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STATE OF FRENCH POLITICS,
From the fall of Robespierre, to the 7th
November.

Written in France, and communicated by Cap-
tain Bradford, just arrived at Boston, from
L'Orient.

THE denouncing of Robespierre was an event that affected the French nation, as much as the destruction of the Bastille, or the deposing their King—and the 28th July, 1794, was as great at Paris as the 14th of July 1789, or the 10th August 1792.

The Convention were at their sitting six and thirty hours, and the night between the 27th and 28th, the city of Paris saw two hundred thousand men in arms, ready to fall upon they did not know who.

Robespierre, with his accomplices, Couthon and St. Just, had been sent from the National Convention under arrest; but the keepers of the prisons, were all so much in their interest, that they would not receive them, and during the confusion they escaped their guards, and sought a sanctuary with the municipality of the city, who were assembled and ready to receive and protect them. In the midst of this Assembly of all their friends, they were again arrested, at 12 o'clock at night, by two resolute members of the Convention, accompanied by only a few *gens d'armes*, or national guards. This intrepid band rushed into the hall where the commune were assembled, discharged their pistols at, and wounded the traitor. The bold acts of this attack, together with the fall of their leader, so intimidated the rest, that they made no resistance, but as fast as possible dispersed. A few hours more bro't these principal traitors to the scaffold—and the day after, Cassinal the Mayor, Henriot the commander of the armed force of Paris, and the greatest part of the municipality followed, to lay their heads at the same shrine.

Thus the storm which had gathered with the suddenness, and threatened to be followed with the destruction of the most violent tornado, soon happily abated, and a calm and peaceable scene ensued.

After the destruction of this new tyrant, the National Convention assumed a milder plan of government. *Le Glaiue de la loi* found some respite from its before continued labours.—The people trembled that they had so long blessed the hand that oppressed them; and their execrations of this Nero were every where equal to the blind adoration which they had before paid him; but the general horror which had pervaded all ranks, as well in the Convention, as without, from the continual action of the guillotine, began now to subside—liberty of opinion and speech were renewed, and that confidence between man and man, the basis of social happiness, which had been destroyed by a long train of bloody proceedings, revived as this system of terror abated.

After the convention had cleared away the rubbish of this conspiracy with the heads of the tyrant and his accomplices, they began to purge their committees.—The committee of public safety was new organized, several of its former members excluded, and a decree passed to have their members renewed, a quarter part, monthly, and some of their powers were abridged, the decree authorised them to arrest deputies. The bloody decree of the 22d Prairial was revoked—this decree respected principally the Revolutionary Tribunal, and was passed by the influence of Robespierre, whose sway was absolute—by its death was to be the punishment of every crime, and the accused to be allowed no council or attorney, but a public accuser was established to convict, so that few or none who were brought to this bar, ever returned to their families or friends again. This tribunal, the tyrant had composed of juries and judges, either in his interest, or that dare not act against it, and thus, whoever be fit to destroy, were only accused before this tribunal, and the guillotine dispatched

ed them—not less than thirty or forty victims to this machine of death, bled upon the stage daily at Paris, and the tyrant's bloody mandates produced like scenes in different parts of the Republic. This tribunal was now dissolved, and a new one erected upon a more humane and just establishment, the accused were to be allowed council, and the judges were held, after they had found a person guilty, to declare with what intention the crime had been committed as it was supposed many well affected persons had been led by the intrigues of parties, to act unknowingly against the principles of the revolution—between such and the real enemies of the Republic, it was the wish of the convention to discriminate. The armed force of Paris, which had hitherto been under the command of one person, and which at this crisis had nearly proved fatal to the convention by the commander, Henriot being of Robespierre's party, was now thought too dangerous to be guided by a single individual—this command was therefore, by a decree of the convention, to be invested in a commission of five members.

The 28th August, Barriere, in the name of the committee, created the 12th, to new organize the committee of the convention, made a report, which was adopted. "That there shall be six, seven committees of the National Convention."

