

FRANCE.

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLIES.

Previous Conventions—Requirements and Results.

The convocation of the representatives of a nation is usually an occasion of supreme importance, but in France it marks an era in history, because its object is to construct a new constitution. The order for an election for a Constituent Assembly is among the first acts of the present Provisional Government of France. As soon as it meets, the Provisional Government will probably—as in 1848—re-sign its powers into the hands of the Assembly, who will proceed to provide both a government and a constitution.

France, in 1789-6, was seething with discontent. The fires of the first revolution were smoldering beneath the mass of laws which had been enacted by parliamentarians to his successor, with the caution, "Let my grandson take care of them, for it is more than probable they will endanger the crown;" and the Abbe Perigord, afterward to become illustrious as the prince of diplomatists, Talleyrand, had just remarked that the "miserable affair of the diamond necklace may overturn the throne."

The extreme deficiencies in the finances of the State had compelled the convening of the Assembly of Notables for the purpose of levying increased taxation. In dismissing that assembly, which had come together from all parts of the kingdom, the Archbishop of Toulouse made the startling announcement of the coming change—that the Tiers-Etat, i. e., the people, as a matter of justice, should be represented by another assembly of a number of votes equal to that of the clergy and nobles taken together. Marshal Segur said to the King that the assembling of the Notables might be the seed of the States-General; if so, it was of rapid growth, for the pressure of both nobles and clergy compelled, in August, 1788, the order for the convocation of the national estates of the States-General for the 1st of May, 1789.

It consisted of representatives of the clergy, 370 of the nobles, and 565 of the Tiers-Etat, thus quite realizing the proportion of numbers to the latter named by the Archbishop of Toulouse. Of the representatives of the clergy, more than two-thirds were curies; 62 out of 108 mayors and magistrates in the Assembly were elected by the people, and from the latter there came also 279 lawyers. It will be perceived that the preponderance of intellectual activity, as well as of numbers, might naturally be expected on the side of the Tiers-Etat. One of the earliest measures taken by the representatives of the people was an attempt to draw a dividing line; on the 17th of June, 1789, they took to themselves separately the title of the National Assembly, and Neckar prepared a plan for a constitution, in which the distinction was further indicated by providing for their meetings in a different chamber from the nobles and clergy. But five days afterwards 148 of the clergy left the rest and joined themselves to the National Assembly. An endeavor to disperse the States-General on the part of the King was resisted by the National Assembly; immediately 46 nobles, among whom was the Duke of Orleans, followed in the footsteps of the clergy, and went over to the resisting body, and at last the King ordered the remainder of the nobles and clergy to join the opposition, and the National Assembly embraced all the members of the States-General.

There were, however, two other important classes who already endeavored to contest the Government with the Crown and the National Assembly—the army of France and the populace of Paris. Treachery among the troops has ever been coincident with disasters to the French monarchy. The National Assembly, if it did clearly perceive the distinction between the voice of the people and the violence of the mob, was powerless to quell the Parisian insurgents who, in the successful storming of the Bastille, on the 14th of July, 1789, learned alike the power of the populace and the weakness of the crown. But with these insurrectionary movements, which afterwards extended to other cities, and with the formation of the National Guard, which dates from that day, began the growth of that military spirit and training which eventually made France a nation of soldiers. On the 8th of October following the mob seized the person of the King and conducted him, "virtually" his prisoner, from Versailles to Paris, where he was permanently detained in obedience to the popular behest. On the 20th of June, 1791, the King attempted an escape, but was arrested at Varennes and reconducted to Paris by three commissioners from the National Assembly. That body the next day passed a decree suspending temporarily his kingly functions. It would have been far better for France to have permitted his escape. These acts were unquestionably among the gravest political errors of the Assembly, and can only be regarded as weak concessions to the violent expressions of popular sentiment.

representation of the people, the Assembly sacrificed itself by making its members ineligible as candidates to the next Assembly. With the close of the Constituent Assembly there resulted that those representatives who had learned much of the governing art in the stormy twenty-nine months of its existence no longer permitted themselves to exercise their knowledge for the benefit of their country. They were succeeded by the Legislative Assembly, which opened its sittings within two days after the Constituent Assembly was closed. But the new legislators were a very different class of men from their predecessors; a monarchy, however limited, no longer met the requirements of a nation, and the Constitution of 1791 was soon superseded.

