

more rapid revolutionary progress could hardly be wished for by the most ardent reformer.

No body of men inflicted such disasters on France as the Constituent Assembly, by their headlong innovations and sweeping demolitions. Not the sword of Marlborough nor the victories of Wellington—not the route of Agincourt nor the carnage of Waterloo—Not the arms of Alexander nor the ambition of Napoleon, have proved so fatal to its prosperity. From the wounds they inflicted the social system may revive—from those of their own innovators recovery is impossible. They not only destroyed freedom in its cradle—they not only induced the most cruel and revolting tyranny, but they totally destroyed the materials from which it was to be reconstructed in future,—they bequeathed slavery to their children, and they prevented it from ever being shaken off by their descendants. It matters not under what name arbitrary power is administered: it can be dealt out as rudely by a reforming assembly, a dictatorial mob, a Committee of Public Safety, a tyrannical Directory, a military despot, or a citizen king, as by an absolute monarch or a haughty nobility. By destroying the whole ancient institutions of France—by annihilating the nobles and middling ranks, who stood between the people and the Throne—by subverting all the laws and customs of antiquity—by extirpating religion, and inducing general profligacy, they have inflicted wounds upon their country which can never be healed. Called upon to revive the social system, they destroyed it; instead of pouring into the decayed limbs the warm blood of youth, they severed the head from the body, and all subsequent efforts have been unavailing to restore animation. It is now as impossible to give genuine freedom, that is, complete protection to all classes, to France, as it is to restore the vital spark to a lifeless body by the convulsions of electricity. The balance of interests, the protecting classes, are destroyed; nothing remains but the populace and the Government; Asiatic has succeeded to European civilisation, and, instead of the long life of modern freedom, the brief tempests of anarchy, and the long night of despotism, are its fate.

The Constituent Assembly, however, had the excuse of general delusion; they were entering on an untrodden field; the consequences of their actions were unknown: enthusiasm as irresistible as that of the Theatre urged on their steps. Great reforms required to be made in the political system; they mistook the excesses of democratic ambition for the dictates of ameliorating wisdom; the corruption of a guilty court, and the vices of a degraded nobility, called loudly for amendment. But what shall we say to those who adventured on the same perilous course, with the fatal example before their eyes, in a country requiring no accession to popular power, tyrannized over by no haughty nobility, consumed by no internal vices, weakened by no foreign disasters? What shall we say to those who voluntarily shut their eyes to all the perils of the headlong reformers of the neighbouring kingdom; who roused passions as impetuous, proposed changes as sweeping, were actuated by ambition as perilous, as that which, under their own eyes, had torn civilisation to pieces in its bleeding dominion? What shall we say to those who did this in the state where freedom had existed longer, and was at their succession more unfettered, than in any other country that ever existed; where prosperity unexampled existed, and virtue uncorrupted was to be found, and glory unparalleled had been won? Who adventured on a course which threatened to tear in pieces the country of Milton and Bacon, of Scott and Newton, of Nelson and Wellington? History will judge their conduct; no tumultuous mobs will drown its voice; from its decision there will be no appeal, and it will be the voice of ages.

EUROPE.

LONDON, JUNE 10.
REVOLT IN PARIS.

On Tuesday and Wednesday last the city of Paris was the scene of the most dreadful riots, amounting almost to a civil war, in which an immense number of lives were lost, both on the part of the insurgents and the soldiers. The occasion of these deplorable scenes was the funeral of General Lamarque, a distinguished officer of Napoleon, and an active and eloquent leader

of the movement party. Tuesday last was the day appointed for the funeral procession, on which occasion from a hundred to a hundred and fifty thousand persons were present. The earlier part of the day passed over with tolerable tranquillity, though not without some alarming symptoms, but after the usual orations had been delivered by General Lafayette, M. Manquin, and other friends, a violent commotion burst forth. The accounts are so contradictory that it is impossible to decide either whether the insurrection originated in accident or design, or whether the troops or the people were the aggressors. The following is the best account that we have been able to collect of the origin and progress of the disturbances. It is principally from the evening edition of Galignani's Messenger, published on Wednesday:—

