

LONDON, July 23.

[TRANSLATION.]

We, the Representatives of the Corsican Nation, free and independent, lawfully assembled, in a General Meeting, possessed of a special authority to form the present Constitutional Act, have unanimously decreed, under the auspices of the Supreme Being, the following Articles:

CHAPTER I.

Of the Nature of the Constitution, and of the Constituted Powers.

Art. 1. THE Constitution of Corsica is Monarchical, according to the following fundamental law.

2. The Legislative Power is vested in the King and in the Representatives of the people, lawfully elected and convened.

3. The Legislature, composed of the King and of the Representatives of the people, is denominated the Parliament; and the Representatives are styled members of the Parliament.

CHAP. II.

Of the mode of Elections, the number of members, and the functions of Parliament.

Art. 1. The territory shall be divided into Pieves (districts) each of which shall send two members of Parliament. The towns on the coast, of which the population shall amount to 3000 souls and upwards, have the right of sending two members each to Parliament; the Bishops, who discharge the duties of their See in Corsica, and are recognized as such by the Corsican nation, shall be members of Parliament.

2. The members of Parliament shall be elected by all the Corsican citizens, of 25 years of age, who shall have been resident at least one year in the Pieve which they represent.

3. No person shall be elected a member of Parliament, unless he possesses at least 6000 livres in land in the Pieve which he is to represent, and pays taxes in proportion to this possession, and unless born of a Corsican father, and bona fide an inhabitant, having kept house for five years in the said Pieve, and until he has arrived at the age of 25.

4. Lodgers, except those who are inmates for hire, persons employed in collecting the revenue, the receivers and collectors of taxes, those who have pensions, or who are in the service of a foreign power, and priests, cannot be members of the House of Parliament.

5. The form of election shall be determined by the laws.

6. If a member of the Parliament dies, or becomes incapable, according to law, of being a member of parliament, another member shall be elected by his Pieve, within 15 days, by the King's authority.

7. The house of Parliament has the right of enacting all the laws which are intended to have force of law.

8. The decrees of the house of Parliament shall not have force of law, unless they receive the King's sanction.

9. Any decree that has not passed the house of Parliament, and received the King's sanction, shall not be looked upon as law, nor carried into execution as such.

10. No imposition, tax, or public contribution, shall be laid without the consent of Parliament, or without being specially granted by it.

11. Parliament has the right of impeachment, in the name of the nation, of every agent of government, guilty of prevarication, before the extraordinary tribunal.

12. The cases of prevarication shall be determined by the laws.

CHAP. III.

Of the duration and convocation of Parliament.

Art. 1. The duration of one Parliament

shall be two years.

2. The King may dissolve Parliament.

3. In case of a dissolution of Parliament, the King shall convene another within 40 days.

4. Those persons who were members of the dissolved Parliament may be elected members of the succeeding one.

5. If the Parliament expires without being dissolved, another shall be called by the King's authority, within 40 days.

6. The King may prorogue the Parliament.

7. The Parliament cannot be convoked or assembled but by the King's command.

8. The interval between the convening of the House and its prorogation, or, if it be not prorogued, until its dissolution, or, if it be not dissolved, until its expiration, is to be called the session of Parliament.

9. The Viceroy, or, in case of illness, the commissioners nominated by him for that purpose, shall open the sessions in person, and declare the reasons for convoking the Parliament.

10. The Parliament may adjourn itself and reassemble during the same session.

11. The house shall decide upon the contested elections of its members.

12. The members of Parliament shall not be subject to arrest or imprisonment for debt during the continuance of their representation.

CHAP. IV.

Of the mode of deliberation, freedom of debate, and internal regulations of Parliament.

Art. 1. After opening the Parliament by the Viceroy, or by his commission, as is herein before mentioned, the oldest member shall take the chair; and the members present having elected a provisional secretary, choice of a president, and a secretary, the secretaries shall not be chosen from among the members, and may be dismissed by vote of parliament.