A brief review of the legislative bearings of the revolution of 1830, the abdication of Charles X, and the accession of Louis Philippe, will throw light upon the circumstances of the convocation of the second Constituent Assembly. Charles X yielded to the force of a revolution incited by his own refusal to comply with the constraints of a limited monarchy. Though perhaps authorized by the letter of the constitution under which the monarchy was re-established in 1814, he yet opposed its spirit, and made a great political blunder by refusing, even after effecting a dissolution and re-election of the Chamber of Deputies, to select his Ministry from among their number. He and his advisers were unpopular with his subjects, being suspected of yielding to the influence of the Jesuits. When the crisis came, he badly managed the means at his command, and the defection of the troops of the line, upon whom he depended, enabled the Liberal party to accomplish his overthrow. After his abdication, three parties presented themselves for popular favor. But the horrors of the first revolution were still remembered against the Republicans; the disasters which had so recently followed the ruin of the empire were a drawback to the Napoleonists, who otherwise would have pressed the claims of Napoleon II, then an officer in the Austrian service. The leading politicians, especially those in the Chamber of Deputies, leaned for want of an alternative toward the position of the Orleansists. The Duke of Orleans was dressed as a bourgeois and prepared for flight, having sent to Charles X a letter of assurance that he would not take his place on the vacant throne, when a deputation forced their way into his apartments and insisted upon his acceptance of the crown. "Quit, accept," was announced thus briefly by the chief of the deputation to Talleyrand. He became "King of the French" in August, 1830, being first called Philippe VII, and afterward Louis Philippe.

The liberals considered that as they had effected the revolution which placed him on the throne, they had a special hold upon Louis Philippe. His entire reign was marked by a series of political attacks upon the Government, usually with an outcry for reform as the entering wedge. In the Chambers from 1831 to 1839 there were a few petitions for electoral reform, but parliamentary reform was brought forward eleven times for discussion; the intent being to reduce the number of deputies. In the great public debate between Arago and Thiers, May 16, 1840, in which the former advocated universal suffrage, a great impulse was given to questions of popular sovereignty; and from 1840 to 1847 both electoral and parliamentary reform were perpetually under discussion.

The accidental death, July 13, 1842, of the son of Louis Philippe, the Duke of Orleans, a young man of great promise and of personal popularity, means the death of the King upon the heart of the nation. After that every weakness, every timidity, exhibited by Louis Philippe was accounted against him as a crime. A strong opposition to his government was organized. The republican opposition desired universal suffrage; the monarchial opposition attacked his general policy. These joined hands in 1847 to call in popular excitement to their aid. The Chateau Rouge banquet took place July 9, 1847, and was given by the combined opposition. Banquets of this character were repeated throughout the cities of the kingdom, and the agitation and questions of reform penetrated the remotest districts. This was the "Campagne des Banquets." On the 11th of February, 1848, the Cabinet deliberately spurned both questions of reform, and on the 13th denied the right of political meeting without governmental authority. To test this assumption, a grand banquet was arranged and proclaimed by the opposition for the 22d February. It was suppressed by the authorities, and at the last moment the opposition announced that it would not take place. But Paris was aroused. The peace-loving, says Lamartine, that Louis Philippe was a believer in the divine right of kings. He was unpopular because he was a king. On the 23d February there were barricades in the Faubourg St. Antoine and crowds crying "Vive la Reforme!" In the evening the crowds had a leader, Lagrange by name, who brought them into the neighborhood of the Cafe Tortoni. A battalion of the line, drawn up in front of the Hotel of Foreign Affairs, fired into this mob that was carrying torches and a red flag, and sixteen corpses of citizens were stretched upon the sidewalk. The next day the barricades surrounded the Palace and approaches of the Tuilleries. Louis Philippe had just time to escape from a rear door, after arranging the form of an abdication, when a column of the people broke through the Guards, filled the apartments, and swept away every trace of royalty.

