

CAPE-FEAR RECORDER.

"IN PROPORTION AS THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT GIVES FORCE TO PUBLIC OPINION, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PUBLIC OPINION SHOULD BE ENLIGHTENED."—Washington.

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From the London Times of October 6, 1830.

NARRATIVE OF THE LATE STRUGGLE IN BRUSSELS.

On the evening of Wednesday, the 22d, it was understood that the Prince commanding the King's forces had published a proclamation, stating his intention of entering the city of Brussels, and promising an amnesty, excepting to the ringleaders of the insurrection and to strangers. The vague terms of the exception excited no small consternation. Every man engaged in the affair of course imagined himself of sufficient importance to come within the vengeance denounced by the commander of the King's forces. Strangers, in particular, were incensed, and determined not to be the tame victims of the Prince's unresisted success. In consequence, they did not regard that part of the proclamation which ordered them to retire unarmed within their dwellings. Much of the ultimate success of the revolutionists is due to the gallantry of the foreigners who, from various causes, arrived in Brussels. English Scotch, Irish, Americans, French (in considerable numbers), and Spaniards, all fought well;—some actuated by attachment to the popular cause, others by the natural pugnacity of their characters, and many from the conviction that, implicated or not in the parties of the revolutionists, they would be equal endurers of the sufferings which it was not doubted that the Dutch, if successful, would inflict.

Had the Prince proclaimed a general amnesty, and marched at the head of his Belgian forces, and not attempted to force the Dutch soldiers into the city, I am confident he would not have been resisted. Many of the most opulent inhabitants were attached to the cause of the Crown. They felt and appreciated the commercial advantages resulting from the Royal residence at Brussels; they had experienced the evils resulting from several weeks' stagnation of business; were wearied of soldiering, and desirous to compromise on any reasonable terms. A party certainly was determined to attempt to achieve a revolution at all hazards; but their efforts would have been rendered abortive (had the Prince acted more consistently) by the men of property, who had much to lose and little to gain by a revolution, and by the disinclination of the lower class of inhabitants to continue the longer endurance of the great privations they had undergone, for several of the bourgeois soldiers were almost starving. To prove this I shall just mention one fact. Two gentlemen who had been walking about the city on this evening (Wednesday, the 22d,) were taken up by Garde Bourgeois, and conducted to their hotel to ascertain if they were the persons they described themselves. These gentlemen requested the guard to partake of some refreshment; and the poor fellows ate like famished men, and stated that for several days they had scarcely tasted bread—that their present supply had given them new vigour—and requested to be allowed to carry with them a loaf of bread for their comrades. Though thus evidently enduring starvation the Garde Bourgeois committed no excess, and I can speak from personal experience of the admirable conduct of most of the privates of that corps; not so of most of their officers.

Thus stood the matter on Wednesday evening; the Prince had an army under his command; he enjoyed popularity in the city; he was aided by famine and disorganization prevailing amongst his opponents, who were deserted by the principal part of their chiefs—the foul cravens who blenched from the helm when the wind blew the highest, but who returned when success became probable, to guide the efforts of those few who still struggled on when all was dark, gloomy, and hopeless.

Despite all his advantages, in opposition to all human foresight, the Prince has been the defeated party. His Highness was aided by many circumstances, but he forgot he had a formidable opponent in the excited, the indelibly excited hatred of the Belgians to the Dutch, and which could only be rendered tractable by a conqueror's success, or by the conciliation of a beloved Prince. His Highness had the choice of two courses—to enter Brussels in triumph, as the vanquisher of the Belgian nation, or as the friend of the people, relying on their love, and unaided by a mercenary foreign army, as the Dutch are considered by his

Belgian subjects. The Prince was indiscreet: he adopted neither course, but traversed from one to the other. To pursue the first course and to enter as a conquering Prince, he on Thursday, the 23d, required but a few resolute troops, for the disunion of his enemies and the flight of their chiefs would have left but little for disciplined men to effect. To have adopted successfully the other alternative, and to have commanded in Brussels as a Prince beloved by the people, he needed only to have granted a more precise amnesty, and have promised to enter the city with those troops alone who were Belgians by birth, and who, as events have proved, were not inclined to desert his cause till its success became more than dubious, & that of his opponents was absorbingly popular.

