

THE MINERVA.

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Payable in Advance.

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Conspiracy against Louis XVIII.

We have for some time heard of the late conspiracy against the Emperor Napoleon, against the life of the Prince whose rights he has usurped. By the arrival of the ship Jane, Capt. Colby, from Liverpool, we have received the London Sun to the 20th and the Liverpool Standard of the 23d August. From the former we extract the particulars of this mean design to murder, on the 23d of July, the Emperor, but as many of the family and adherents as they could reach, with a promise to the assassin who should attempt and execute the design, to pay him in proportion to the number killed. — Of this plot the French Agent was the chief.

From the London Sun, August 20.
On the 23d of July, the Baron de Milleville Esquire to the Queen of France, disclosed to the Duke De Pommé, the Plot, as it had been denominated to him by a person of the name of Coulon, a Frenchman, a native of Lyons, who after having been in the service of the said Baron De Milleville, had married a Polish woman, and settled at Warsaw, where he kept a billiard table. — This man stated, that on the preceding Friday, the 23d, two persons came to his billiard room, and made many enquiries of him, relative to the King, and his own situation; that the following day they returned and made fresh enquiries respecting Louis XVIII. They wished, they said, to know whether his Majesty went out often—by what number of men he was usually accompanied—and whether his attendants were scrupulous? They then asked Coulon whether he himself was in debt, and whether he would not be glad to find an opportunity to obtain immediately a considerable sum of money for a particular service. Being answered in the affirmative, they offered to him, that as he was known to the persons belonging to the household of the King, he might easily obtain admission into the kitchen, and if he consented to throw a little powder which would be given to him, his father would be made: 400 Louis d'ors would be given to him in the first instance, and one hundred more for every individual of the royal family who might die in the course of a twelve month. They added that he was not to trouble himself about his wife, for they would see her safely to France; and when they were about to part, he heard them say in Italian, "we have no time to lose: the day is come when we ought to strike."

On the following day (Sunday the 22d), after many visits from them, another ruffian whom Coulon had not before seen, called on him in the evening, and requested him to take a walk with him, in order that they might speak more freely on a subject of great concern, which had been mentioned to him the preceding day; in the course of their walk they were met by one of the two who had first opened the project to Coulon. They enquired, whether he was decided to prepare the deed?—Coulon answered "Yes," upon which they went to a house, and there they ordered Champagne wine, and gave him additional instructions respecting the manner of executing the plot, advising him to drink with the cook, &c. Coulon informed on receiving some money, on account of the 400 Louis which had been promised him, upon which one of the ruffians, who was in liquor, "I don't know whether Boyer (the name of the commercial agent at Warsaw) would consent to give so large a sum," his companion commencing this indiscretion, replied, "why do you mention Boyer; he is not in town; he will not return these two days." At last they gave him a ducat to drink with the cook, & made an appointment for the following night, when they were to give him the parcel which was to be thrown into the boiler.

They parted at one o'clock in the morning. The same day (Sunday) Coulon disclosed the plot to the Baron de Milleville and the Duke de Pommé, by whom it was communicated to Comte d'Avary, captain of the guards to Louis XVIII, who hastened to inform M. De Hoym, president of the Chamber and governor of the town, of the circumstance, who had orders from his Prussian Majesty for superintending all the concerns and safety of the French royal family.

At first the president Hoym received the information with the most feeling emotion, and promised to mount his horse, and repair

personally either to the place of rendezvous fixed by the ruffians to give the poison to Coulon, or to the spot appointed for paying him the money and setting off for France. He also promised to send persons to secure the whole gang, and Coulon himself, in case he should have forged the story in order to obtain the reward. The sensibility of the president Hoym, was highly increased by the alarming reports which were spread every day, of plots to take away the life of the king, at the eve of his departure for Russia.

The 23d of July, Coulon being ordered by the Baron de Milleville, went to the appointed spot, at a place called the New Village, situated in the middle of the lines which surround Warsaw, there he was joined by one of the men, and soon after by another, who was concealed in a corn field, and who actually delivered him the parcel, and a bottle of liquor for his own use. They agreed upon a signal, by which they were to know when the deed had been effected. They told him that when it had been executed, he might repair to a place called Les Cinq Potences, where he would be joined by his employers, and taken to France with his wife; and in case they could not meet there, he was to go to Siokayer, where he would find them at the post-master's house, and that he should there receive the 400 Louis. Upon his asking for some money, they gave him only six crowns, alleging that they had been already cheated more than once.