The republic was proclaimed very much in the same style as during the present year, at the Hotel de Ville, a provisional government being constituted by Lamartine, who subsequently became Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dupont de l'Eure, whose age and dignity made him a fitting presiding officer; Arago, to whom were committed Naval Affairs; Cremieux, ultimately Minister of Justice; all the foregoing being carried to the scene of their triumph almost on the shoulders of the crowd. LeFr. Kollin, Marie, who received the portfolio of Public Works, and Garnier-Pages, obtained entrance and were added to the number. General Subervie was made Minister of War, Carnot of Public Instruction, and Goudchaux (a banker) of Finance; but the last-named individual became frightened at the gathering storms a few days afterward, and Garnier-Pages, who at first was made Mayor of Paris, took his place. It will be perceived that the Liberals, who brought about the revolution which placed Louis Philippe on the throne, were themselves disappointed at his failure to meet the views of the people, and chagrined at the position in which they were placed as his supporters. Hence his fall. The "Citizen monarch" experienced also as had the two previous Kings of France, the defection of the troops, as well as the dislike of the people. He and the Queen embarked at Honfleur for Havre on the 2d of March, 1848, under the name of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," and thus entitled sailed again from Havre to England.

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EDUCATIONAL.

CARL GAERTNER'S NATIONAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, 8 E. corner TENTH and WALNUT Streets, is now open for the Fourth Session for the reception of pupils. Instruction is given by a staff of the best Professors in the city in the following branches: Vocal Music, Piano, Violin, Viola, Violoncello, Contra Bass, Theory of Harmony, Grand Organ (Church Organ), Cabinet Organ, Mezzodone, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Horn, Cornet, Trombone, Harp, Guitar, etc., and in the Italian, German, French, and Spanish Languages.

H. LAUDERBACH'S ACADEMY FOR YOUNG MEN AND BOYS, ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS, No. 108 WALNUT Street. A Primary, Elementary, and Finishing School. Thorough preparation for Business or College. Special attention given to Calculus, Arithmetic and all kinds of Business Calculations. French and German, Linear and Perspective Drawing, Education, English Composition, Natural Science.

HAMILTON INSTITUTE FOR YOUNG LADIES, 320 CHESTNUT Street, Philadelphia. This institution, having successfully completed its fourth year, has become one of the established schools of our city. Its course of study includes a thorough English and Classical Education, embracing Mental, Moral, and Physical Culture.

FILSON SEMINARY, MISS CARR'S SELECT Boarding School for Young Ladies will RE-OPEN on Monday, September 20, at 10 o'clock. It is situated at the York Road Station of the North Pennsylvania Railroad, seven miles from Philadelphia.

WEST CHESTNUT STREET INSTITUTE FOR YOUNG LADIES, No. 405 Chestnut Street, West Philadelphia, will re-open on Monday, September 19, at 9 o'clock. MISS E. T. BROWN, Principal.

STEVENSDALE INSTITUTE, A SELECT Family Boarding-school for boys, will re-open Sept. 19, 1870. For Circulars address J. H. WITHERINGTON, A. M., Principal, South Amboy, N. J. 8 South Street.

THE CLASSICAL INSTITUTE, DEAN STREET, above Spruce, will be re-opened September 20, at 9 o'clock. J. W. FAIRBANKS, D. D., Principal.

COURTLAND SAUNDERS COLLEGE, FOR Young Men, Youth, and Small Boys, Phila. 6 235 WALNUT Street.

