

**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE COMTE DE
PARIS. GENEALOGY AND INCIDENTS IN
THE LIVES OF THE ORLEANISTS;
GENEALOGY OF THE D'ORLÉANS
FAMILY, STIRRING INCIDENTS, WEIRD
SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET**

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His Royal Highness the Comte de Paris. Genealogy and Incidents in the Lives of the Orleanists; Genealogy of the d'Orléans Family, Stirring Incidents, Weird Skeletons in the Closet by William Cox (Lynx)

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H. R. H.

THE COMTE DE PARIS

GENEALOGY

OF THE

D'ORLÉANS FAMILY

STIRRING INCIDENTS. *Box*

WEIRD SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET.

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BY

PROF. LYNX.

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INTRODUCTION.

At the time when the Comte de Paris is about to pay us a visit, it is not uninteresting, even setting aside all considerations of a political nature, to sum up the genealogy of this descendant of the Bourbons, who would ascend the throne of France (admitting that the country called him) under the title of Philippe VII.

COMTE DE CHAMBORD'S DEATH MAKES COMTE DE PARIS DIRECT HEIR.

By the death of Henri Diendonné, Duke of Bordeaux, Count of Chambord,* the male line of the oldest branch of the royal family of France, issue of Louis XIV., became extinct. The only legitimate descendants of this monarch in a direct line, are the Bourbons of Spain and Italy; but as these princes renounced, about two hundred years ago, their French nationality, in order to become sovereigns of foreign countries, they are excluded from the royal lineage of France by their own acts and by the effect of the laws, as completely as by the solemn declarations of their ancestors, which have been appended to the treaty of Utrecht. The French law expressly excludes from the privileges of French

* Born the 29th of September, 1820. Died the 24th of August, 1883. [See the Chronological Table.]

nationality all persons who have acquired a foreign nationality, and the first condition required of the civil status of a French prince is that he be French. It is therefore evident that if any pretensions to the rank and condition of French princes were put forward in their favor by blind partisans of legitimacy, they would be illusory and without foundation.

The first in order as legal successors of the royal family of France are the descendants of Philippe of Orleans, son of Louis XIII., and brother of Louis XIV., and the first place in the Bourbon family passes by right, in France, to the Comte de Paris, the head of the branch of Orleans. This fact was perfectly recognized by the Count of Chambord when he received the Comte de Paris in 1873 as his successor.

II.

COUNT de PARIS' GREAT-GRANDFATHER PHILIPPE-ÉGALITÉ.

THE FIRST SKELETON IN THE CLOSET.

He Votes For Death!—His Own Death on the Guillotine.

It will suffice to retrace in broad lines the career of the great-grandson of the Regent,

LOUIS-PHILIPPE-JOSEPH, DUKE D'ORLÉANS,

born at St. Cloud, in April, 1747, better known by the name of Philippe-Égalité. Ever since the year 1771, we see him acting in opposition to the court and signing the "protestation of the princes" against the dissolution of parliaments. Then rebuffed by Marie-Antoinette, who had for him an instinctive antipathy, he takes openly, in 1776, sides against the queen, whom he accuses of secretly favoring the intrigues directed against Louis XVI. Then comes, after a period of idleness and dissipation in England, the affair known as the *Collier de la Reine*, when he takes an active part in propagating scandalous suggestions which compromise Marie-Antoinette. In 1787

he appears in the assembly of the notables, and makes himself remarkable by the violence of his opposition. Made Grand Master of Free Masonry, he acquires a degree of popularity which procures his election to the États Généraux, and is applauded by the crowd assembled to see the procession pass through the streets the day previous to its opening. He is one of the first members of the nobility who join the deputies of the districts, and contributes to the transformation of the États Généraux into a National Assembly; finally we find him in the front rank of every revolutionary manifestation, and he is henceforth considered by the court as aspiring to the crown. Incapable of acting such a part, having neither sufficient tact to pursue it without compromising himself, nor sufficient force of character to throw off the mask, and fearing the consequences of his acts, he retires to England, there to await the turn of events. He had a party, attached to him by reason of his great fortune, and for awhile his champions talked aloud of raising him to the power; but his weakness and incapacity paralyzed their designs, and he limited himself to playing a secondary role in the clubs, amongst the Jacobins and the Cordeliers, in the district sections, which he frequented as a courtesan of popular favor, of whom he expected everything without being able to impose a single wish. At length he was elected to the

Convention, where he took his seat on the *Mountain* (radicals' side) and voted for the king's death, accompanying his vote with the following commentary : " Entirely devoted to
" the accomplishment of my duty and convinced
" that all those who have assailed or who shall
" assail liberty are deserving of death, I vote
" for death !"

This vote, far from aiding the views of Philippe-Égalité, was reproached him by all parties, and aroused among none more indignation than amongst the revolutionists themselves. He expiated it on the scaffold.

Brought before the revolutionary tribunal, as having aspired to ascend the throne and conspired with General Dumouriez, he was condemned to death. Then he requests that he may be immediately executed, and the same day his wish was carried out (6th Nov., 1793).

When he was marching to his death the Abbé Lambert approached him with a respectful countenance and full of feeling. "Égalité," said he, "I come here to offer you the sacraments, or, at least, the consolations of a
" minister of heaven. Do you wish to receive
" them from a man who renders you justice
" and who bears for you a sincere commiseration ? If you do not desire my ministry as a
" priest, can I render you as a man any services for your wife and your family ?"
" No," replied the duke ; "I thank you, but I

“do not wish any other eye than my own on
“my conscience, and I have no need of any
“one to help me to die as a good citizen.” A
member of the tribunal having come to ask
him whether he had no revelation to make in
the interests of the Republic, “If I had known
“anything against the safety of the country,”
replied he, “I would not have waited until
“this hour to say it. Moreover, I do not bear
“any resentment against the tribunal, nor even
“against the patriots. It is not they who
“wish my death, it comes from a higher
“authority,” and he remained silent. On the
6th of November, 1793, at three o'clock, they
came to take him to the scaffold. He marched
with head erect, a proud look, with a firm and
assured step, and never exhibited as much as
on this supreme day the nobility and the dig-
nity of his rank. He had become prince
again through the sentiment of having to die
as a citizen. While passing near the Palais
Royal he regarded for a long time the windows
of that dwelling where he had fomented all
the germs of the Revolution, tasted all the
disorders of his youth and cultivated all the
attachments of the family. The inscription,
“National property,” chiselled over the door
in lieu and place of his royal escutcheon, made
him understand that the Republic had divided
his fortune before his death, and that this
palace, with its gardens, would no longer offer