The president Hoym, however, afraid of committing his master with the French Emperor, declined either to go or send to the appointed spot, contrary to his promise. Coulon delivered the parcel and the bottle to M. De Milleville, on the 24th, in the morning. The Comte d'Avary went at ten o'clock to M. De Hoym's and presented him the parcel, which contained three barrels charged with arsenic. M. De Hoym, from excess of fear, refused to interfere any further in the business, saying, it should be referred to the police office; and even refused to affix his seal to the parcel, which was sealed by the Archbishop of Rheims, and the Comte d'Avary.

On that day Louis the XVIIIth was informed of the plot. His Majesty expressed the greatest and the most tender solicitude for his faithful servants, but displayed an unalterable tranquillity of mind with respect to his own personal safety. He wrote to the President Hoym, who did not wait on his Majesty till the following day, and then confined himself to vague assurances that the business should be followed up with activity by the Police Officers.

A formal demand was made by the King, that a report should be made by an assembly of professional men, respecting the contents of the parcel; which demand being answered in an evasive manner, the king ordered that the parcel should be opened and examined before his own physician, M. Le Faire, aided by Gagariewich; the most eminent and respectable physician of Warsaw, Dr. Bergenson, and Dr. Guitell, an Apothecary. One of the carrots being opened, was found perfectly sound, the upper part being covered with a kind of mastic or paste, of a color similar to that of the root, the middle part was found to contain a powder, which, after a chymical operation, was discovered to be a mixture of three different sorts of arsenic, one white, another yellow, and another red. The Process Verbal was signed by all present, and the parcel sealed again, and sent to the Police office with all the necessary documents. Upon application being made by the king to M. De Lily, chief magistrate, for a prosecution to be instituted, that officer, actuated by the same fears as M. De Hoym, declined to interfere, or even to order the suspected persons to be apprehended, observing that it did not concern the tribunal of criminal justice, and that the law of the country did not permit him to arrest any person who had not actually been convicted of a crime!

M. Le Comte De La Chapelle was left at Warsaw with full powers to prosecute the business before the Criminal Tribunal. The king left Warsaw, on the 30th, on his way to Grodno with the Duke D'Angouleme. M. De Hoym granted his Majesty an escort of hussars, who had strict orders not to quit his royal person, until they had committed him to the care of a similar escort of Russians, who awaited his arrival on the frontiers. The Queen and the dutchess De Angouleme only remain at Warsaw, until they receive instructions from his Majesty to join him at Wclna, as soon as he has settled in that city.

Another account states, that his most christian Majesty intended to have left Warsaw on the 25th ult. but this scandalous affair, and some other circumstances, prevented it. Having informed the Prussian commander of the day of the departure, his Majesty was told, "that it would be more agreeable to his master, if the Count De Lille (Louis XVIII.) could wait some days until further instructions could be obtained from Berlin." The king of France then asked, if he had orders to prevent his departure? and demanded to see him, adding, that if none were produced, his Majesty was determined to quit that city immediately, and nothing but open force should prevent him from doing so. A bow was the only answer of the Prussian commander, and Louis XVIII. left Warsaw on the 30th of last month, at 7 o'clock in the morning, accompanied by his Queen, by the Duke and dutchess of Angouleme, and all persons attached to him, with the exception of Count De La Chapelle, his Majesty's minister of the war department, who remains behind until the answer of the king of Prussia is obtained, and it is known whether these poisoners, members of Bonaparte's secret police, who hitherto, under the protection of his commercial commissary Boyer, continue at large, and are in his house, are to enjoy that impunity which their employer, Bonaparte enjoys himself, and promises his accomplices. His most christian Majesty is gone no further than Grodno, where a Russian courier is expected, whose arrival will fix his future place of residence.

ROYAL NEGOCIATION.

From a late London Paper.

Last year a proposition was made, thro' the medium of the king of Prussia, to his Majesty Louis XVIII. to renounce his rights to the throne of France in favor of Buonaparte. Upon that occasion his royal highness Monsieur, brother to the king of France and Navarre, published and distributed among the emigrant nobility and clergy, and several members of the diplomatic corps, a declaration, stating the offer made to Louis XVIII. his Majesty's dignified refusal, & the adhesion of the several branches of the Bourbon family to that determination. That statement appeared in the Star of the 26th of July, 1803; but at that time a part only of this interesting transaction was known to the publick. With the reasons urged by the Prussian Agent, the President De Meyer, in support of the proposition, and the noble and generous letter of the king of France to the king of Prussia, which we this day lay before our readers, we were then unacquainted.—They will no doubt be read with interest by those who are not insensible to the sufferings of unfortunate princes, and who detest the unprincipled means by which the Corsican usurper adds insult to injustice.

STATE PAPERS.

LOUIS XVIII, THE KING OF PRUSSIA, AND BONAPARTE.