THE DISTURBANCES IN PARIS

The accounts of the commencement of the hostilities are very contradictory; the Ministerial papers (including the *Moniteur*) state that pistol-shots were fired upon the dragoons before they used their carbines; and some accounts represent those shots as having been fired in consequence of the dragoons having attempted to arrest a man who was hoisting a *bonnet rouge* on the platform. This version is certainly erroneous, as, at the time the firing commenced, the dragoons were a considerable distance from the platform. However this may be, it is certain that, once commenced, the firing was kept up with vigour on both sides. The populace broke open several armourers' shops, and gained possession of the magazine on the boulevard de l'Hopital, which was only guarded by eight men, and by that means were plentifully supplied with ammunition. The head-quarters of the insurgents, during the night, were in the Rue St. Antoine and its neighbourhood, which they had secured with barricades; but all the line of the boulevards, and also the Rue Montmartre, in which barricades had been raised, were in possession of the troops; and the inhabitants illuminated their windows in those streets in which the lamps had been broken. The Rue Montmartre was the scene of a severe contest. The passage due Saumon was occupied by a party of insurgents, who kept up an incessant firing from half past seven until eleven, at which hour the troops of the line and National Guards succeeded in forcing the avenues, and clearing the passage.—The insurgents, however, retreated into the upper stories of the houses in the Rue Montmartre, when they continued to annoy the troops so much that it was determined to leave them for the night. About half-past three, the entrance to the passage, which had been fastened, was again forced by the insurgents, who proceeded to pull down the shutters of the empty shops in the passage, to convert them into weapons of offence or barricades, as circumstances might require. The noise occasioned by this proceeding excited the greatest alarm among the inhabitants, as it was apprehended that a general pillage was about to ensue; this alarm was, however, unfounded, as no attack was made on any inhabited shop. The troops, hearing the tumult, returned in increased force, and a continued fire was kept up until past four, when the troops gained possession of the passage, and took a considerable number of the insurgents prisoners, who had taken refuge in the houses in the passage. They were generally young men of apparent respectability, mixed, however with others of the lowest class. A great number were killed and wounded in this affair; the latter were placed in temporary abulances formed in the passage Saumon. One peculiarly distressing incidence occurred in the presence of one of our collaborateurs. The daughter of a respectable tradesman, at the corner of the Rue des Vieux Augustins, was attending her mother on the first floor, when a ball passed through the window and killed her on the spot; she was only 17 years of age.

The King arrived in Paris from St. Cloud late in the evening, and immediately held a Council of Ministers, after which he reviewed the troops of the line, the National Guards, and the Artillery, in the Place du Carrousel; he was most enthusiastically received, and the whole troops appeared actuated by the firmest determination to put down the rebellion by the most energetic means.

In the course of the night seals were placed on the presses of the Tribune, the *Quotidienne*, and the Cour-

rier de l'Europe, by orders of the police, and those journals have consequently not appeared.

During the night and this morning (Wednesday), troops have been pouring in from every quarter within a circle of 15 leagues. The Artillery has also arrived from Vincennes. The total number of regular troops now in Paris is said to exceed 30,000 men.

In the early part of Wednesday morning, some severe fighting took place near the Halle, in which the insurgents were completely routed; a great number of prisoners have been taken, and are conveyed to the Prefecture and other places of safe custody, in detachments of from 30 to 50 each, escorted by strong parties of dragoons and the National Guards. The populace do not appear at all disposed to sympathise with the rioters. All is now quiet in that quarter, as well as in the rues St. Martin and St. Denis, in which some contest took place; but there is still some firing in the direction of the Quartier St. Antoine. The whole line of the quays is occupied by the troops. The shops are in general shut, and all business appears at a standstill. The groups of artisans and tradesmen who are seen in the streets appear indignant at the scenes which have occurred, and express themselves strongly as to the necessity of crushing the insurgents at once. We understand that the guard-houses at the barriers of Le Trone, Charenton, Bercy, and La Rapée were taken by the populace last night, but were afterwards retaken by the troops and the National Guards, in whose possession they still remain.

We have just heard that the greatest carriage last night took place near the Marais, where a field officer commanding a regiment of dragoons, having been killed by a shot from the populace, the soldiers, by whom he was much beloved, became so infuriate, that they rushed into the mob, and gave no quarter. We also understand that an attack was made on the Post Office the gates of which were cut with hatches, but it was repelled, and the court yard is occupied by a strong detachment of troops.

P. S. Up to the moment of going to press, the accounts from every quarter are highly satisfactory. The troops appear to be fully successful on every point, and the insurgents are merely keeping up a retreating fire. Numerous prisoners continue to be taken.

We stop the press to announce that a fusillade, mingled with reports of cannon, has recommenced; the sound appears to come from a distance, in the direction of the Place de la Bastille.

From Galignani's Messenger of Thursday.

The cannonade referred to in the conclusion of the last account proceeded from the Point Notre Dame, opposite the Rue des Arcis, in which a considerable number of the insurgents had taken up their position; the Point Notre Dame and the adjacent quays had at first been occupied by detachments of the National Guards of the Baulieu, who in their zeal misdirected their fire, which, instead of reaching the insurgents, entered the windows of some of the neighbouring houses and, as we are informed, killed several persons, among whom were some females. The same troops by the imprudent, though gallant manner in which they exposed themselves, suffered considerably from the galling fire of the insurgents: we regret to learn that the Colonel of one of the legions was among the victims. When these circumstances were known at head-quarters, several battalions of the line, with two pieces of cannon, were sent to relieve and support the National Guards. The newly arrived troops formed in three lines, the first kneeling, the second stooping, and the third upright, and commenced a terrific platoon fire, which, together with the cannonade, lasted a considerable time. The insurgents made several attempts to rush on the cannon, after they were discharged but they were always repulsed with great loss, and ultimately the survivors, amounting in number to several hundred, retreated towards the Cloitre St. Mery, where they barricaded themselves in the church, this was about half past four.

General T. Sebastian proceeded thither in person, and summoned them to surrender at discretion. They demanded to capitulate, which was refused; and the Marshal told them if they did not surrender in ten minutes, he should force the doors with the artillery.

At the expiration of the appointed time directions