

**CHARLOTTE CORDE.**

*Letter addressed to Barbaroux, one of the prescribed deputies of the convention, at Caen, by Charlotte Corde, the assassin of Marat.*

CITIZEN,

YOU desired a narrative of my journey, and I shall not pass over the smallest anecdote. Arrived at Paris, I went to lodge in the *Rue des Vieux Augustins*, in the *Hotel de Providence*. I then waited on Duperret, your friend; and I do not know how the committee of general safety could learn that I had a conference with Duperret. You know the firmness of soul which the latter is possessed of: he answered the truth; I confirmed his deposition by my own: there is nothing against him; but his firmness is a crime. I own, I was under apprehensions. I persuaded him to go and join you, but he is too head-strong: I resolved, therefore, upon the execution of my project.

Faucher, (could you believe it?) is in prison, as my accomplice—he who did not know that I existed; but they are hardly contented that they have but an insignificant woman to sacrifice to the manes of the great man. Pardon, ye men!—that name disgraces your respect; it was a ferocious heart, which was going to consume the rest of France with the fire of civil war. Now, long live peace! Thanks to Heaven! he was not born a Frenchman.

Four members of the National Convention were at my first interrogatory. Chabot looked like a madman. Legendre suspected to have seen me at his house in the morning: I never thought of this man: I believe his resources are not great enough for him to become the tyrant of his country; and I did not presume to punish every body. All those who saw me for the first time, pretended to have known me long ago.

I believe the last words of Marat have been printed; but, trust me, he uttered none.

But these are the last words he addressed to me, after I had given him all your names, besides those of the administrators of Calvados who are at Evreux—He told me, to console me, that “in a few days he would have you all guillotined at Paris.” These latter words decided his fate. If the department lays up his carcase facing that of St. Fargeau, it may have those words engraved in golden letters. I shall give you no particulars respecting this great event; the newspapers will speak of it. I own, that what decided me completely, was the courage with which our volunteers enlisted on Sunday, July 7th. You remember how I was charmed; and I promised myself steadily to make Pétion repent the suspicions he manifested respecting my sentiments. “Would you be sorry if they were not to depart hence?” said he. In short, I considered, that so many brave men coming to Paris to seek the head of one single man, might have missed him, or that his death might have entailed destruction upon many good citizens: he was not worthy of so much honor; the hands of a woman were quite sufficient for the business. I confess that I was obliged to have recourse to a treacherous artifice, in order to gain admittance to him. I intended, when I left Caen, to have sacrificed him on the summit of the Mountain of the convention; he went no more to the convention. At Paris, they do not conceive how one useless woman, whose longest life would be of no avail, can sacrifice it in cold blood, to save her country. I really expected to die at the very instant. Men of courage, and really above all praise, rescued me from the fury of those whom I had made wretched. As I was really in cold blood, I suf-

fered much at the cries of some women.

But she that saves her country, never minds what it costs. May peace be restored as soon as I desire! There is now a great villain laid low, without which we never should have obtained it. I enjoy peace for these two days past; the happiness of my country constitutes my own. I do not doubt but they will torment my father, who already suffers but too much affliction by losing me.

I informed him lately by letter, that being afraid of the fire of civil war, I would go over to England; my project then was to remain *incog.* upon the death of Marat, and I wanted to let the Parisians vainly trace out my name. I entreat, citizen, you and our colleagues, to defend my parents, if they are molested. I never hated but one being, and I have displayed my character: those who regret me, will rejoice at finding me enjoy repose in the Elysian field. Brutus and some ancients: few are the true patriots who know how to die for their country; they are most of them egotists.

Two light-horsemen have been set over me, to keep me from the vapours. I found this very well by day, but not by night. I complained of this indecency: the committee thought proper to pay no regard to my complaints; I believe this a scheme of Chabot's invention: none but a Capuchin can have such ideas. Adieu.

CHARLOTTE CORDE.

*Letter of Charlotte Corde, addressed to her father, dated in the Prison of Conciergerie, July 16, 1793.*

My respected Father,

PEACE is about to reign in my country; Marat is no more! Be comforted, and bury me in eternal oblivion. I am to be judged to-morrow, the 17th, at seven o'clock in the morning, I have lived long enough, as I have achieved a great exploit. I put you under the protection of Barbaroux and his colleagues, in case you should be molested. Let my relatives find my homage here; and remember, each and all of you, that crime begets disgrace, and not the scaffold.

