
STATES-GENERAL.

“ SIRS,

“ The royal speech to the States-general, far from satisfying and re-assuring the inhabitants of Brussels, has incited them to the highest degree of frenzy and discontent. This speech, so eagerly looked for, seems to prove that the government persists in misunderstanding its situation with regard to our provinces, and the necessity of restoring peace and confidence by a system of frankness and evident loyalty.

“ ‘The State,’ says his majesty, ‘flourished in tranquil happiness, order, commerce, and industry. The government was occupied in alleviating the burdens of the people,’ &c.

“ Yes, undoubtedly ; but who may claim the merit of these measures, the honour of which the government would seem to attribute to itself ? Does it not rather belong to the citizens, than to an administration always filled with distrust towards a free and independent people, whom they had deprived of the force of arms, whilst they placed them in the power of an undisciplined guard which disappeared at the first signal of danger ? Was it thus it became them to acknowledge the eminent services of the Brussels’ guard, whose zeal, activity, and devotion, preserved from fire and pillage the houses of so many public functionaries, and even the palaces of the king and princes ? The faithful Bourgeois, when they beheld a part of the garrison of the city disarmed, and the remainder at the discretion of an infuriated people, gave their protection and support to the movements of the paralyzed soldiers ; a fact which the Prince of Orange has been pleased to acknowledge.

“ You may also judge, Sirs, of those honourable deeds which were followed by so lively an impulse of patriotism. The comparative happiness which the Belgians enjoyed, and had obtained by the sweat of their brows, had been gradually diminishing by the means of grievances of every description, the continuance of which, so obstinately persisted in by the government, had, for a length of time, been the subject of universal complaint.

“ The Belgians, ever jealous of their rights, set up a flag as a signal to rally. This national flag, dear to their recollections, was chosen to do away with all appearance of any thing like a standard contrary to the reigning dynasty—it not only contributed, in some degree, to calm the ebullition of the multitude, and restored order where all had been confusion ;

but it also inspired every heart with an irresistible desire for liberty. And how could generous citizens, armed for the defence of social existence, compromised by the neglect of an anti-Belgian minister, do otherwise than meditate a deliverance from the innumerable vexations and iniquities they had sustained, with unequalled patience, for seventeen years? It was in vain that 300,000 petitioners wrote their signatures to the motives of general discontent. The power that should have righted them was deaf to their humble demands.

“The capital of the southern provinces, however, obtained, by unforeseen circumstances, the possession of a considerable force. Other cities, imbibing the universal sentiment, followed the movements which resulted, not from a blameable connivance, but from a spontaneous and lawful impulse. The Regencies of almost every other town joined the patriots assembled at Bruxelles, by means of a proclamation, in which, far from blaming your fellow-countrymen, they declared themselves ready, after the example of the Prince of Orange, freely to associate themselves in their efforts, and they represented, energetically, to H. R. H. the wishes of the Belgians for a separation of the northern and southern parts of the kingdom, a measure which alone appears the necessary termination of injustice and odious preference.

“Such, Messieurs, are the events preceding the resolution you have formed of once more attempting a re-union with your colleagues of the northern provinces—a re-union which, for so many years, has been fatal to the inhabitants of the southern provinces. We presume not to pass judgment upon a determination which is, no doubt, the result of your wisdom and deliberate examination; but, in the midst of the imminent dangers which threaten not only our city of Bruxelles but the whole country, we feel bound to inform you of the truth. The proclamation of the king, your ab-

sence, and his majesty's speech to the States-general, are all sad presages for the future. Our fortresses are every where occupied by troops; our villages are surrounded; every thing breathes of war; and *might*, not *right*, seems the order of the day. Battalions are thickening around us; the king's speech even recommends to you their permanent establishment, whilst you, submitting yourselves to the necessities of strict fidelity, offer your arguments alone for the support of your cause. Are we, then, averse to an amicable arrangement? Are we rebellious subjects? And must we be unmercifully trampled on?

"You are acquainted with our fair and constitutional institutions. The only claim of these audacious rebels, whom it has been thought proper to surround with such menacing preparations, is to be placed upon a footing of equality with the Dutch, burdened, as they are, with so large a share of their debt. Such a system of military oppression cannot fail to draw upon us the most frightful calamities. Whilst you are occupied in following, step by step, all the formalities required by the fundamental law for the solution of the great question you must hereafter decide at the re-union of deputies convoked in double number, our commerce and industry will perish during this painful suspense.

