

TERRIBLE DANTON.

A MISGUIDED BUT LION HEARTED LEADER OF THE PARIS MOB.

His Appeal to the Populace For Support in the Revolution—A Fiery Orator and the Author of the Policy of Terror.

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DANTON, the giant framed and lion hearted revolutionist, met the fate of a blind leader of the blind. He forged the weapon which slew him and fell a victim to that insatiable thirst for blood which he himself had stimulated, although at

times he had tried to stay the slaughter. Danton's debut as a revolutionist was brought about through his espousal of the cause of Marat, who had been marked by the government for persecution. Danton was the leading spirit of the Cordeliers club, which was in a quarrel with the Paris municipality. When Marat was threatened and forced to quit Paris, the Cordeliers took up the case, and Danton's eloquence succeeded in carrying it before the national assembly. It was decided against the Cordeliers, but the leader of the club was before the people as a revolutionist.

In Paris the power of the populace was essential to revolutionary success, and Danton looked to the populace rather than to the middle classes and the representatives for support. He got what he asked for, for he was a fiery orator, restless in his energies and with the politician's knack of winning the people's trust and affection. As a man of action Danton first appeared on the scene in the famous attack on the Tuileries and the Swiss guard Aug. 10, 1792. Mirabeau was then dead, and the king had none to defend him among the revolutionists. Soon after the massacre and flight of the king the Prussian army was marching on Paris to take vengeance for the outrage upon royalty, and then Danton cried, "To stop the progress of the enemy we must strike terror to the royalists."

The way was not long in showing itself after the will had been declared openly by one whose word was law. The Paris prisons were filled with political suspects, friends of the king, courtiers in the pay of Austria and Prussia. On the 1st of September Verdun fell into the hands of the enemy, removing another block from the path of the armies coming to restore the monarchy to power and punish Paris for its overthrow. The mob arose, the prison doors were opened, and the first frightful massacre of fellow citizens took place, Danton being foremost in the deed as he had been in the plot to incite terror. The royalists were struck with terror, and the next step was to dispose of the king.

Under the assembly Danton held the office of minister of justice, but on being elected to the national convention soon after the bloody events of August and September he became a leader of the most radical forces in that radical body. He was against the king. Said he: "It is true that we, the people, have no right to be his judges. Very well, we will kill him." And kill him they did.

The next radical step was the establishment of a revolutionary tribunal, a measure proposed by Danton and one he afterward had cause to regret. It began by taking royalist heads and ended in taking Danton's own. Next the committee of safety was organized, with Danton a member, associated with Robespierre against Girondists. The allies were marching upon Paris, and the last bulwark against invasion, Longwy, had yielded to the victorious foe. The ministry proposed to abandon Paris, but Danton said, "No." He went out on the Champ de Mars and enrolled volunteers to stem the invasion, although originally his voice had been against war. His motto for the hour, which became the watchword of revolutionary Paris, was, "Daring, again daring and evermore daring." The volunteers came at his call in troops and battalion, saying, "Yes, we will go to the front, but we will not leave enemies behind us." Then followed a new era of massacres, which Danton, with all his prestige as late minister of justice, Roland and even Marat, the friend and adviser of the people, could not wholly prevent. The populace was mad for blood and in no mood to leave it to the tribunal to deal with traitors.

Strong as he was and courageous, Danton, no more than other leaders of that time, could stand against the tide. He attacked Marat, attempting to draw the line between bloodthirsty radicals and true patriots among the Paris sections. He even hinted that Marat should be made a scapegoat to bear the onus of the excesses charged against the Mountain by the Girondins. But Marat was saved, for the revolutionists could not afford to fly in the faces of the Paris sections which Marat had at his back whenever he could cry out against committees, tribunals, senatorial despotism and the like. The people rebelled against all authority but their own until all else was down, then rebelled against their own acts. Even Danton, with all his lion hearted courage and reason, was swept along in the trail of the hot headed Marat.

The downfall of Danton was precipitated by a storm raised by Marat, which ended in the suppression of the Girondins and finally in Marat's assassi-

nation. The reactionary element, headed by the Girondins, appointed a commission of twelve to examine and report upon the illegal acts of the commune, the stronghold of Marat's influence, in fact, of the revolution in its essence.