CHARLOTTE CORDE.

LONDON, August 3.

It was yesterday settled, before the King in Council, that the Parliament, which stands prorogued to the 13th instant, be on that day further prorogued for forty days.

A letter from Constantinople, dated June 28, says, “all the attempts of the party have failed. M. Desforches only resides here as a merchant. On his first arrival, the Porte forbade any of the interpreters to visit or receive any visits from him. In fine, the repeated defeats suffered by his nation in the course of the last six months have determined the Divan to follow the example of other Courts. It is supposed that the arrival of the combined fleets in the Mediterranean has not a little contributed to this resolution on the part of the Sultan.”

The latest accounts from the coast of Brittany assure us, that the French fleet, which lately sailed from Brest, consists of no more than fifteen line of battle ships and five frigates; and their only object is, to protect the coasts of France, without hazarding, if possible, an engagement with the British fleet.

The name of the commander of the French fleet is Legal. He is an officer of courage, and experience of his profession. He was ‘uffrein’s Captain during the last war in the East-Indies.

It is positively asserted, that orders have been given to form a camp of 30,000 men near Brest, but that as yet no more than 6000 national guards are assembled there,

and those are scarce provided with the most necessary arms and accoutrements for duty; that the whole cavalry in its environs are decidedly against the Convention; and above all, the people very clamorously demand and back their curates, and are earnestly desirous that the English should make a descent among them, in order that they may get rid of the Jacobin yoke.

The bill lately passed in Ireland, for excluding certain prisoners and placemen from seats in the House of Commons, vacates the seats of 16 members of that House.

The German army on the Rhine, by the reinforcement which it received from Mentz, is now upwards of 120,000 strong.

By a letter from Tournay, dated the 2d instant, we are informed, that the Commissioners of the Convention at Lille have left that city on their way to Paris, after having given orders to move off part of the heavy artillery and of the garrison towards Paris; and they are further stripping the magazines of that place. This information has given rise to a report that Lille had offered to surrender.

*Extract of a letter from Amsterdam, August 1.*

“The directors of the commerce of the Levant, and of the navigation of the Mediterranean, have given notice to the body of merchants, that, having considered the request presented by the merchants, proprietors, and those concerned in the ships that trade to the respective ports of England, Portugal, Spain, Italy, the Gulph of Venice, and the Levant, comprising Smyrna, the States General, in virtue of their resolution of the 22d of July, have granted the taking off the embargo with regard to the convoys for those parts. His Highness, as Admiral-General, is desired to cause the petitioners to enjoy the effect of the resolution also taken by their High Mightinesses the 22d ult. as far as the naval force will permit. In the last place, in conformity to the declaration of his Britannic Majesty, the Dutch merchantmen may navigate under the escort of English ships of war. The States-General repeat their resolution of the 16th of February last, with respect to the prohibition of all navigation with the ports of France; as also their latter orders of the 26th of March last, with regard to contraband traffic.”

August 6. The French army have quitted their boasted position in the camp of Caesar, which they occupied on leaving Farnars, and have retreated behind Cambray. Respecting that city, it has been reported at Tournay, that a deputation have been actually sent to the Prince of Cobourg, requesting him not to advance hostilely, as it was proposed to open the gates and receive the allies on the most amicable terms.

It is mentioned with confidence, that his Royal Highness the Duke of York will be appointed, on his return home, to the long vacant post of Commander in Chief of the Army.

A gentleman who left Calais, on Tuesday morning, in a Danish ship, arrived in town on Wednesday, by whom we are informed, that the departmental army from the southern provinces of France are on their march towards Paris, in order to prevent the Federation taking place on the 10th instant, and that the Parisians were preparing to meet them.

A letter was received on Tuesday, by a respectable house in the city, which says, they had advice there, that the heavy artillery was removing from Ostend, for the purpose of attacking Dunkirk.

Dunkirk, of which the siege will speedily be formed, was once a place of great strength, having been fortified by Vauban, immediately after the sale of it, by Charles the Second, to the French. By the peace