

The Flight Of M. Zola.

Our Paris Correspondent furnishes some interesting details as to the circumstances of M. Zola's flight from France to England after his trial at Versailles in July last.

On July 17, pretty early in the morning, M. Zola, accompanied by M. Desmoulin, appeared at the house of one of his oldest and most devoted friends, living near the Arc de Triomphe, to talk with him before going to Versailles. After the talk, and although it was still early, they sat down to a hasty breakfast in order to arrive in time for the opening of the Court. The mistress of the house went to Versailles by railway. M. Zola accompanied by M. Desmoulin, took the coupe waiting for him and drove out to Versailles by the Sevres road. But when the trial was over, and even before the clerk of the Court had time to draw up a record, M. Labori, who saw M. Zola talking quietly with his friends, approached him and said:—"Now, without losing a minute get into your coupe which is waiting. I will join you. Give your driver in a loud voice orders to go to Medan. We will change the direction on the way, but let us be off, for I fear that at any moment M. Pervier may send for you and keep you long enough to communicate to you in person the summons hanging over you." Then, leaning towards the two friends with whom M. Zola had lunched, M. Labori said to them, as if speaking of the trial:—"When we are gone, without seeming to be in a hurry, go to the station, return to Paris, and go home by some roundabout way."

M. Zola went quietly out of the room, shook hands with several persons on the way and replied to a friend who asked him if he could not take him back to Paris that he would not return for two or three days, and that he was going to Medan to rest. M. Labori then rejoined him, and in a loud voice he gave his coachman the order to drive to Medan to the great satisfaction of two or three reporters standing near. On the way M. Labori, lowering the glass in front, said to the coachman, "Take the Paris road and stop at the cab-stand of Porte Dauphine." This was quite close to the home of M. Zola's friends. They took a cab and went thither. M. Zola was received by the daughter of the house, and awaited the return of her parents. Mme. Zola, who had been informed, soon arrived, and an hour later, when M. Georges Clemenceau and his brother arrived, a consultation was held. M. Labori, supported by M. Clemenceau, insisted that M. Zola should not only go away but disappear so as to render his whereabouts impossible. The law it will be remembered, requires a verdict to be communicated in person. Now, it was necessary that this should not be possible; for M. Zola since officially informed, had in conformity, with the law, a period of five days in which to appeal. After this interval the verdict became definitive. In M. Labori's opinion as well as that in the two Clemenceaus, M. Zola ought not to risk definitive condemnation nor undergo a second and full trial, which might do irreparable damage to the cause of revision. M. Zola energetically refused to abscond. He wished to appeal to the Court of Cassation, and, if the appeal failed, to appear afresh at the Versailles Assizes. The conflict was long and obstinate. Finally, Mme. Zola took the side of M. Labori, and M. Zola yielded to the unanimous opinion of his friends.

Mme. Zola returned home to fetch for her husband the most necessary travelling re-

quisites. The poor lady was, however, so much upset on getting home that it was impossible for her to get these together, especially as she did not wish to take the servants into her confidence, and when she returned to her husband, in spite of the sadness with which everybody was affected, there was a general burst of laughter. Mme. Zola enrolled a paper containing nothing for the journey but a night shirt. M. Zola, however, was given a few toilet articles, and the party sat down to dinner, for the moment of departure was near. As much ready money as possible was placed at the disposal of the voluntary exile, in order that he might not be obliged to have recourse to a banker. Bank notes were sewn in the lining of his clothes, all the gold his friends had was handed to him, and about 9 a. m. the head of the house went down, took a cab, and drove to the Northern Station, where he got a ticket for London. M. Zola and his wife left next, and drove in a carriage to the station, where they waited in the courtyard for the hour of the departure of the train. As M. Zola knew not a word of English, M. Clemenceau had very legibly written on a piece of paper the name of Charing-cross Station and that of the station where he was to take a train for a village on the Birmingham line. When the time came M. Zola entered the station, leaving his wife in the carriage. On the platform he saw his friend waiting at the door of an empty compartment who handed him his ticket. He entered the compartment and the train started.

Meanwhile, Mme. Zola, by arrangement, went home, and, affecting great mystery, shut herself up in her room, allowing no servants to enter. Next day, still keeping up the mystery, she went to Medan, returned, went to and from several places and, pretending to conceal herself, kept the searches of the police and the activity of the reporters within the limits of Paris. The inexhaustible fables on the subject of M. Zola's disappearance are well known. He was seen at four different spots near Paris, as also in Brussels, Vienna, Stockholm, Copenhagen, and elsewhere, like that cab of Mme. Bovary, which left marks in all the streets of Rouen without stopping anywhere.

M. Zola reached Charing-Cross at day-break, and, like every Frenchman arriving in London, accosted a policeman, who, with the usual stiff politeness, put him in aansom, told the cabman what station he was to go to, saw his fare paid, and directed M. Zola to go at the other station to a policeman, who would show him where to get a ticket and what train to enter. Keeping his slip of paper in his hand, M. Zola reached the village and alighted at the hotel named on the paper, M. Clemenceau having added a word of recommendation to the landlord. The latter called his daughter, 12 years old, who had a smattering of French, but who next day, having seen the traveller's portrait in an illustrated paper, went in a fright to her father, saying:—"Do you know who our visitor is? It is M. Zola." The landlord, who had also recognized M. Zola, replied, "You must be mistaken, Kate; but, anyhow, as he has not given his name, you ought not to appear to know it." So the girl held her tongue till M. Zola left for a place in Middlesex, for he has stayed at five different places in England. However, next day the clergyman, without mentioning M. Zola's name, called on him, and, understanding French, invited him to his house, where he received him with an urbanity and dis-

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cretion by which M. Zola was much touched. The clergyman also directed him in making necessary purchases. By the end of a week, indeed, all the inhabitants knew who he was, yet neither during his six weeks' stay nor since has there been the slightest indiscretion, and, after more than five months, the newspaper which first spoke of his being in England, stated that he was in London, whereas he has simply passed through it.

He speaks with admiration of this fidelity in preserving his secret, which he had not even requested, and of the delicate attentions everywhere paid him, and if on his return he writes, as is expected, his impressions of England, they will certainly show his gratitude for these good people who have thus softened for him the tedium and bitterness of exile. He now reads English newspapers fluently, studies the laws and customs of the country, and certainly appreciates the liberty, legality, and toleration the benefit of which he has enjoyed.—London Times.

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Burial Place Of the Czars.

The cathedral fortress of Saints Peter and Paul, whence the wreaths have been sold that decorated the tomb of the late Czar, lies in an outstanding peninsula in the Neva says the Westminster Gazette. It is a combination of military museum and mausoleum. All the Czars since Peter the Great, except Peter II., have been buried there. The walls of the building are completely hung with trophies, wreaths of silver and gold; faded bunches of flowers and lavender, with silver work in imitation of flowers. These are all hung on a background of black cloth. There are also a number of personal relics. Some of the wreaths have been lying in the cathedral for years, and the place would look cleaner and tidier if they were removed.

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- Jan. 31.—Andover, Victoria Co., evening session.
- Feb. 1.—Kincardine, Victoria Co., afternoon and evening session.
- " 2.—Arthurette, Victoria Co., evening session.
- " 3.—New Denmark, Victoria Co., evening session.
- " 4.—Florenceville West, Car. Co., evening session.
- " 6.—Glassville, Carleton Co., evening session.
- " 7.—Jacksonville, Carleton Co., evening session.
- " 8.—Richmond Corner, Car. Co., evening session.
- " 9.—Millville, York Co., evening session.

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