When in possession of Brussels, he might have conciliated all parties, for people were weary of anarchy, & the possession of the capital by the king's forces would have crushed the hopes of the revolutionists in other places. It is difficult to say what the Prince designed: his attack on the town was just sufficient to excite hatred and inspire contempt: his soldiers must be most atrocious cowards—their leaders the vilest of traitors, or the most unspcakable idiots.

On Thursday morning, the 23d, the Prince entered in the direction of Scerbeck: his troops marched down the Rue Royale, and entered the park. At seven in the morning, he had encountered but little resistance, and at this period I first saw the conflict. The Place de Louvain (which lies between the gate of Scerbeck and the Park) was at this time defended by not more than 60 or 70 undisciplined Bourgeois, with only one officer that I could distinguish. They complained bitterly that they were betrayed, and I did not imagine that above an hour would elapse before the Prince would have had full possession of the town, of which he already occupied the higher part, with the consequent means of early subduing the remainder. At this time (seven in the morning) the Prince's army exhibited themselves in considerable force—(of cavalry and infantry,) taking up positions in front of the streets, which, however, they speedily retired from, sheltering themselves behind the corners of the houses, though they were resisted only by a handful of the Bourgeois and a few strangers, who fought behind the barricades, which had been thrown up very carelessly, and which were not of sufficient height or breadth to have offered any material obstacle to either foot or horse: a very indifferent hunter would have thought little of leaping these barriers. At this time there was no firing from the houses. I saw the inhabitants close their doors, and refuse to allow their houses to be used as forts for the defence of the city against the Prince's forces. The Prince, however, instead of advancing, commenced to retreat; his troops yielded up several of the barricades they possessed, and retired behind the trees of the Boulevards.—Their cowardice is inconceivable to men who have not witnessed it. I saw six persons drive a company of Dutch from a barricade. Amongst these six were, a gallant French youth, apparently about 16 years of age, one of the bravest of the brave; a Belgian, who displayed the most adventurous valour the whole day; and two brothers, the eldest of whom, in 1825, obtained the double first honors of Oxford, and the other a member of the Jamaica Assembly. Both these brothers were wounded, the latter slightly, but the former very severely in several places, particularly by a shot, which at a later period of the day, he received through the leg at the Place Royal, whilst leading on the Bourgeois at the Cafe de l'Amitie, in front of the Park. He was carried from the field by his brother and an Irish gentleman to the next hospital; some of the vagabonds, who were in the rear, endeavoring to rob him. He was afterwards removed from the hospital to his hotel by the Bourgeois, and almost stifled with caresses. Several ladies of Brussels have continued to visit him during the protracted cure of his wounds, expressing their gratitude to him for having come express from Paris, to defend them when many of the leaders of the people had deserted them. Gen. Van Halen called on him to express his high approval of his conduct and that of his brother, which last had been his companion in his nocturnal expeditions to surprise the enemy in the Park, and who was introduced by the General to the Provisionary Government as one of two brothers who had eminently served the cause of the people, & well deserved that medals should be awarded them.