Marat organized opposition in the commune, and all the radical clubs, including Danton's Cordeliers and the Jacobins, took alarm and held permanent session. Marat went into the national convention and moved on behalf of the commune the suppression of the commission of twelve as a dangerous counter revolutionary body. He gave his reason for demanding the suppression that its continuance threatened to provoke insurrection. When Marat sat down, a deputation from one of the interior sections of the commune presented itself and demanded not only the suppression of the commission, but the trial of its members before the revolutionary tribunal.

The message of the communist deputies to the convention ended with these significant words: "The sections would know how to save the republic of themselves if forced to do it." This called the president of the convention, a moderate, to his feet. Said he: "If the convention were outraged through any of those disturbances in Paris which have been so frequent since the 10th of March and which within the last week have become a daily occurrence in all quarters of the city; if they should take the shape of even an attempt to coerce the national representation, I tell you in the name of the whole of France that Paris will be annihilated. Yes, France will take such vengeance on the guilty city that it will soon be necessary to inquire on which bank of the Seine the capital once stood."

This was the moment of Danton's pre-eminence in the revolutionary councils, and he towered above Robespierre only to rouse his envy and become marked for the guillotine. The assembly broke out in an uproar, and Danton's voice was heard above the tumult, shouting in the face of the president: "This impudence is beginning to be too much for us! We shall resist you! Let there be no more truce between the Mountain and the cowards who have wished to save the tyrant!"

Danton had previously posed as a moderate, and even later, when it became war to the death between Girondin and Jacobin, he tried to save the Girondins. But the limit had been reached, and the end was that the president was forced from his chair and a close friend of Danton elevated in his place. A vote was taken which suppressed the obnoxious commission of twelve. Danton, Robespierre and Marat, with the mayor of Paris, began the organization of the communists for general insurrection. This was the end of the Girondins. Thirty-two members of that faction were arrested, and the remainder fled the city.

All France was thrown into a tumult, and it became a struggle with Paris against the whole country. Danton fought with Robespierre against the Girondins until it came to the point of killing them, when his old temper of moderation again mastered him. But Robespierre had cast the die and even at last sacrificed his colleague, an ally forced upon him by circumstances and one he had always secretly hated.

Branded as a moderate, Danton was seized and thrown into prison. Some of the convention tried to save his life, but it was decreed that "in the name of virtue terror is irrevocably the order of the day." The charge against Danton was that he was the accomplice of the enemies of the republic, the very men he had helped to destroy, and he was



"WE MUST STRIKE TERROR TO THE ROYALISTS."

not allowed to put in a defense. He was a victim to that tribunal he had founded. He treated his judges with contempt, calling them "Cains" and lamenting the disorder he left around him.

On learning his sentence he said: "We fall victims to contemptible cowards, but they will not long enjoy their victory. Robespierre follows me. I drag him after me." To the executioner he said: "Show my head to the crowd. It is worth their seeing."

GEORGE L. KILMER.

Will Live Under Water.

Countess de Montagne is said to have become weary of the world and that society in which she was a brilliant leader and to have made up her mind that she will renounce the ordinary pleasures of life. So, having plenty of money and the gift of invention, the countess is busy preparing to seek seclusion beneath the surface of the Mediterranean in the submarine dwelling she is having built. The countess knows that the gossips of the Paris boulevards when they relate her story call her Le Mystere; hence she has given her boat that name.

A Monster Octopus.

An octopus which had been in a fight with some other monster once drifted ashore on the Malay peninsula. He had feelers or arms which were from 12 to 17 feet long, and he weighed altogether 550 pounds. It was calculated that he was big enough and strong enough to drag a two ton fishing boat under the surface by main strength.

COUNTRY HIGHWAYS.

POINTS AS TO MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT.

Much Can Be Accomplished by Intelligent Supervision—Road Guards Suggested—Useless Repair Material—Road Machines.

There is no question that so vexes the minds of the executive officers of our country towns as that of how to best care for the public roads, says C. P. Augur of Connecticut in New England Homestead. They know that only a certain amount of money will be appropriated for the purpose, and they are well aware that they will be held to a strict account for its expenditure. Except in a few instances, where isolated patches of improved roads are laid down with the help of the state appropriation, the work is very imperfectly done, and the material used is worthless for the purpose. Often the men in charge of road repairs know that the slipshod methods employed are poor economy, but the fear of adverse criticism, perhaps loss of office, if this year's expenditure exceeds that



A VILLAGE HIGHWAY.

of last year causes them to do that which makes a show of repairing, but which in the end leaves the roads in worse condition than before repairs were attempted.

