

**BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS OF
LOUIS PHILIPPE THE FIRST, EX-
KING OF THE FRENCH; WITH A
SKETCH OF THE REVOLUTIONS
OF 1830 AND 1848**

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Biographical memoirs of Louis Philippe the first, ex-king of the French; with a sketch of the revolutions of 1830 and 1848 by Louis Philippe

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THE legitimate aim of biography is not merely to gratify the curiosity of the moment, but to impart useful information, and to illustrate the character of man. By a fundamental principle, this should ever be borne in mind, especially as regards the rising generation.

It is a trite remark, that although individuals grow wise by experience, nations do not. Kings and princes, however, seem to be taken out of the common pale—to be as innocent of the acquisition of wisdom by experience as the people they may be called upon to rule; else would the fame of the profligate and contemptible Charles II. of England

have descended to posterity as that of a patriotic monarch—Charles the Xth of France, instead of perishing in lonely exile, might have lived and died peacefully on the throne of his ancestors—and Louis Philippe, Ex-King of the French, instead of wandering amidst the hospitable shades of Claremont, far from the home of his fathers, might have been at this moment revelling in the *salons* of the Tuileries, or reposing in the luxurious bowers of Versailles.

The career of Louis Philippe has been a succession of extraordinary incident, romantic adventure, and marvellous vicissitude. He ought to have learned, if ever prince could so learn, that “sweet are the uses of adversity;” and proportionate advantages might then have accrued to the nation which he was called upon to govern. Alas! it has not been so. Yet, although every rightly thinking Englishman must condemn much of his political conduct, it must be allowed that he is not without many virtues: he has ever shown himself grateful to England, and kind to Englishmen; while, as a son, a brother, a husband, a father, and a friend, he stands forth a bright exemplar. And, hitherto, he appears to have possessed “a charmed life.”

Descended from an ancient race of Kings, claiming the mighty Charlemagne as their common ancestor, the Orleans branch of the Bourbon family originated in Philippe, a younger son of Louis XIII., created Duc d’Orleans by his elder brother Louis XIV., and of whom the Ex-King, Louis Philippe, is the grandson’s great-grandson. Philippe, the first Duc d’Orleans, was twice married: his second wife was the Princess Elizabeth Charlotte of Bohemia. From that lady the Orleans family are descended; and through her they trace a direct relationship to the line of Stuart and the present royal family of England.

Louis Philippe, the subject of the present sketch, is the eldest son of Louis Philippe Joseph, Duc d’Orleans, first Prince of the blood-royal, by Louise Marie Adelaide, daughter of the Duc de Bourbon Penthièvre, Admiral of France, grandson of Louis XIV. During the revolution of 1789, he was Deputy to the States-General and to the National Convention. In accordance with the frenzy of the time, he assumed the designation of Philippe Egalité. In person, this nobleman was favoured by nature, and he was celebrated for excelling in the different manly exercises and gymnastics of his day. It was intended that he should

succeed his father-in-law, the Duc de Penthièvre, as Grand Admiral, and he was placed in command of a squadron under D'Orvilliers. At the battle of Ushant, he, by some unaccountable blunder (his enemies charged him with cowardice), allowed the rear of the English fleet to escape when it was in his power. On his return, instead of being hailed as Admiral of France, he was appointed Colonel of Hussars; a circumstance which is said to have given rise to the equivocal of a "horse-marine," since generally applied to a *mal-adroit* sailor. The mirth which the Queen, Marie Antoinette, evinced upon this occasion, he never forgave; and deep and bitter was the revenge he took. Years afterwards, when the royal family were beset at Versailles, the Duke was said to have been seen upon the staircase, at the head of the infuriated mob, pointing out to them the way to the room in which the Queen's body-guard were stationed, and which joined her Majesty's apartment. "The vote of the Duc d'Orleans for the death of the King," observes Gifford, in his *Life of Pitt*, "caused a shudder through the National Assembly; and he retired to his home, the despised even of the Jacobins, with whom he was now so leagued as to be compelled to support them or perish. At length he experienced the gratitude of the wicked. On the 6th of November, 1793, he was brought to the scaffold; and when the people hissed, and cursed him as he passed to death, he shrugged his shoulders, and cried out—'They will applaud me yet!' He displayed great resolution in his last moments; but the universal execration in which he was holden rendered his execution a matter of exultation to every description of men."

Louis Philippe, Ex-King of the French, was born on the 6th of October, 1773, in the Palais Royal, his magnificent paternal demesne, at Paris. On the 3rd of July, in the succeeding year, his brother, the Duc de Montpensier, was born; on the 22nd of August, 1777, his only sister, Adelaide Eugene Louise, Princess of Orleans, who died only a few weeks previously to the revolution of 1848; and, on the 7th of October, 1779, his youngest brother, the Comte de Beaujolais. It was to his mother, in the first instance, that Louis Philippe was eminently indebted for his education, the formation of his character, the blessings of his future life. She superintended the first openings of his intellect; and when it was fitted to receive a higher cultivation, he was placed in charge