2. The Parliament assembled, in all the cases before mentioned, has the power of debate, and of passing bills whenever above one half of its members are present.

3. Every member elected, and not appearing, shall have notice from the President of the house, to repair to his post within 15 days.

4. In case of non appearance, or of sending a lawful excuse satisfactory to the house such a member shall be condemned to a fine of 200 livres.

5. Parliament may grant leave of absence, or permit the absence of such members who solicit it, provided more than one half of its members remain present.

6. Every proposition made in parliament shall be decided by the majority of the members present; the President in case of a division, shall give the casting vote.

7. The forms and proceedings of enacting laws, and of determining other matters in the house which may not be fixed by the present constitution, shall be regulated by the house itself.

8. The King's sanction or refusal of it, shall be announced in person by the King's Representative in the House of Parliament, or by Special Commission, in case of sickness.

9. The Form of the Sanction shall be, The King approves—that of refusal, the King will examine. The Bills sanctioned by the King, are named, Acts of Parliament.

10. No member of Parliament shall be called to account, or punished by the King's servants, for the opinions manifested, or by the doctrines professed in the house, or by any other authority whatever, except by that of the house itself.

11. The President of the Parliament has the right of calling to order any of the mem-

bers, when he may think proper. The house may censure, arrest, and imprison any of its own Members, during the Session.

CHAP. V.

Upon the exercise of the Executive Power.

Art. 1. The King shall have his immediate Representative in Corsica, with the title of Viceroy.

2. The Viceroy shall have the power of giving his sanction or refusal to the decrees of Parliament.

3. He shall moreover have the power, to perform in the King's name, all the acts of Government which are within the limits of the Royal Authority. There shall be a Board of Council, and a Secretary of State, nominated by the King, and mention shall be made in the Viceroy's orders, that he has taken the opinion of the said board of Council; and these orders shall be countersigned by the Secretary.

4. The nation has the right of petitioning, as well the Viceroy as the house of Parliament. The constituted and acknowledged corps may petition in a body, the other corps in their individual capacity only, and a petition shall never be presented by more than 20 persons however numerous may be the signatures to it.

5. The house of Parliament may address the King to recall the Viceroy in his Privy Council assembled. The Viceroy, shall be obliged to submit the address to the King, upon the requisition of the house within the term of 15 days after such requisition and the house may itself transmit it to the King even through the channel of deputation; but in any case the house is bound to present to the Viceroy, 15 days previous to the departure of the address, a copy of the same, and of the papers which are to accompany it.

6. The Viceroy is to provide for all military arrangements, and is to provide for the internal and external security of the country.

7. The King declares war and makes peace—He shall not be authorized however, in any event, or any account whatsoever, to give up, alienate, or in any manner prejudice, the unity and indivisibility of Corsica and its dependencies.

8. The King shall appoint to all the offices of government.

9. The ordinary employments of justice, and of the administration of public money, shall be conferred upon natives of Corsica, or persons naturalized Corsicans, in virtue of the Laws.

CHAP. VI.

Of judicial Proceeding, and of the Division of the Tribunals.

Art. 1. Justice shall be executed in the King's name, and the Orders carried into execution by officers appointed by him in conformity to the laws.

2. There shall be a supreme Tribunal, composed of 5 Judges and the King's advocate, and this shall be stationary in court.

3. There shall be a President and a King's Advocate attached to every other new jurisdiction.

4. The doctrines of the said respective Tribunals, their administrations, and the emoluments shall be determined by law.

5. There shall be in every Pieve a Podeste (Magistrate.)

6. In every community there shall be a municipality, named by the people, and its functions shall be regulated by the laws.

7. Crimes which deserve corporal or ignominious punishment, shall be tried by the Judges and a jury.

8. The King has the power of granting pardon, in conformity to the same regulations under which he exercises this prerogative in England.

9. All civil, criminal, commercial causes and those of every other kind whatsoever,