But these acts of bravery were at this period of the first day almost solitary, and a general depression lowered over the city. About 9 o'clock, an aid-de-camp of the Prince, and as I understood a Count, but whose precise title I do not remember, appeared on horseback at a corner of a street near the Place Louvain. He waved a white handkerchief, and called on the Bourgeois to advance to him. They did so, principally the six individuals be-

fore mentioned, who were in advance.—Whilst the aid-de-camp was stating the message he had received, a rabble broke in and dragged him off his horse. At first I considered they were showing their gratification at his arrival, but I discovered they intended to treat him as a prisoner, and to insult him. The gentlemen before mentioned, (Messrs. Beaumonts), and several of the Bourgeois, defended him at their own imminent hazard; they dragged off his epaulets, and tore away his cockade; still the gallant man, as he was carried through the streets, manifested no particle of fear, his cheek was unblenched and no sign of dread came over him; occasionally his fine aristocratic face was lightened by a smile of scorn he cast on his base assailants. All that the really brave men could do to defend him was done at their own imminent peril. He was guarded to a barracks, and it was stated he would be considered as a prisoner, in retaliation of a similar detention of one of the delegates from Brussels. It is due to the bourgeois soldiers to say, that they in no way participated in the infliction of the insults this brave man received; it was the skulking cowards who assailed him, and one of them attempted to assail him with a dagger, which was wrenched out of his hand by one of the Messrs Beaumont and a bourgeois.* A most intolerable coward boasted he had made the aid-de-camp a prisoner. As well might Isaac of York have boasted of making Ivanhoe a captive to his spear, or Wamba, the witless, that he had vanquished King Richard with his shield of brawn. The Courier des Pays-Bas contains a dispute between two other persons, who also each claim to have made an officer of rank, prisoner. If they allude to the aid-de-camp I am referring to, they have both an equal right to the honor of his capture. The truth is, he came with a flag of truce, and was detained in reprisal; and, as far as I know, justly detained, for I have seen the Prince's troops more than once fire on the white flag of the Bourgeois.

The detention of the aid-de-camp gave vigor to the Prince's opponents, for a report was speedily propagated that the Dutch had been beaten, and the aid-de-camp of the Prince, "and several officers," made prisoners. Then forth came the coward and the dubious man. The revolutionary party understood well the value of such rumors. Immediately after the event of the Prince's aid-de-camp coming in, a considerable number of volunteers came forward and proceeded with them to the Place Royale, which lies on the opposite side of the Park to the Louvain, from which just the Dutch had been beaten, or rather had most shamefully run away from absolute fright. Indeed the face of a Dutchman was scarcely discernible during the whole period of the extraordinary conflicts. At the Place Royale two young Irishmen, resident in Brussels (whose names I do not mention for obvious reasons) distinguished themselves right valiantly, and made repeated attempts to induce the Bourgeois to resort to the bayonet; but I never saw this course adopted.

The first day of the conflict many of the townsmen were killed and wounded, because there was no discipline, and no small portion of the rabble was intoxicated.

The succeeding day there was some confidence, and the Provisionary Government published a proclamation without any signatures. In the night an expedition was organized to surprise the soldiers in the Park. I saw the Bourgeois at midnight assembled in the Hotel de Ville; but they had no stomach for the fight, and many declared they would not go to the butchery. The expedition did not succeed: whether rendered abortive by treason or cowardice, I know not. On Saturday all was gloom; it was understood that the city was to be surrendered. The lower class of the citizens were in great distress from hunger, and I saw many instances of armed Bourgeois asking bread from the inhabitants, but they demanded nothing else.

On Sunday, the 26th, there was a continued firing from the Bourgeois into the Park, but the Dutch being sheltered by a deep hollow, in which they were lying hid, could not have sustained much loss: the trees were the greatest sufferers. Had many of the Dutch fallen, numbers would have remained on the field, or large graves must have appeared, or numerous wagons would have been seen conveying off the slain. None of these circumstances took place, therefore but few must have been killed. On Monday, the 27th, when the Park was evacuated, I did not see so much as 12 bodies: there might have been more, but I speak of what I saw, and I walked thro' the whole Park, but there was an immense assemblage of empty bottles, from which the spirit had departed, but certainly not entered the hearts of the Dutchmen, for even their proverbial Dutch courage did not avail them. How the Dutch came to quit the Park, I do not know, as I did not see them decamp, but my opinion is that they "summoned up a coward mind and

ran away." The cowardice of the Dutch is, I fear, unbelievable, excepting by eye witnesses. I who saw the wonder, can hardly imagine it possible.