PIANIST FOR MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS or Dancing Soirees, No. 110 E. ELEVENTH Street, Philadelphia, Tel. 18 1111. Reference—Mr. Boner, No. 1102 Chestnut Street.

HARNESS, SADDLES, AND TRUNKS.—LARGE stock, all grades. Also, several thousand Horse Covers, Lap Rugs, and Robes, selling at low prices to the trade or retail. MOYER'S, No. 720 MARKET Street, above Seventh. 9 16 111.

1870 SPRUCE JOIST, SPRUCE JOIST, HEMLOCK. 1870

1870 SEASONED CLEAR PINE, SEASONED CLEAR PINE, CHOICE PATTERN BINE, SPANISH CEDAR, FOR PATTERNS, RED CEDAR. 1870

1870 FLORIDA FLOORING, FLORIDA FLOORING, CAROLINA FLOORING, VIRGINIA FLOORING, DELAWARE FLOORING, ASH FLOORING, WALNUT FLOORING, FLORIDA STEP BOARDS, RAIL PLANK. 1870

1870 UNDERTAKERS' LUMBER, UNDERTAKERS' LUMBER, RED CEDAR, WALNUT AND PINE. 1870

1870 SEASONED BOPLAR, SEASONED BOPLAR, ASH, WHITE OAK PLANK AND BOARDS, HICKORY. 1870

1870 CIGAR BOX MAKERS' PLYED BIRCH, SPANISH CEDAR BOX BOARDS, FOR SALE LOW. 1870

1870 CAROLINA SCANTLING, CAROLINA H. T. HILLS, NORWAY SCANTLING. 1870

1870 CEDAR SHINGLES, CEDAR SHINGLES, MAULE, BROTHER & CO., No. 2600 SOUTH STREET. 1870

1870 PANEL PLANK, ALL THICKNESSES, COMMON PLANK, ALL THICKNESSES, COMMON BOARDS, 1 and 2 SIDE FENCE BOARDS, WHITE PINE FLOORING BOARDS, YELLOW AND SAFFREY FLOORINGS, 1 1/2 and 4 1/2 SPRUCE JOIST, ALL SIZES, HEMLOCK JOIST, ALL SIZES, FLASTERING LATH A SPECIALTY. 1870

1870 UNITED STATES BUILDERS' MILL, FIFTEENTH STREET, BELOW MARKET. 1870

SHIPPING.

LORILLARD STEAMSHIP COMPANY FOR NEW YORK, SAILING EVERY TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY, FIVE CENTS PER 100 POUNDS, TWO CENTS PER FOOT, OR HALF CENT PER GALLON, SHIP'S OPTION.

TOWN—Inman Line of Royal Mail Steamers are appointed to sail as follows:—Etna (via Halifax), Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 1 P. M. City of Brussels, Saturday, September 25, at 2 P. M. City of Washington, Saturday, Oct. 1, at 10 A. M. City of Baltimore (via Halifax), Tuesday, October 4, at 12 P. M.

PHILADELPHIA AND CHARLESTON STEAMSHIP LINE, ALPHRED L. TYLER, Vice-President, So. C. RR. Co.

PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTHERN STEAMSHIP LINE, J. W. EVERMAN, 692 tons, Captain Hinkleley. SALVOE, 600 tons, Captain Hinkleley. SEPTEMBER, 1870. J. W. EVERMAN, Friday, Sept. 23. SALVOE, Friday, Sept. 23.

PHILADELPHIA AND SAVANNAH, GA. THE TONAWANDA will sail for Savannah on Saturday, Sept. 24, at 10 A. M. Returning, will leave Wilmington on Friday, Sept. 24, at 10 A. M.

PHILADELPHIA, RICHMOND, THROUGH FREDERICKSBURG, VA. SOUTH AND WEST. INCREASED FACILITIES AND REDUCED RATES FOR 1870.

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