Friday, the 25th of February, 1803, the King was informed by M. Abbe Edgeworth, the M. the President de Meyer, who arrived from Berlin, was charged with a mission to him upon the part of his Majesty the King of Prussia. The object of this mission was to obtain the renunciation, full and entire of the whole house of Bourbon to the throne of France, as also to all the denominations which they had possessed.—At the price of this sacrifice, Bonaparte would secure to them indemnities, & even a brilliant state of life.—(Existence.)

Saturday morning, the 26th, the King received M. the President de Meyer. After assurances of tender interest, which his Prussian Majesty felt for M. the Count de Leland and his family, M. the President explained the subject of his mission.—"He observed that Bonaparte had not overturned the throne of France; that he had had part in the horrors of the revolution; that he had put an end to it; he expatiated upon the good he had done for France, and evil for all Europe.

"He said, that the revolution was conspired more by factions within, than by without. All reaction was impossible, because a period of repose is wanted, every where are felt interests created by it, incompatible with the return to the ancient order of things: religion has consecrated the new; the sovereigns of Europe have acknowledged it: political system, common to all nations is established upon this case, and things will maintain it from conscience, from duty, from interest.

"The consequence was, that the house of Bourbon remained without support, and without means of existence for the future; because the favors which they have received from Russia may at least fail the children and successors of the Count de Lisle; that in a few years Bonaparte would no longer find an advantage to set a value upon resignation; that it would be more wise to take advantage of the present moment, seeing their rights were not yet proscribed, to act honorably, usefully, and securely.

"Usefully, because the first benefit to the family of the Bourbons would be a brilliant state (sort). Securely, because Prussia, Russia, and the other powers of Europe would guarantee the treaty. Honourably, because that family would consolidate the repose of France, and of all Europe, by its sacrifices.

"If the most touching sensibility and interest could have prevailed over the honor, over the duty, over the sentiments which he preserved for his country, the king would have been shaken. Without stopping to discuss the motives which were presented to him, and which established his rights far from weakening them; as such a step revived his hopes, far from destroying them; his Majesty answers:

"I do not confound Monsieur Bonaparte with those who have preceded him. I esteem his valour, his military talents. I give him credit for several acts of his administration, for the good they have done to my people will be always dear to me. But he deceives himself, if he thinks to induce me to abandon my rights. Far from it he would establish them himself, if they could be questioned, by the step which he has now taken. I know not the intentions of God respecting my family and myself; but I know the obligations which are imposed upon me, by the rank in which he has been pleased that I should be born. A Christian, I shall discharge these obligations until my last sigh. The descendant of St. Louis, I shall learn from his example to respect myself even in irons; the successor of Francis the first, I wish at least to be able to say like him, "We have lost all except honor."

Monday, the 28th, the King sent to M. the President, De Meyer, this answer in writing, sanctioned with the adhesion of his royal highness the Duke of Angouleme, in these terms:

"With the permission of the king, my uncle I adhere with heart and soul, to the contents of this note.

(Signed) "LOUIS ANTOINE."

And a letter for his Majesty the King of Prussia, of which the copy follows:

"To His Serene and Christian Majesty, "I have thought it my duty to give in writing my answer to the offers which it has pleased your Majesty to make to me, and I request M. the President de Meyer to transmit it to you. But I cannot avoid adding to it this letter, in the first place, to thank you for the full expressions of friendship for me, which you have ordered M. de Meyer to use in the discharge of his mission. Secondly, to deposit in the bosom of your Majesty some reflections which I did not think proper to make in my answer.

"Not only would the present step of M. Bonaparte establish my rights, if it were necessary, but it farther reveals his apprehensions, and I congratulate myself upon seeing them in such august hands. I know all the advantages that I could take of this acknowledgment, but I would rather maintain silence if I were not compelled to break it. This is a respect which I think I owe to a generous sovereign, who grants me an asylum in his States. The great mind of your Majesty is too well known for me not to distinguish its thoughts of measures which its relations appear to dictate.

"Kings, to spare their subjects the horrors of war, have yielded to imperious circumstances. Misfortunes support me. I am alone. It is for me to maintain the rights of all, by never overturning my throne.

"Monsieur Bonaparte may march to glory, he has preferred the route that leads to celebrity; but if ever, listening to the voice of duty, and of his true interest, he should have courage to entrust to my word, then I would see with joy your Majesty become a mediator between us, and give loyalty a security of our reciprocal engagements.

"I shall send (as I have already done with regard to my nephew) to my brother, and to the other branches of my family, the overture which has been made to me.

"Your Majesty may see the answer of my nephew. I shall lay the rest before you as soon as I shall have received them.

"I pray your Majesty, &c."