During all the period of the four days the Dutch threw occasional bombs, rockets, and red-hot shot into the city; they destroyed one or two houses, and excited the hatred and contempt of all classes.—These soldiers of Holland kept themselves out of the way of all danger, but made a most vigorous attack upon the dram bottles, as the untenanted bodies of the numerous slain I found at their quarters amply evinced. The homely apothegm says, that Dutchmen require their courage to be excited; but nought excited that of the Dutch at Brussels. Oxen and wain ropes may drag them to the combat, but native courage never: they resist even the charms of their bottles. "A plague of all cowards."

PS. I made every inquiry relative to the charge of rape made against the Dutch, and I have no reason to believe it founded on fact. An English gentleman whom they had visited stated to me that they only ravished a few silver spoons, &c.

* This gentleman is Mr. Arthur Q. Beaumont, a born citizen of New-York, mentioned in the Courier des Pays-Bas as one of the brothers (Americans) who had come from Paris for the express purpose of fighting for the freedom of Brussels against regal usurpation.

Late From Europe.

The ship Josephine, at New York from Belfast, brings London advices to the evening of the 12th, and Paris the 11th ult. inclusive. We select from the Evening Post, commercial and Journal of Commerce.

The news from the Netherlands is interesting. There does not seem to exist any disposition among the inhabitants of Brussels to meet the King in half way measures, or to acknowledge his authority in any manner. In one of the paragraphs which will be found among our extracts, it is stated that a deputy from the provisional government of Belgium to Paris, authorized to make an offer of alliance with France, received an unfavorable answer from that government, which expressed its determination to enter into no measure that might disturb the general tranquility of Europe.

The ex-ministers of the ex-king of France seem likely to escape the punishment of death for their political offences. A debate took place in the Chamber of Deputies on the evening of the 8th of October, on the subject of the total and immediate abolition of the punishment of death, which ended in the adoption of an amendment, proposing that the Chamber should address the King in order to obtain from him the proposition of a law to abolish capital punishment for a great number of specified offences especially for all political crimes. The amendment was supported by Lafayette. The address was accordingly delivered to Louis Philip, who replied as follows:

"Gentleman—I receive with great satisfaction the address which you have presented to me. The sentiments to which you give expression have been a long time in my heart. Witness, from my earliest years, of the frightful abuse of the punishment of death in political matters, and of all the evils which have resulted from it to France and humanity, I have constantly & warmly advocated its abolition. The remembrance of these times of disaster, and the melancholy feelings which oppress me when I turn my thoughts to them, will afford you a sure pledge of the eagerness with which I shall hasten to lay before you a project of law conformable to your views. With respect to mine, they will never be completely fulfilled until we have entirely effaced from our code all those rigours and penalties at which humanity and the present state of society revolt."

It seems probable that the great popularity of the King, and the deserved influence of Lafayette's opinions, will have a tendency to reconcile the people of Paris to the object immediately intended by this proposed measure. The London Sun, speaking on the subject, says—"The question will now be looked upon by the French people, as the King's own, as one in which he is personally interested; and we doubt not his excessive popularity will enable him to carry it through. Still it cannot be denied that a vast mass of the population are bent on seeing the severest measures of justice dealt out to the Ex-Ministers, and that in the event of their disappointment, much acrimonious party spirit will be brought into play."

The Dutch portion of the Province of Zealand, on the left bank of the Scheld, is in a state of insurrection. The Brabant tri-color has been hoisted at Eeluce and many other parts of the country called Caszand.

England, France & the Netherlands.—A London evening paper of Oct. 13, says:—"The private letters received this morning from Paris by the express, from the highest quarter, are of a most favorable description in regard to the existing friend-

ship between England and the King of the French, as they are determined to adhere to a strict neutrality with regard to Belgium, and their endeavours will be by mediation to maintain a general peace throughout Europe."

