

# Fayetteville Gazette.

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[JUSTITIAM SPECULAMUR.]—(No. 38.)

## A MINUTE & CIRCUMSTANTIAL ACCOUNT OF THE EXECUTION OF LOUIS XVI. KING OF THE FRENCH.

PARIS, Jan. 22.

CONFORMABLY to the arrangements made yesterday by the Council, LOUIS was yesterday taken to the Temple.

Five citizens, of known reputation and ability, acquainted with the military exercises, and having each furnished bonds of their own, were chosen from each section to form a guard of twelve hundred men, who accompanied the unfortunate monarch to the place of execution. Marshal Sarron commanded.

At twelve o'clock on Monday morning, the King went to take a farewell of the Council and Royal family. After saying some time and taking a very affectionate farewell of them, the King descended from the Tower to the Temple, and entered the Mayor's carriage, with his Confessor and two Members of the Municipality, and passed slowly along the Boulevards which led from the Temple to the place of execution. All women were prohibited from appearing in the streets, and all persons from being seen at their windows. A strong guard closed the procession.

The greatest tranquillity prevailed in every street through which the procession passed. At half past nine, the King arrived at the place of execution, which was in the *Place de Louis XV.* between the pedestal which formerly supported the statue of his grand father, and the promenade of the Elysian Fields. Louis mounted the scaffold with composure and the most intrepidity peculiar to a monarch of his rank, and amidst the sound of drums beating all the while.

He made a sign of wishing to examine the multitude, when the drums ceased, and Louis spoke these few words: *I die content; I pardon my enemies; I justify upon conscience the civil constitution of the clergy.* He was proceeding, but the beating of drums drowned his voice. His executioners then laid hold of him, and in an instant after his head was separated from his body; this was about a quarter past ten o'clock.

The place de la Revolution was so strongly guarded by Troops, that no person was suffered to pass after the King had entered it.

The King was attended on the scaffold by an Abbé Priest, his Confessor, not being accompanied by any who had taken the National Oath. He was dressed in a brown great coat, white waistcoat, and black breeches, and his hair was powdered.

After his death, the nearest spectators divided among them what of his hair had been cut off by the guillotine! and several persons were so inhuman as to dip their handkerchiefs in his blood, which they afterwards carried about, crying, "Behold the blood of a Tyrant!"

When the executioners showed his head to the people, cries of "Vive la Nation! Vive la Republique!" were heard on all sides, and several groups made use of the following expressions: "We always wished well to him, but he never wished well to us!" Many, however, shewed emotions of a different nature, but which they were obliged to conceal, as much as possible, for their own personal safety.

His body was transported to the parish Church of La Madalane, when it was interred without any insult being offered to it, between the persons who lost their lives during the illuminations on account of his marriage, and the Swiss who fell on the 10th of August.

Louis, before his departure from the Temple, delivered to the Commissioners of the Council General, who were upon guard his latter will; two copies of which he had written on the 26th of December, 1792.

Thousand livres (1201 sterling)

were found in his apartments at the Temple, which were sent to the Council General of the Commons.

In a will which Louis is said to have left behind him, written with his own hand, we understand the recapitulation his justification.

Within the King's desk in the Temple has been found a paper, containing a sum in specie of about four thousand livres, directed by himself to M. Malesherbes—it was all his riches he had in the world, which however has not been given to the Council, as they were to be distributed to the poor of the city.

When M. de Malesherbes announced to Louis the fatal sentence of Death, "Ah!" exclaimed the Monarch, "I shall then at length be delivered from this cruel situation." For the moment he was thoughtful, walking across the room; by noon he was calm; and in the evening had recovered his cheerfulness.

Louis addressed M. Malesherbes, that his wife and children, though as a citizen on the subject as himself, "which," said he, "tends much to increase my happiness; all my agitation of mind is for my son."

The decree imported that Louis should be beheaded in the *Place de Carrouai*, but reasons of public safety induced the Executive Council to prefer the *Place de Revolution*, formerly the *Place de Louis XV.*

Since the decree of death was issued, a general consternation had prevailed throughout Paris; the Sons of the Law are the only persons that rejoice. The honest citizens in general, within their habitations, could not suppress their heart felt griefs, and no man in private with their families, the murder of their much-loved Sovereign.