My idea of what should be done is to elect at the annual town meeting on alternate years a road supervisor whose term of office shall be for two years unless sooner terminated. Give him the entire charge of the roads, bridges and sluices and pay him a liberal per diem for time necessarily expended.

The first duty of the supervisor should be to appoint a resident road guardian for each section of road, such section not to exceed three miles in extent. The duty of this road guardian shall be not to repair damage, but to prevent it. He should inspect the road under his charge frequently, especially during heavy rains, and see that gutters and sluices are kept open and water bars unbroken. Often ten minutes' work with hoe or shovel at the right moment will save ten hours' work with teams and men. I have recently driven over hundreds of miles of country roads and have observed the great damage done by the spring rains. In nearly every case a little work at the right time could have saved the roads. In the event of any unusual damage the guardian should report promptly to his superior.

The material usually used in repairing country roads is road wash or turf that has grown upon it and is in no sense suitable. The worn pebbles have no power of coherency. They will not bind, and the organic matter of turf is productive only of mud or dust.

There is no road so pleasant to ride upon as a well made, well drained, well graded dirt road. Once settled into place it will last in good condition for years if frequently looked after. On heavy soils it will, of course, be muddy when the frost is coming out, but that is only for a short period, and the pleasure of riding on it free from noise and dust at other seasons compensates for a good deal of springtime annoyance.

It is not practicable to harden all country roads, and if the road is well drained and the gutters and sluices kept open it is not desirable. A clattering stone road takes away much of the charm of a country drive, to say nothing of the annoyance to dwellers thereon. Sometimes, if gravel is readily available, it is economy to surface a damp dirt road with a four inch coat. This will keep all light vehicles out of the mud, even in springtime, and unless very heavy teams pass over it will last for years. Wet places that cannot be successfully drained should be filled with a telford pavement and from six to eight inches of gravel placed over it.

All gutters and sluices should be large enough to take the rainfall at its greatest excess, and the failure to have them so is a frequent source of damage and consequent expense. To summarize, put your roads into the best condition possible with the means available and then give them constant attention rather than neglect them for 11 months and repair them in one. When you have them in good condition, expend your efforts upon keeping the gutters and sluices open and leave the road itself alone as much as possible. An old, hard roadbed is better than any new, soft one that can be made with earth in any case, and it is far more desirable than the usual agglomeration of road wash leaves and turf.

Better Roads Are Needed. American roads must improve greatly before this country can hope to match French feats with horseless vehicles. Some day we shall have highways such as are enjoyed in France. Then there will be great race records for automobiles on this side of the Atlantic.—Cleveland Leader.

Roads and Rural Delivery. The determination of the postoffice department not to establish rural free delivery where the roads are bad will deprive many farming communities of the benefits of the system. There are innumerable bad roads in the United States.

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Our new fall stuffs are arriving daily, case after case and bale after bale. Never have we opened such a variety of

Choice Fall and Winter Fabrics AS ARE NOW BEING SHOWN.

THE STYLES this fall are elegant—not loud, flashy ones, but, plain weaves and quiet coloring which denotes true gentility. The Fashionable Materials for this season's tailor gowns are French Camel's Hair, Zibeline cloth, Satin-faced cloth, Pastel Broadcloth, Serge, Cheviot, Taffetas, and, last and very new, Velvet.

We take pleasure in showing the new weaves as fast as they come in. Watch for our grand FALL OPENING in two weeks.



Gentlemen:

How about a new FALL SUIT? Our Custom Tailoring department is greatly enlarged and strictly up-to-date in every particular. Mr. Tatem, formerly head of Tatem, Man & Co., is in charge of this department. His twenty odd years of experience in this line makes him fully competent to fit any figure.

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SCHEDULE IN EFFECT MAY 26, 1901

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Connections daily at Southern Pines, with all trains for Pinehurst, N. C. 20 minutes by electric cars. Connections at Jacksonville and Tampa for all Florida East Coast points, Cuba and Porto Rico. Connections at New Orleans for all points in Texas, Mexico and California. No. 34 arrives at Portsmouth daily at 7:00 a. m. No. 35 arrives at Portsmouth daily at 5:30 p. m.

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