"Some considerable towns, alarmed at the advance in the vicinity of numerous troops, of whose intentions they are ignorant, are in a perpetual state of uneasiness, and witness the rapid increase of misery and despair among the working-classes. When your presence around the throne secures its safety, will you suffer your countrymen—friends like yourselves to the rights of their country, and encouraged by yourselves to defend these rights—to be exposed to these warlike measures, as destructive as they are useless? It cannot be that you have consented for the purpose of accelerating our ruin, and, in spite of the urgency of events, to follow, in

their lengthened course, all the slowest, and consequently, in our situation, the most dangerous constitutional windings. Will this, your condescension, supply to your country, of whom you are the proxies (*mandataires*), the loss of that repose and confidence they stand in so much need of? This separation can only be effected by immediately obtaining from the throne a satisfactory and decisive measure which will instantly restore to the minds of the people that calm and confidence indispensable to commerce and industry. Let the hostile appearances which incessantly threaten us cease—let the troops from the north, who now surround us, retire into their garrisons—tranquillity will then be re-established, and the appearances of civil war, which the government so much dreads, will of themselves vanish.

“Such are the wishes we would lay at the foot of the throne. If you do not succeed in obtaining these guarantees, indispensable in the present crisis, we dare hope, Messieurs, that you will openly refuse to authorize, by your presence at the Hague, the views and the hostile acts which will consummate the ruin of our country.”

(Here follow the signatures of all the Deputies of the Sections present at the Assembly, all the Members of the *Etat-major*, the Council of the Guard Bourgeois, and the Members of the Commission of Safety.)

ABRIDGED VIEW

OF THE

CIVIL AND MILITARY EMPLOYMENTS PREVIOUS
TO THE REVOLUTION.

A short statement of the system pursued by the Netherlands government, taken from the official list of the army in 1830, will show that the Belgians were almost totally excluded from the staff and command of regiments, while the population of the southern provinces, compared with Holland, was nearly *two to one* larger, and her contingent of men consequently in the same proportion. This may be considered as another among many of the causes that contributed to the dissatisfaction existing among the Belgians with the government of King William. A few examples will be sufficient for our purpose:—

Of eight Field Marshalls and Generals, no Belgian; of twenty-one Lieutenant-Generals, three Belgians; of fifty Majors-General, five Belgians; of thirty-six Field Officers of Cavalry, twelve Belgians; of forty-five Officers of General Staff, six Belgians; of twenty-six Field Officers of Engineers, no Belgian; of fifty Field Officers of Artillery, three Belgians (Majors).

Therefore, in a total of 254 Generals, Staff and Field Officers, about 40 were Belgians; the number of Captains, Subalterns, and Non-commissioned, were in the same proportion, while the Privates were two to one over the Dutch. It is impossible to show a more glaring partiality than this, and it cannot be wondered that King William was so unpopular with the Belgian troops.

In 1833, the amount of the whole military force of Belgium was reckoned at 110,000, exclusive of officers. Belgium is divided into as many military governments as there are provinces. To each of these is appointed a General or Colonel Commandant, charged with the police and distribution of the garrisons. All reports are made to him, and thence communicated to the minister. In the *United Service Journal* may be seen an ample detail of the whole military organization of Belgium. The budget of the kingdom, as laid before the Chambers on the 28th January, 1833, gives the subsequent items of expenditure:—

Public Debt,	£1,097,260
Dotations,	125,540
Department of Justice,	221,400
Foreign Affairs,	29,800
The Navy, &c.,	30,000
The Interior,	344,640
Department of War,	1,000,000
Finance,	441,040
Leopold Order,	4,650
Incidentals,	26,080
<hr/>	
Ordinary,	£3,320,710
Extraordinary,	149,170
<hr/>	
Total,	£3,469,880

Among the 4000 or 5000 Dutch troops employed in the siege of Antwerp were about 500 Jews, sons of the most affluent citizens in Amsterdam, and many of them were volunteers, whose devotion to their country had impelled them to encounter the hardships and perils of war. It should be observed, however, that, in Holland, the Jews enjoy the same civil rights as Christians.

THE END.

E R R A T A.

Page 33, Vol. I. *for* King William I. was married, October, 1792, *read* 1791.

Page 126. Vol. II. *for* Libri Bagniani, *read* Bagnagno, and throughout,
where his name is mentioned.