*Extract of a private letter from Paris, by a gentleman who was a spectator to the Execution of Louis XVI.*

"I have been a spectator to one of the most tragical sights that ever my eyes witnessed; but the circumstance was of too much importance to allow me to be absent from the spectacle. Upwards of Sixty Thousand horse and foot were on duty.

"The Mayor's carriage being arrived at the place of execution, drew up close to the scaffold. The two executioners approached the coach. The King, and his confessor then got out of it. The King, on moving the scaffold, instantly took off his stock himself, as well as his great coat, and undressed his shirt collar. His hair had been plucked up close like an Abbe's, in order that no indignity might be offered him or that he should occasion any by hanging loose. The executioners went to tie up his arms, which the King resisted at, but it was soon done.—The executioner then took up a large pair of scissors to cut off his hair. The King appeared mortified at what was doing, and said, "I have put all right." The executioner, however, cut the hair off.

"His Majesty then said, "I pardon my enemies.—May my death be useful to the nation."—The executioners then placed him to be beheaded; the King recoiled, and said—"Another moment, that I may speak to the people." The Aide de Camp to the Commandant Sarron, then said to Henri Sanson, the executioner, "Do your duty." The wedge then slipped, and his head was instantly off. Two minutes after the head was shewn to the people, and, with the body, thrown into a long basket, and taken to the Churchyard of St. Madalane, where it was immediately buried.

"The time of the arrival of the carriage at the scaffold, to the King's mounting, was precisely ten minutes, and six minutes after he was executed; for very particular orders had been given, that as little time as possible should be employed in the execution. In nine minutes after, the body was removed.

"From a particular acquaintance with some of the Municipal Officers, I learn, that on the Thursday preceeding the execution, the King was permitted to see the Queen, for the first time for a month. It was in the presence of the

Municipal Officers, Louis said to the Queen—"I am told the Convention has condemned me to death.—I exhort you to prepare yourself for the like fate.—I pray you to bear up the minds of our children to meet the like sacrifice, for we shall be all victims."

"A cold silence reigns in the public streets of Paris; but all the play houses are open, and the city is illuminated every night, as if the French wished to make their wickedness more visible.

The end of the life of Louis XVI. during a period of four years detention; during which he experienced from his subjects every species of ignominy and cruelty, which a people could inflict on the most sanguinary tyrant. Louis XVI. who was proclaimed, at the commencement of his reign, the friend of the people, and by the constituent Assembly, the restorer of their liberties—Louis, who but a few years since, was the most powerful monarch in Europe, has at last perished on the scaffold. Neither his own natural goodness of heart, his desire to procure the happiness of his subjects, nor that intense love which the French entertained for their Monarch, has been sufficient to save him from this fatal judgment.

Long is the habit of supporting the virtues of his unhappy Victim of savage Republicanism; and steady in perfecting a lecture that his highest ambition was the happiness of his people, we hold our tongues, from the universal indignation which has marked the last act of a man exercised against him, to pay our glowing tribute to his memory, and join with the united nations of Europe, in supplicating the wraith of Heaven, and the vengeance of mankind, to extend to his unnatural murderers the most exemplary punishment.

Posterity in condemning those infamous men who have sacrificed Louis to the fury and ambition of the vilest of men, will extend their censures further; and in the warmth of virtuous indignation, will not refrain from blasting the memory of that Minister (Nackar,) who, to gratify a selfish veracity, directed the Royal victim, to make the first step towards that precipice, from the brink of which he is now precipitated.

Posterity will condemn those Members of the Constituent Assembly, who, seduced by the meteor of false philosophy, readily bent under the bonds of popular subordination; tore down the pillars of monarchy and religion, and left Louis defenceless, forsaken and abandoned to those hoods of monsters, who under the different appellation of Legislative assemblies, clubs and Sections, have inflicted upon their miserable victims a thousand agonizing deaths and apprehensions before they delivered him up to the axe of the executioner.