About this time, a quarrel began between the National Convention and the Jacobins.—This society, so proud and powerful, received a humiliating stroke in the overthrow of Robespierre, whom they, or at least part of them, endeavored to the last, to support.—Their meetings ceased for several days—they at least came together, and with but an ill grace, solicited the convention upon the fortunate discovery of the conspiracy, and fate of the traitors—and declared themselves ever devoted to the principles of the Revolution and ready at all times, to support the convention, who, upon this occasion, had proved themselves the guardians and saviors of the Republic.—This show of friendship, however, had but a short duration—they had lost their popularity; and the convention had gained it—this was sufficient to give place to envy—and they took the first opportunity to find fault with the proceedings of that body, which they wished to rival. The convention, among many other acts to loosen the rigors which had marked the proceedings of the late faction, had opened the prison doors, and set at liberty great numbers of persons whom Robespierre had caused to be arrested; and who only waited their turn to bleed at the guillotine. At this act of lenity, the Jacobins began bitterly to complain; they declared that the enemies of the Republic, were restored to liberty—that aristocracy and moderation, began every where to raise their audacious heads; and inveighed against the convention, for discontinuing these severe, but salutary measures, which had conducted the revolution thus far, which kept its enemies in due subjection, and which alone could save the Republic. They addressed the other Popular Societies in, and about Paris, and called upon them to be upon their guard against these moderate measures, and pretty boldly intimated, that there was a new faction forming in the convention, which, under the pretence of rooting up the seeds of the old, were in fact endeavoring to establish a worse upon its ruins—and that they had adopted this mild plan, as the most likely to serve their ends, whilst the passions of the people were warm against that party who had moved in the opposite extreme. They received, or pretended to receive, and published addresses from a great number of societies, in different parts of the Republic, which declared themselves devoted to the Jacobins, and joining them in protesting, that the new proceeding, only favored the aristocrats, and that these even began to oppress the Patriots—they were however accused of framing these adresses

themselves. On the other hand, the convention were daily receiving the thank of the people, from all parts, in addresses for their vigilance, in discovering, and activity, in suppressing the monstrous conspiracy; and highly approving of the justice, and humanity of the new plan of proceedings they had adopted, particularly commending their prompt attention to the suffering of their fellow-citizens, whom the tyranny of the late conspirators had dragged to prison—and declared themselves ever devoted to the Representatives of the nation—that the convention was their only point of rallyment, and desiring them to remain at their posts, during the Revolution.

It must be noted that a number of the members of the Convention were also members of this society of Jacobins, and these forming a party in the Convention, had denominated themselves the Mountain. Robespierre was the head of this party, and the Jacobin society its supporters, and by way of derision they called the rest of the Convention, the frogs of the mudpuddle, or of the morals; so much were they below the Mountain. The fall of Robespierre had reverted the scene, and this oppressed part of the National Assembly, become the most powerful—and in order to harmonize the members among themselves, the convention decreed there should be no distinction of parties in their body, and that the name of Mountain should not hereafter be mentioned. The Jacobins however began to rally round the Mountain, which they were determined should not so be crushed—and still ridiculed the other party under the name of the frogs, who they said were raising their heads above the mud; but it was only that they might be the easier cut off—Barrere, and Collot D'Herbois were suspected of being parties of the late conspiracy, and several hints had been thrown out against them in the Convention—at last la Cointre, de Versailles, publicly accused them, and brought forward an act of denunciation against them, with four other members of the Convention, Billaud Varrennes, Vadier, Amar, and David—his accusation contained 27 articles; none of which the Convention thought were supported, and these members were acquitted, and the accusation decreed calumnious.

About the first of September, the Jacobins expelled Tallien, (one of the National Assembly, and the principal one in denouncing Robespierre) from their society, and a night or two after, this member was assaulted in the street by an assassin, who discharged a pistol at and wounded him in the shoulder; the wound proved not desperate, and it was not long before he was able to take his seat in the convention again. The Jacobins were accused of being at the bottom of this, and they did not see fit to deny it; but rather made sport of the event, and cast several occasional sarcasms on the wounded member. These two bodies now came to open war. The Jacobins declared that the convention favoured and protected Aristocrats and Royalists, and suffered these to oppress the true Patriots; they invited the other Popular societies to protest against these proceedings, and to withdraw their confidence from all who blindly acquiesced in them. And they resolved to hold no farther correspondence with any society, whose cry was VIVE LA CONVENTION. This produced a new movement in the National Assembly:—Merlin, de Thionville, denounced the society of Jacobins as a dangerous and turbulent body, accomplices of Robespierre, who though they had assisted in overturning the throne, now when there was no throne to destroy, were endeavoring to destroy the Representative body of the nation. He denounced them as reeking with the blood of innocent victims which had been sacrificed under the late tyrant, and as desiring them to bring back the reign of terror which the Convention had so happily dispersed. The Convention