

**MADAME ROYALE,
DAUGHTER OF LOUIS XVI
AND MARIE ANTOINETTE:
HER YOUTH AND MARRIAGE**

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Madame Royale, Daughter of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette: Her Youth and Marriage by
Ernest Daudet & Mrs. Rodolph Stawell

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ERNEST DAUDET & MRS. RODOLPH STAWELL

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MARIE-ANTOINETTE AND HER CHILDREN, MADAME ROYALE AND THE DAUPHIN.
(From a picture by Westwiler, in the Stockholm Museum.)

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FROM THE FRENCH OF
ERNEST DAUDET

BY
Mrs. RODOLPH STAWELL

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PREFACE

IN my *Histoire de l'Emigration* I have given a very detailed account of the varied experiences of Madame Royale, daughter of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette, and afterwards Duchesse d'Angoulême, from the day that she was condemned to share her parents' lot and to be imprisoned with them in the Temple Tower, until her marriage with her cousin, the son of the Comte d'Artois. But, owing to the force of circumstances and to the necessity of preserving the correct chronological order, I was obliged to scatter these alternately pleasing and heartrending details through the long epic of the Emigration. It seemed to me that they deserved to be offered to the public in a more coherent form.

With that object I have detached them from the general history in which they appeared rather lost, and have gathered them together in a single picture, which will give the reader a better view of my heroine, and enable me to show her in a more brilliant light, in her struggle with the misfortunes that clouded her whole life. The story that will be read in these pages, therefore, is really one that has already been told.

At the same time I must observe that it will be found to contain a number of fresh details that do not figure in my earlier work, notably some connected

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with Madame Royale's imprisonment. On the other hand, thanks to the papers of M. de la Fare, Bishop of Nancy, which were generously placed at my disposal by the family in whose possession they are, I have been able to complete my narrative, with the help of the information contained in that prelate's letters.

A short time before Madame Royale's arrival in the Austrian capital he had settled there, by Louis XVIII's command, to represent the King at the Imperial Court. It therefore devolved upon him to act as an intermediary between the King and his niece. Their correspondence passed through his hands; he was deputed to see that the young princess did not allow herself to be influenced by those among whom she lived, and to remind her constantly that her duty and her parents' wishes demanded that she should in every respect share her uncle's opinions, and should marry her cousin the Duc d'Angoulême. It was through La Fare, too, that she received the letters that came to her from every country that harboured *émigrés*.

The Bishop of Nancy's memories of this period of Madame Royale's life are to a certain extent embodied, day by day, in his correspondence, which constitutes a valuable authority on the subject. While writing my *Histoire de l'Émigration* I found several extracts from it among the King's papers; but on re-reading it, in the rough draft kept by La Fare in his note-books, I discovered various details that had previously escaped me, and these I now present to my readers. That I am able to do so I

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owe to the kindness of those who gave me access to the correspondence in question, and I hope they will accept my sincere and grateful thanks.

My thanks are also due to the publishers of this work, for their willing concurrence in my project, which dates from the day when M. le duc de Blacas most kindly placed the archives of Louis XVIII, and the letters of Madame Royale, at my disposal. It was through their efforts that the illustrations adorning this book were collected, and reproduced so artistically that the appearance of the volume is worthy of the princess whose sorrows I have told.

E. D.