The perpetrators of such crimes may proceed in their career, till they draw the same punishment upon themselves. The virtue of every country will bedew with sensibility, the memory of a good and pious King; whilst the happy tears of the first Revolutionists shall disperse themselves with the hypocritical complaints of the new Republicans upon the precipitancy of the King's execution.

Unquestionable, the blood of the unfortunate Monarch will invoke vengeance on his murderers. This is not the cause of Monarchs only, it is the cause of every nation on the face of the earth.—All potentates owe it to their individual honor, but still more strongly to the happiness of the people collectively, to crush these savage societies in their dens, which aim at the ruin of all nations, and the destruction of all Governments. It is not by feeble efforts only, that we can hope to exterminate those inhuman wretches.—Experience has proved them to be invulnerable.—Armed with fire and sword, we must penetrate effectually into this land of blood and carnage. Louis might still have been living, had neighboring Princes acted with that energy and expedition which the case required.

Louis XVI. was born August 23 1754; married April 19, 1770. Ma-

dame Antonette was born Nov. 2, 1755. Their daughter Marie Therese Antoinette, was born Dec. 19, 1782; their son, March 27, 1785. Let private men, who may be repining at the seeming cruelty of fate, think of the destinies of this people, and let them bless God and be thankful! This terrible lot which that Louis is dead!—By the most simple efforts of the most ordinary virtues—by truth, moderation, fraternity, and peace—he is an object for history to hang over with grateful admiration.—The father of the people—The friend of the neighboring nations—A benefactor and a model of mankind.

The last request, of the unfortunate Louis breathes the soul of magnanimity, and a mind enlightened in the finest ideas of human virtues. He appears not to be that man which his enemies reported. His heart found—his head was clear—and would have reigned with glory, had he but possessed those faults which his assassins laid to his charge. He never possessed the foggetions of wisdom; and even in his last moments, when the spirit of life winged for another world, his lips gave utterance to them and he spoke with firmness and resolution.

It is a curious circumstance, that the month of January should be fatal to two great Monarchs.—Charles I. was found guilty on the 25th of January 1649. by the pretended High Court of James—Louis XVI. on January 17th—on the 27th Charles received sentence of death. Sunday the 20th Louis received sentence of death.—The 30th Charles was beheaded—the 21st Louis was beheaded 145 years 19 days between their murders.

The late unfortunate Louis XVI. was the first King that humanely interposed, and released his subjects from abject slavery. In the year 1788, he totally abolished the *parlement of Paris*, which was in practice there from the earliest. He also allotted Council to all criminals, being the first indulgence ever granted them; and examined that no sentence of death be passed on any person, except found guilty by two thirds of his judges, although a majority of one judge was to acquit. Besides the acts of clemency, to shew his disinterestedness, and to destroy all temptation of perverting justice, he decreed that no forfeiture, in case the accused was found guilty, should take place, but from the day of sentence, and not from the day of which the crime was committed. Ill-fated Monarch! whose first and principal care was the restoring to freedom, increasing the wealth, and easing the burthens of his subject, and who in return, in the course of four years, was not only reviled persecuted and imprisoned, but at last, brought to an untimely death.—A lamentable instance of the ability of all human greatness! and an example to teach us with what contempt and disregard we should behold all the pomps and vanities of this uncertain life.

### THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF LOUIS XVI.

written by himself.

Read in the sitting of the commons, the 21st of January.

(Literally translated from a Copy received as genuine by the commons and certified by a Municipal Officer to have been compared with the original.)

"In the name of the Holy Trinity, the Father, the son and the Holy Ghost, this day, the 21st of December 1792, I Louis the XVI of the name, King of France, having been for more than four months imprisoned with my family in the Tower of the Temple at Paris, by those who were my subjects, and deprived of all communication whatsoever, ever since the 11th inst. with my own family; moreover being implicated in a trial of which it is impossible to be cleared, on account of the conduct of men, and for which no pretence can be found in any existing law, being only God for the witness of my thoughts, and to whom I cry, myself, I HEREBY DECL...