AFFAIRS OF SPAIN.

The following paragraphs, from different sources, serve to corroborate each other, and would be entitled to full credit, but for some circumstances which tend to invalidate their testimony.

BAYONNE, October 5.—It is officially stated that Cadiz has declared itself independent of the Spanish government! This news arrived here last night, and has been confirmed to day by the courier, a telegraph despatch forwards this news to Paris.

LONDON, Oct. 11.—Madrid letters, dated 27th of last month, state that an extraordinary express, directed to the Minister of War, arrived in the preceding night at Madrid, with the intelligence of the city of Cadiz having risen in favor of Liberty. Our Madrid correspondent reports the news, as it was generally known on the morning of the 27th, but we have received further information from Paris, by which it appears that Colonel Puensa, ex-minister of war, and ex-Gefe-Politico of Malaga, headed the movement. They have been, it is added, backed by the military force within the walls of Cadiz.

Letters from Cadiz of Sept. 23d, make no mention of a revolutionary movement in that city. Captain Bradford, of the brig Plato, at Boston, who left St. Sebastian on the 15th Oct. represents the country to have been in a state of great excitement, but does not allude directly to disturbances in Cadiz. St. Sebastian is only 22 miles from Bayonne.

BAYONNE, Oct. 3.—The regency is definitely established here. There has been a general assembly of chiefs: Mina was present.

The Spanish Frontiers in Spain are tolerably well supplied with royal regular troops, under the command of General Ivanito, commandant of the Avante Guard. It is stated, however, that the troops are very favorable to the constitutional party, but they are nevertheless afraid of compromising themselves by their acts.

At Bayonne the armaments and equipments are carrying on with activity, but still all is done in secret. The soldiers only at present are being equipped. The officers are delaying. Many believe that the matter will be arranged, and that Ferdinand VII. will abdicate—others wait for the orders of a chief. In the meantime the great body of the army of the refugees is getting ready with activity.

JUNCTION OF BELGIUM WITH FRANCE.

We have received the following information connected with the affairs of the Netherlands: "M. Gendebien, the gentleman deputed by the provincial Government of Brussels to make an offer of an alliance with France, has had interviews with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and others, but has been most unsuccessful. He was informed that, with whatever satisfaction the French Government might view the prospect of increased friendly relations with the Belgians, it would only be as connected with the general tranquillity of Europe, which would be endangered by annexing the territory of Belgium to France, or placing it under the special protection of the latter country." It was in consequence of the bad success of M. Gendebien's mission, that the provisional Government of Brussels issued a proclamation declaring Belgium an independent State. Under what form of government, and what chief this state is to be placed, is now the point of interest: the objections in other quarters to its being independent, are not we believe such as to cause any serious obstacle to the settlement of the question.—London Courier, Oct. 11th.

The Belgic provinces are now busied in preparing a Constitution for themselves. The proposal from the Prince of Orange, in a Proclamation from Antwerp, has come too late. The Belgians pay no regard to the promises of a House, who first tried to rule them as a province conquered by the sword, and who, when the attempt has been thrown back, with disgrace on the head that originated it, would now make offers of reconciliations and concessions, which they cannot withhold. The Prince calls on the Belgians to accept a separate Constitution, with himself at their head: they will form a constitution for themselves, but the House of Nassau shall have nothing to do with its formation. The Provisional Government are taking the necessary measures for settling their own affairs. They will have an independent government whether monarchical or republican, is not yet known; most probably republican.

ANTWERP, Oct. 8th.—The Prince of Orange has issued a second proclamation, publishing the names of the provisional Government, all of whom are Belgians, and inviting all the deputies to the States General belonging to these provinces to meet him here, to deliberate on the affairs of the country. These measures seem to give general satisfaction, and have even been well received in Brussels.